

## **“Succeeding despite...” – the challenges of “young Europeans” in Western Balkan countries**

**18 February, 11.00–12.30: Public debate in hybrid format with livestream**

Venue: Swiss Diamond Hotel, Sheshi Nëna Terezë p.n, Prishtinë 10000

The panel will explore the challenges and prospects of “young Europeans” in Kosovo (and similarities across the Western Balkans region) in the current socio-economic context, the existing education system, limited freedom of movement, and the COVID-19 pandemic impact. The recent breakthroughs of young Kosovars in the international arena will paradoxically be used to illustrate their (bumpy) road to success, helping us unveil the main challenges encountered.

A short clip of an internationally awarded Kosovo short movie screening is followed by a discussion around the following questions:

- What mechanisms exist for the participation of young people in Kosovo? What about in other Western Balkan countries? Any best practices? How can they be improved, and how can decision-making be made more inclusive for young people?
- How can institutions provide a more favourable environment for young people in Kosovo and support them to achieve their maximum potential?
- What are the top three priority areas that can be improved with immediately available resources? What is the longer-term strategy?
- What role should civil society have? Advocacy? Or direct interventions?
- How can the EU contribute to empowering youth in the Western Balkans beyond promises of enlargement and demands of youth-friendly strategies?

### **Discussants:**

**Mimoza Kusari-Lila**, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo, The Alternative

**Besa Luci**, Editor-in-chief, Kosovo 2.0

**Eroll Bilibani**, Producer/Head, Dokufest, Kosovo

**Jehona Gjurgjela**, Executive Director, Youth Development Foundation - TOKA, Kosovo

Moderated by **Vedran Džihic**, Senior Researcher, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip), WB2EU Network

- Livestreaming via YouTube and Facebook:  
<https://youtu.be/ZjHr6fHYH84>  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/620614319039369/?ref=newsfeed>
- On-site participants are required to pre-register, wear a mask and display a negative corona certificate (vaccinated, valid PCR test, recovered). Checks will be made upon the entrance.