

WB2EU 1st Ideas go public Lab

7 – 9 and 30 June 2021

Online Event

The WB2EU 1st Ideas go public Lab will serve a trifold purpose:

- To discuss the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina and EU enlargement
- To have an intensive internal debate about the first drafts of the Policy Briefs for the first phase of the project *rule of law and justice*
- To have an exchange with political stakeholders and further establish academia-policy-politics alliance around the project

Programme

PART I

June 7 – 9: 3 Internal Group Debates of the WB2EU Network

Group 1: June 7, 13.30–15.00

Group 2: June 8, 12.30–14.00

Group 3: June 9, 13.30–15.00

Discussion of the first drafts of the Policy Briefs for the first phase of the project *rule of law and justice*:

1. Countries of the Western Balkans will provide national perspective on the topic
2. Neighbouring countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Rumania and Slovenia) will provide insights of the (trans)regional dimension of the topic
3. Important EU member states for the process (France, Germany, Italy) will tackle the topic from the perspective of the EU institutions and member states (EU Commission, EU Parliament, EU Council, member states)

Group 1: Discussion of the first Policy Brief drafts on the state of play of *rule of law and justice* by the WB2EU Network partners from Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Group 2: Discussion of the first Policy Brief drafts on the state of play of *rule of law and justice* by the WB2EU network partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary and Romania.

Group 3: Discussion of the first Policy Brief drafts on the state of play of *rule of law and justice* by the WB2EU network partners from France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Slovenia.

PART II

June 30, 17.00–18.00: Panel Discussion (Livestream) Moving forward or standing still? New momentum for the European future of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Reform processes focusing on rule of law, judiciary and fundamental rights build the cornerstone of the EU enlargement of the Western Balkans. The EU enlargement is in dire need of new momentum, yet rule of law, justice and fundamental right reforms do not seem to be of utmost priority to the governments in the region. Is there a way to move forward and create new dynamics by seriously addressing rule of law issues, or will insisting on these reforms turn out to be a good excuse from both sides and a stumbling block for the European path of the region? These issues and dilemmas are particularly virulent in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The panel will take a closer look into the state of play of rule of law, judiciary and fundamental rights reforms in Bosnia, both from the perspective of the EU, the wider region as well as from the citizens in the country. Will Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans continue to stand still in terms of EU integration or start to move forward?

Panel:

Johann Sattler, Head of EU Delegation and Special Representative (EUSR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Marko Savković, Executive Director of Belgrade Fund for the Political Excellence, WB2EU Network

Senada Šelo Šabić, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO), Croatia, WB2EU Network

Emina Veljović, Executive Director, Aarhus Center in BiH

Moderated by:

Sead Turčalo, Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo, WB2EU Network

