



Cooperation and Development Institute in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung cordially invites you to an online discussion on the topic:

## EU Enlargement: For an enhanced role of youth and civil society

Monday, 29 June 2020 | 10.30 – 11.45 | Venue: ZOOM app

The EU Council decided to open the negotiation talks with Albania and North Macedonia on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. This is by far the most significant development related to the SEE region in the last years. As Albania moves forward in its EU integration path, the process so far has stated the need for the inclusion and engagement of all societal actors from different sectors. In this regard, the project “Applying Sector Approach to Civil Society Contribution in EU Integration of Albania” led by Cooperation and Development Institute and implemented in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Tirana) and Centar Savremene Politike/European Western Balkans (Belgrade), aimed at supporting CSOs and youngsters by increasing their active contribution to the European Integration process. Follow the following

The project has promoted during its implementation a strong local grassroots component, which underpinned the creation of three regional consultation groupings with youth and CSOs with a pro-European character in three different cities of Albania. This “going local” approach combined to the learning process dynamics from other EU accession front-runners countries in the region stimulated a constructive societal debate on the accession negotiations dynamics and the challenges of the process in Albania.

As the region faces the direct consequences of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, social context and overall situation of SEE6 citizen, the EC is: i) supporting the WBs with a €3.3 billion EU package, ii) is preparing an economic and investment plan for the region aiming to boost the economies while improving their competitiveness, to better connect them within the region and with the EU, and finally; iii) is finishing preparing the Negotiating Framework with Albania and North Macedonia. The New Enlargement Methodology presented in February is focusing on fundamentals, and on making sure that all the progress in reforms is real and sustainable.

Meanwhile, SEE6 countries are experiencing delays in the implementation pace of engaged reforms, and in some cases a worsening of the internal political situation and of democratic legitimacy of their institutions. In that context the active involvement of local governments, media,

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Civil society, especially youth, is crucial to monitoring the ongoing reforms and contribute to positive negotiation dynamics.

Through a discussion with active stakeholders in the EU integration process, this seminar will offer the opportunity to take stock and to look forward on the tools and mechanisms through which the re-invigorated EU support to the region provides an enhanced role of youth and civil society.

## AGENDA

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Welcome remarks:

- Matthias Hedder, Deputy Head of Office FES Brussels
- Stine Klapper, Director FES Tirana Office
- Krisela Hackaj, Cooperation and Development Institute, Albania

New Enlargement Methodology: For an enhanced role of youth and civil society

- Florent Marciacq, Deputy Secretary General, Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (Vienna)
- Dafina Peci, Executive Director of National Youth Congress of Albania
- Miljana Pejić, Program Manager of National Youth Council of Serbia

Discussion / Q&A

Conclusions & Wrap UP

Moderator: Nemanja T. Štiplija, Editor-in-Chief, European Western Balkans, Belgrade

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