



Österreichische Gesellschaft
für Europapolitik



WB2EU



**Europeanisation meets democracy from below:
The Western Balkans on the search for
new European and democratic Momentum**

#wb2eu

FINAL REPORT

www.wb2eu.eu



With the support of the
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SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Summary of the implemented project

Background

During the application process and at the start of this project in October 2020, there was little room for optimism for EU enlargement. At that time, the French "no" to opening negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania further aggravated the situation in the region. To regain momentum, the European Commission proposed a renewed enlargement methodology and prepared a communiqué for the Western Balkans Summit in Zagreb in May 2020.

The Western Balkans were and are still facing deeply rooted structural problems ranging from a flawed state of democracy to state capture. While political elites claim to be democratic, they engage in clientelistic policies that prevented social inclusion and deepened cleavages. To involve more with democratic and emancipatory civic movements in the region, a particular focus on the social dimension of enlargement remains crucial. It is encouraging that today social engagement, calling for free and just societies, is on the rise and can initiate a new wave of democratisation and Europeanisation, thus becoming a true alternative to the current elite set-up.

The next years will be decisive for the democratic and European future of the Western Balkans. In addition to a credible enlargement perspective and a positive enlargement narrative, it is still more vital than ever to support the rule of law, civil dialogue, pluralism, and the fight against corruption, as well as the social dimension. It is crucial to invest more in social inclusion to support the broad vision of just and democratic societies, which needs to include various bottom-up initiatives and actors.

Objectives

The main objectives were

- to reform, consolidate, and reenergise EU enlargement.
- to mobilise, support, and engage with progressive and emancipatory forces from below that are truly European and pro-democratic.
- to enhance youth and alternative voices and forces in society.
- to strengthen the social dimension, rule of law, and justice in the region.
- to connect young and senior researchers, scholars, representatives of civil society, national and EU institutions, stakeholders, policy-makers, and citizens engaged in pro-democratic initiatives.

Implementation

The proposed activities were implemented in 3 phases:

I Rule of law and justice / II Social dimension / III Democratisation from below

Thus, the main focus of the “WB2EU Network” was to *activate, connect, research, disseminate, and create* joint output on the defined topics by bringing together academia, civil society, and relevant stakeholders at the national, regional, and EU levels.

Results

- 1 Policy Brief by each partner per phase (overall 45 editions)
- 1 kick-off event
- 1 closing event
- 6 “Ideas go public Labs”
- 1 “Summer School”
- a new online platform/website: www.wb2eu.eu (contains all project activities and results)
- a series of videos, op-eds, and interviews
- a final publication
- intense social media and dissemination activities

Implemented activities

Description of the implemented activities

The project relied on the carefully calibrated expertise of 17 independent policy research institutes and academic institutions from 16 countries that were most decisive for the enlargement process in the last few years. The composition of the network and project design ensured the stability and internal coherence of the research team and the accomplishment of the planned objectives and activities. The 6 “*Ideas go public Labs*”, the “*Summer School*” and both the kick-off and the closing event offered the opportunity to critically evaluate the ongoing research, appraise its practical relevance, and meet the public (including relevant stakeholders) to share results and promote Europeanisation.

The design of the “*Ideas go public Labs*” combined a project network meeting, followed by an intense workshop or round table, and a public outreach event. All public events included representatives from civic initiatives from below. Young researchers nominated by the project partners played a very prominent and active role in the “*Ideas go public Labs*” and the “*Summer School*”. As part of the project, a Summer School was designed and organised at the premises of the University of Rijeka on the island of Cres in Croatia. It was a very positive experience, out of which a further network of 17 young experts from 13 different countries has established itself. A tangible outcome was a joint op-ed, which the group had worked on, and 21 videos with statements by all participants and some speakers.

All partner organisations produced *15 Policy Briefs in each of the three project phases: 1. rule of law and justice; 2. social dimension; and 3. democratisation from below*. The “*Ideas go public Labs*” and “*Network Meetings*” served for discussion on the drafts of the *Policy Briefs*. The Austrian network organisations ÖGfE and oip took care of editing, proofreading, designing, publishing, and

dissemination. The *"Ideas go public Labs"* also provided room for the presentation and discussion of the final *Policy Briefs* to main stakeholders and to a wider public.

The network partners from the Western Balkans provided a national perspective on the project phases. The neighbouring countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Rumania) offered insights into the (trans)regional dimension of the topic, while the *Policy Briefs* from important EU member states for the process (France, Germany, and Italy) tackled the topic from the perspective of the EU institutions and member states. Each Policy Brief offers concrete policy recommendations.

The *Final Publication "Vision Western Balkans 2030 – Europeanisation meets democracy"* comprises 15 contributions by the WB2EU Network members, selected op-eds by them and the network's *"Next Generation Summer School"* participants, and outlines the results and highlights of the project.

The WB2EU Network published 21 *op-eds* in different media and released 34 videos.

Intense dissemination was made via social media channels, newsletters, and a media partnership (European Western Balkans).

The network is set to continue working together and supporting the process of EU enlargement in the Western Balkans after the end of the project, be it in the form of already established personal and institutional ties, through various channels of communication and outreach established within the network, or by being present in public debates on EU enlargement through eminent members of the network. One successful follow-up project was already realised in the form of a Summer School at Cres in September 2023.

All activities and results of the project can be found on the *project website*: www.wb2eu.eu

Changes in relation to the application

Due to the delayed start of the project on October 29, 2020, instead of September 1, 2020, and the subsequent COVID-19 travel restrictions, we were forced to slightly adapt the nature and the timetable of our project activities.

The first two events had to be organised in online formats. Thus, travel and subsistence costs for the project leader and the 16 partners could not be used as planned in two cases:

1. Kick-off Event, Vienna (March 23–24, 2021)
2. 1st Ideas go public Lab, Sarajevo (May 31–June 11, 2021)

Therefore, the budget (621247 AT NETWORK Annex III) was adapted due to an amendment, and the then available financial means could be used to further improve dissemination, visibility, outreach, quality, and impact of the project by combining more efficient online activities and

additional communication channels with a stronger focus on media and professional technical tools.

We agreed in the amendment to shift the travel and subsistence costs for the two above-mentioned events to the following, partly new, activities:

- Media cooperation and activities with a stronger focus on dissemination and higher outreach
- Technical equipment and tools for online and social media activities (livestreaming, videos, etc.)
- More investment in publications (proofreading, templates, and graphs) to ensure better quality and more visibility via online channels and social media;
- More budget for the Summer School plus travel and subsistence costs for the participants
- Travel and subsistence (1 night) for 2 representatives of the project coordinator in case of an agency event in Brussels (which was not included in the original budget calculation but did not take place)

The venue of the closing event was changed. Finally, it took place in Vienna and not in Brussels. The reason for our decision was, on the one hand, that, unfortunately, we could only arrange the project kick-off event online and were not able to organise the event as planned in Vienna. On the other hand, we were convinced that we could offer in Vienna a more special venue and programme.

In some partner institutions, the team changed during the project duration.

Team involved in the project and their role

Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE), Project Coordinator:

Paul Schmidt, Academic and Project Coordinator
Susan Milford-Faber, Senior Researcher, Project Manager
Gisela Kofler, Administration

Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip):

Vedran Džihic, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher

Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI):

Krisela Hackaj, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Ardian Hackaj, Senior Researcher
Inva Nela, Gresa Smolica, and Stela Ademi, Project Managers, Junior Researchers

New Bulgarian University, CERMES:

Anna Krasteva, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Evelina Staykova, Junior Researcher, Project Management

Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO):

Senada Šelo Šabić, Senior Researcher
Nikica Kolar, Junior Researcher



University of the Peloponnese (UOP):

Nikolaos Tzifakis, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Anastasios Valvis, Junior Researcher

Istituto Affari Intrnazionali (IAI):

Matteo Bonomi, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Federico Castiglioni, Senior Researcher
Marta Paladini, Project Manager
Daniele Fattibene, Junior Researcher
Eleonora Poli, Senior Researcher

Eurothink:

Dimitar Nikolovski, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Isak Misini, Senior Researcher
Aleksandar Stojanovski, Junior Researcher
Isak Misini, Senior Researcher
Bojan Mihajlovski, Junior Researcher

Politikon Network:

Nikola Mumin, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher (substituted J. Marović)
Marija Popović Kalezić, Senior Researcher
Jovana Marović, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Vasilije Krivokapić, Junior Researcher

Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society:

Svetlana Stefanović, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher (substituted M. Savković)
Radomir Aleksić, Luka Milovanović, Mirjana Djordjević, and Stefan Vladislavljev, Junior Researchers
Marko Savković, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Đorđe Popović, Junior Researcher

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Centre for International Relations:

Marko Lovec, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Faris Kočan, Junior Researcher

Change Experts Group:

Venera Hajrullahu, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Bardha Tahiri Jelliqi, Junior Researcher
Fiona Kelmendi, Junior Researcher

Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP):

Katrin Böttger, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Dominic Maugeais, Senior Researcher

Andrássy University Budapest (AUB):

Christina Griessler, Project Coordinator, Senior Researcher
Fanni Elek, Junior Researcher
Krisztina Slachta, Anikó Németh, Júlia Medgyesi-Németh, Project Managers



University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Political Science:

Sead Turčalo, Senior Researcher

Nedžma Džananović, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher

Sarina Bakić, Valida Repovac Nikšić, Damir Kapidžić, Jasmin Hasanović, and Berina Beširović, Researchers

GlobalFocus Center:

Oana Popescu Zamfir, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher

Rufin Zamfir, Senior Researcher

Andrei Tiut, Senior Researcher

Ana Teaca, Junior Researcher

Daniela Burciu, Junior Researcher

Ioana Chilom, Junior Researcher

Vlad Iaviță, Junior Researcher

EuropaNova:

Isabelle Négrier, Academic Coordinator (substituted E. Bernard)

Marc Nebojsa Vukadinovic, Senior Researcher

Elise Bernard, Academic Coordinator, Senior Researcher

Edouard Gaudot, Expert

Nericia Nzingoulanz, Head of Communication

Ninon Straëbler, Joseph Leloup, and Anna Lelkes, Junior Researchers

Additionally, the WB2EU Network regularly involved students and interns in the implementation of the project activities, e.g., Maša Vračar, Melika Mahmutović, Petar Mrdović, Marin Jašić, Margherita Salvia, Fjölle Ibrahimji, et al.

Impact, visibility and dissemination

The network was established to become a reference point in the area of EU enlargement and democratisation efforts in the Western Balkan countries. Besides the research and policy focus of the network, the outreach element was of crucial importance. The discussion was carried out far beyond the 17 organisations of the network to foster dialogue with decision-makers (on the local, national, and regional levels in the Western Balkans and on the European level within the EU institutions), as well as civil society representatives, activists, higher education institutes, the media, and the wider public. The network served as a catalyst, a discussion and exchange platform, and a knowledge disseminator. Thus, the network actively included various civic bottom-up initiatives able to enrich and foster democracy and Europeanisation in the region.

Beyond the provision of concrete analyses and policy recommendations, the creation of tangible visions for the Western Balkan countries and for the citizens of this region was a central goal of the project. Having a network able to support and work on the European and democratic vision for the Western Balkans in times of multiple challenges to EU enlargement, both internally within the countries and on a geopolitical level, was and remains vital for the success of the region. The rising influence of other geopolitical players, such as Russia, China, Turkey, and some Arab states, has raised awareness among enlargement supporters that the EU and the West are no longer the one and only international players and sole role models for the development of the region. As



other powers increasingly use the Western Balkans to promote their interests, which are not rooted in democratic practices, it becomes clear that a vision of free, democratic, and open European Balkans is not self-evident. Moreover, there is a need to fight for it, to work on it as hard as possible, and to promote it both in the region and in the EU. This is why this particular network has further increased its relevance over the course of the last three years, thus seeking to not only influence but also co-shape the European vision in the region, and plans to continue cooperation in this sense.

Another focus was placed on the involvement of as many young researchers and civic activists as possible. Each organisation nominated at least one junior researcher to work on the project and active young civic activists and researchers, as well as students, for participation in “Ideas go public Labs” and the “Summer School”. This led to 1) an increased interest and understanding of the topic of Europeanisation and democracy in the Western Balkans among young researchers and better opportunities to carry out specific research on the subject for young researchers; 2) new ties and networks between (young) researchers and civic activists to raise mutual understanding for democracy and Europeanisation; 3) new ways of influencing public debates through qualified, evidence-based, and yet politically engaged activities; and 4) increased opportunities in terms of employability and career development.

Dissemination activities:

- Project website: www.wb2eu.eu (9,397 total visits all time)
- 21 op-eds
- 31 videos
- 48 newsletters (265,335 total outreach)
- 356 postings on YouTube, Twitter and X, Instagram, and Facebook (357,072 total outreach)

The Centre for Contemporary Politics (CSP) has provided media support to the project through its European Western Balkans web portal (EWB) and published 66 articles. Articles published on EWB were also published on EWB’s social networks. The total readership of all the articles amounts to a total of 17,007 views.

Statistics

Participation

Western Balkans 2 EU: Kick_Off Conference

Panel 1: New perspectives on rule of law and justice – Where do we stand and what do we need?

Panel 2: How to get EU enlargement back on track? Prioritising rule of law and judicial reform.



Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (ÖGfE), Vienna (Austria) / online event with livestreaming

Number of (direct) participants: 263 / Number of indirect participants: 8,192

1st Ideas go public Lab

Panel Discussion: Moving forward or standing still? New momentum for the European future of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (ÖGfE), Vienna (Austria) & Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) / online event with livestreaming

Number of (direct) participants: 596 / Number of indirect participants: 862

2nd Ideas go public Lab

Public Debate: Is the EU losing the Western Balkans and/or vice versa?

Ljubljana (Slovenia): University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences (Grand Hall: main faculty entrance, 2nd floor), Kardeljeva ploščad 5, 1000 Ljubljana / hybrid event

Number of (direct) participants: 537 / Number of indirect participants: 410

3rd Ideas go public Lab

Public Debate: "Succeeding despite..." – the challenges of "young Europeans" in Western Balkan countries

Pristina (Kosovo): Swiss Diamond Hotel, Sheshi Nëna Terezë p.n, Prishtinë 10000 / hybrid event

Number of (direct) participants: 617 / Number of indirect participants: 773

4th Ideas go public Lab

Public Debate: The path to the EU – how the war in Ukraine has reopened the case for enlargement

Paris (France): EuropaNova premises, 64bis av. de New York, 75016 Paris & French Senate, 15 rue de Vaugirard, 75006 Paris & Austrian Embassy, 6 rue Fabert, 75007 Paris / hybrid event

Number of (direct) participants: 113 / Number of indirect participants: 525

WB2EU Summer School

Regaining new European and democratic momentum together

Cres (Croatia): Center for Advanced Studies – South East Europe (CAS SEE), Moise Palace, Zagrad 6, 51557 Cres

Number of (direct) participants: 28

5th Ideas go public Lab

Public Debate 1: TACKLING INEQUALITY – A STEP TOWARDS SOLIDARITY

Public Debate 2: MAINSTREAMING YOUTH VISION – AVOIDING YOUTHWASHING

Belgrade (Serbia): Roma Education Fund, Majke Jevrosime 51/II floor, 11000 Belgrade & Austrian Embassy, Kneza Sime Markovića 2, 11000 Belgrade / hybrid event

Number of (direct) participants: 34 / Number of indirect participants: 700

6th Ideas go public Lab

Round Table: Towards a credible EU Enlargement Policy? What does the German “Zeitenwende” mean for the Western Balkans?

Public Debate: “Zeitenwende” for EU Enlargement Policy? A view on the Berlin process and the promotion of regional integration

Berlin (Germany): Europäisches Haus, Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin & Institut für Europäische Politik, Bundesallee 23, 10717 Berlin

Number of (direct) participants: 155

Closing Event

Public Debate: IS EU ENLARGEMENT BACK ON TRACK? Moving towards a democratic and united Europe

Vienna (Austria): House of the European Union, Wipplingerstr. 35, 1010 Vienna & Parliament Austria, Dr. Karl Renner-Ring 3, 1017 Vienna & oip – Austrian Institute for International Affairs, Währinger Straße 3/12, 1090 Vienna

Number of (direct) participants: 122

Total number of (direct) participants: 2,465

Total number of indirect participants: 11,462

Total number of participants: 13,927



PROJECT RESULTS

Direct effect on participants and project partners

Events

Western Balkans 2 EU: Kick_Off Conference, 23-24 March 2021

The Livestream WB2EU Kick_Off Event served a trifold purpose:

1. To get fresh and unexpected insights into the topic of the rule of law and justice by engaging with experts
2. To have an intensive internal debate about the content and direction of the Policy Briefs for the first phase of the project
3. To have an exchange with political stakeholders and start building an academia-policy-politics alliance around the project

1st Ideas go public Lab, 7-9 June & 30 June 2021

The WB2EU 1st Ideas go public Lab was an online event and took a closer look into the state of play of rule of law, judiciary, and fundamental rights reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, both from the perspective of the EU, the wider region, and the citizens of the country.

2nd Ideas go public Lab, 14-15 October 2021

The WB2EU 2nd Ideas go public Lab in Ljubljana served the purpose:

1. To discuss Eurosceptic and illiberal alliances in the region
2. To have an intensive debate about rule of law and justice and EU enlargement
3. To present Policy Briefs for project phase I *rule of law and justice*, and to discuss the Policy Briefs for phase II *social dimension*
4. To have an exchange with political stakeholders and to further establish an academia-policy-politics alliance around the project

3rd Ideas go public Lab, 17-18 February 2022

The WB2EU 3rd Ideas go public Lab in Pristina served the following purpose:

1. To have an intensive debate about the situation and future of young people in Kosovo and the Western Balkan region, and the social dimension of EU enlargement, etc.



2. To discuss the Policy Briefs of phase II *social dimension*
3. To have an exchange with political stakeholders and further establish an academia-policy-politics alliance around the project

4th Ideas go public Lab, 19-20 May 2022

The WB2EU 4th Ideas go public Lab in Paris served the following purpose:

1. To have an intensive debate about the general politics of enlargement in France and the EU's enlargement goals and processes
2. To reflect on what the latest developments in Europe mean for the Balkans' path into the EU
3. To have an exchange with political stakeholders and further establish an academia-policy-politics alliance around the project
4. Debriefing, discussion, and reflecting on the WB2EU Network's next steps

WB2EU Summer School, 5-9 September 2022

As part of the WB2EU project, a Summer School was designed and organised in September 2022 at the premises of the University of Rijeka on the island of Cres in Croatia. It was a very positive experience, out of which a further network of 17 young experts from 13 different countries has established itself. A tangible outcome of these seven days was a joint op-ed, which the group had worked on. Additionally, 21 videos were published with statements by all participants and some of the speakers.

5th Ideas go public Lab, 19-20 September 2022

The WB2EU 5th Ideas go public Lab in Belgrade served the following purpose:

1. To discuss inequality in the Western Balkans and the situation of young people in the labour market and education
2. To have an exchange with political stakeholders and further establish an academia-policy-politics alliance around the project
3. Debriefing, discussion, and reflecting on the WB2EU Network's next steps

6th Ideas go public Lab, 23-24 March 2023

The 6th Ideas go public Lab took off with an expert roundtable, where Berlin-based experts and representatives of the WB2EU network discussed the Berlin Process and Germany's role in the Western Balkans and was followed by a public panel discussion.

Closing Event, 9-10 October 2023

At the conclusion of the three-year Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Network project on Europeanisation, democratisation and strengthening of civil society in the Western Balkans, on the one hand, the

importance of the project and the collaboration among 17 independent policy research institutes and academic institutions from 16 countries were highlighted. On the other hand, the most important results and outputs were presented to the media and the broader public. Thus, the event gathered leaders, academics, and experts from the Western Balkan countries and across Europe in Vienna and served as a platform for debating current developments, obstacles, and perspectives of the EU enlargement and reform process and the critical role of regional cooperation among the Western Balkan countries in their journey towards European integration.

Finally, in a WB2EU Network meeting, the three-year cooperation and the results of the project were discussed, as well as further steps and future collaboration ideas.

Research material bringing forward the reflection in the sector

Publications

45 Policy Briefs in the framework of the WB2EU Project

All partner organisations produced *15 Policy Briefs in each of the three project phases*:

I Rule of law and justice / II Social dimension / III Democratisation from below

The network partners from the Western Balkans provided a national perspective on the project phases. The neighbouring countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Rumania) offered insights into the (trans)regional dimension of the topic, while the Policy Briefs from important EU member states for the process (France, Germany, and Italy) tackled the topic from the perspective of the EU institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, and EU Council) and member states.

1. The first series of 15 Policy Briefs was published between 23 September 2021 and 9 March 2022.
2. The second series of 15 Policy Briefs was published between 13 October 2022 and 5 May 2023.
3. The last series of 15 Policy Briefs was published between 7 June and 28 October 2023.

Final Publication

“Vision Western Balkans 2030 – Europeanisation meets democracy”

Despite 15 contributions by the WB2EU Network members, the “[Final Publication](#)” comprises selected op-eds by the WB2EU Network and the Network’s *Next Generation Summer School* participants. In addition, one article describes the WB2EU project and the network, and another one outlines the results and highlights of the project.



Partnerships and collaborations

New or extended partnerships or cooperation

The *Centre for Contemporary Politics (CSP)* has provided media support in the framework of media cooperation for the WB2EU project through its *European Western Balkans web portal (EWB)* from March 2021 to October 2023.

The *Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana* and the *Europe for Citizens Project "Tackling Illiberal/Eurosceptic Narratives from Below"* were cooperation partners at the WB2EU 3rd Ideas go public Lab (Ljubljana, 2021).

The *Center for Advanced Studies Southeast Europe (CAS SEE)*, *University of Rijeka*, and *Moise Palace* were cooperation partners in the framework of the WB2EU Summer School (Cres, 2022).

The *Representation of the European Commission in Germany* and the *Federal Foreign Office* supported the WB2EU 6th Ideas go public Lab (Berlin, 2023).

The *Representation of the European Commission in Austria* and *"Europa Club"* were cooperation partners at the WB2EU Closing Event.

Dissemination material

WB2EU project website

The project website was launched on 21 March 2021 just before the kick-off event of the project, and since then has had 9,397 total visits all time (December 2023). All activities and results (documentation of all events, publications, media contributions, photos, and videos) of the WB2EU project can be found on the project website: www.wb2eu.eu

WB2EU One Pager

A series of op-eds by the WB2EU Network published in different media

Media Cooperation

The *Centre for Contemporary Politics (CSP)* has provided media support to the WB2EU project through its *European Western Balkans web portal (EWB)*.

From March 2021 to October 2023, EWB has published 45 articles about Policy Briefs published within the project, 6 announcements of events organised within the WB2EU project, 8 reports



about the organised events, 3 interviews and 2 op-eds by individuals connected to the project, and 2 other articles, totalling *66 published articles*.

Articles published on EWB were also published on EWB's social networks, primarily Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, as well as promoted through newsletters and EWB's mobile app through push notifications.

The total readership of all the articles amounts to a total of *17,007 views*. The real numbers were actually much higher due to technical issues with analytics in one 6-month period of the cooperation.

Social media coverage and figures of performance of dissemination

Appendices

See 14 appendices with further information and details about events, publications, reports, dissemination activities, and statistics below.





WB2EU

WESTERN BALKANS 2 EU

KICK-OFF CONFERENCE

23rd March 2021 14:30 - 16:00

24th March 2021 16:00 - 17:00



With the support of the
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of the European Union



KICK-OFF CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME

23rd March 14.30-16.00

**"New perspectives on rule of law and justice -
Where do we stand and what do we need?"**

Panel Discussion - Livestream

Márta Pardavi, Co-Chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee

Nedim Hogić, PhD Candidate Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies

Nikolaos Tzifakis, Associate Professor, Department of Political
Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese

24th March 10.00-12.00

Internal Group Debate:

**Perspectives from the countries, views from EU
capitals, discussion of Policy Briefs' contents**

24th March 16.00-17.00

**"How to get EU enlargement back on track?
Prioritising rule of law and judicial reform."**

Panel Discussion - Livestream

Katarina Barley, Vice President of the European Parliament

Nikola Dimitrov, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of
North Macedonia

Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for EU and Constitution of Austria

Jovana Marović, Executive Director of Politikon Network in Montenegro

**Europeanisation meets democracy from below:
The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic
Momentum**



WB2EU Kick_Off Conference | 23 March 2021

Summary Panel 1

**New perspectives on rule of law and justice – Where do we stand
and what do we need?**

The WB2EU is dedicated to bringing the countries of the Western Balkans closer to the European Union by fostering analyses and discussions. Each year is focused on one political challenge in the region. Starting off with “the rule of law and justice”, followed by “social dimension” and concluded by “democratisation from below”, WB2EU aimed at providing impetus for progress on both sides based on the observation that the status quo is unsatisfactory.

The project was kicked-off by a panel conference on the question “New perspectives on rule of law and justice – Where do we stand and what do we need?”.

Márta Pardavi, co-chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, outlined the developments of the most evident case of democratic backsliding within the EU-27 and its effects on the governments of the Western Balkans, which seem to, at least partially, imitate Hungary’s authoritarian practices. Referring to the EC’s recently published report of the last monitoring cycle, Pardavi stated three important areas that are additionally to be looked at when it comes to the assessment of rule-of-law developments:

- 1) Although the EC’s monitoring cycle reports are very comprehensive, they highlight certain trends extensively while overlooking others. Pardavi calls for an extension of

the monitored areas, explicitly emphasising the exertion of influence by, in this case, the Hungarian regime on the electorate through social media campaigns that were not sufficiently noted in the report.

- 2) Strategic litigation and possible judicial weaknesses should be investigated more extensively; disregards of ECJ verdicts should be called out;
- 3) The chilling effects of governments violating rule-of-law standards on political participation and the general ability to take part in discursive processes in civil society should be investigated. According to Pardavi, civic bottom-up mobilisation has to be strengthened in order to tackle issues of missing rule-of-law compliance.

Nedim Hogić, PhD candidate at the Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies, called for deconstructing the narrative of a universal rule-of-law culture and a reconstruction of the concept along the lines of fairness, justice, and transparency. EU-enforced solutions, like judicial councils or having parties reveal their funding, did not work because they focused on this narrative. However, there are incentives coming from within the countries' established rule-of-law systems that try to promote improvements, which allows for a more optimistic view of the status quo. In every country of the Western Balkans, there are examples of mechanisms of corruption being dismantled through judicial acts and whistle-blower reports, which, in his view, testifies to the observation that there is a shift in rule-of-law culture within the political structures. Therefore, the EU-27 should focus on strengthening the building of a rule-of-law constituency rather than insisting on standards and benchmarks, following a pathway that consists of:

- 1) promoting awareness of the negative impacts of corruption on welfare systems among civil society;
- 2) focusing on strengthening those parts of the judiciary that are willing to fight corruption;
- 3) changing its take on credit allocation; money should be lent to private companies rather than the public sector in exchange for rule-of-law compliance and upholding certain standards in order to reward those that play by the rules;
- 4) protecting individuals who try to uncover corrupt mechanisms, demonstrating that rule-of-law compliance is worth establishing and that its protection is acknowledged by the EU-27.

Nikolaos Tzifakis, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of the Peloponnese, outlined the most recent rule-of-law developments in the Western Balkans in light of the pandemic. Tzifakis identified authoritarian trends in the region

that showed extensive legislative fragilities, raising the question of a possible response by the EU-27 within the enlargement process. On numerous occasions, governments were able to take extraordinary measures without parliamentary approval and ignored the checks and balances mechanism. During short periods of time, the governments of Albania, Serbia, and Montenegro ruled by decrees and disregarded the verdicts of their constitutional courts, harming human rights and side-lining oppositions. According to Tzifakis the developments are especially alarming as the most aggressive violations were conducted against the three enlargement candidates, who were until then considered to be the frontrunners of the region when it came to compliance with EU standards, whereas Bosnia and Kosovo performed much better. In his view, the democratic backsliding to instrumentalise the crisis by the governments of Albania, Serbia, and Montenegro should not remain unanswered by the EU-27.

WB2EU Kick_Off Conference | 24 March 2021

Summary Panel 2

How to get EU enlargement back on track? Prioritising rule of law and judicial reform.

The second panel of the WB2EU kick-off conference was intended to capture the opinions of political stakeholders on the status quo of reforms in terms of the rule-of-law concept and its importance in the accession processes.

Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for EU and Constitutional Affairs of Austria, calls for a more dedicated political approach from the EU-27, raising awareness of what is at stake with players like China and Russia expanding their influences in the region. According to her, a new peak was reached during the pandemic when EU member states only penuriously shared health supplies with the Western Balkans, whereas China rapidly delivered large amounts. It is now a matter of time for the EU-27 to give a clear and positive accession perspective to the Western Balkans; otherwise, they will turn away looking for partnerships with China and Russia. This would be a great loss for the EU-27, not only due to the Western Balkans cultural and physical proximity but also in terms of shared security interests.

Nikola Dimitrov, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of North Macedonia, highlighted North Macedonia's ongoing efforts to implement and align with the standards demanded by the EU-27 which are based on its citizens' unbroken will to become a part of the union. He

stated that it is not of interest to the people of candidate countries or potential candidate countries to only formally access the EU, they want to achieve European standards and establish a certain way of living in their region. According to him, the biggest challenge is acknowledging that there is no universal solution to establish a rule-of-law culture that fits every country. Nevertheless, he observes a positive trend of elite responsiveness to the public's opinions on the verge.

Katarina Barley, Vice President of the European Parliament, states that the EU-27 should focus on making the rule-of-law concept more tangible rather than demanding aligned institutionalisation of the rule-of-law principle in every member state and potential member state. It should be made clear, that the rule-of-law principle is, in its core, the capacity of governments to be criticised and called out whenever they make mistakes. It is not about the structure of constitutional courts or single litigations but about whether or not governments in power take democracy seriously by promoting and ensuring mechanisms of checks and balances.

Jovana Marović, Executive Director of the Politikon Network in Montenegro, contextualised the developments of the past few years in the Western Balkans. She observed a positive trend towards the strengthening of rule-of-law cultures, at least in some countries of the region. In her view, the EU's approach to fostering the rule-of-law principle in candidate and potential candidate countries should be adjusted to the specific characteristics of the respective countries. It should be established along the lines of EU-27 supported democracy building in the Western Balkans.

The entire information about the conference can be found under the following links on the [WB2EU website](#):

<https://www.wb2eu.eu/?p=465>

<https://www.wb2eu.eu/?p=1718>

<https://www.wb2eu.eu/?p=1740>

Society

WB2EU: Citizens need some re-branding of the idea of what the rule of law is

by EWB 24. 03. 2021.



Protests in Skopje 2015; Photo: Twitter / @banekoma

Democracies are under pressure, the rule of law in the Western Balkans and some EU countries has weakened and the current health and economic crises further complicate the search for renewed energies and optimism. This was a conclusion of the panel “New perspectives on rule of law and justice – Where do we stand and what do we need”, organised by the “WB2EU network”.

Marta Pardavi, Co-Chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, said that rule of law is a very important European topic and the very top political priority, adding that for a very long time this was not a topic in Hungary.

She underlined that without a good framework and strong constitutional framework, the rule of law is a human right that can not be implemented.

“In Hungary, we had bad practices 10 years ago. We have moved from recognizing problems, we need a solution”, she told adding that Hungary is the classic example of a democratic backsliding.

She identified problems in rule of law in Hungary, which are linked with the problems in the countries of the Western Balkans.

Nedim Hogić, PhD Candidate Sant’ Anna School of Advanced Studies, pointed out that insisting on the non-existence of a culture of the rule of law in the Western Balkans is dangerous, adding that it is necessary to explain

to the citizens the advantages of the rule of law.

“We need to focus on mobilizing citizens and explaining to them the benefits of the rule of law” he said.

According to him, it is necessary to put a greater focus on issues of justice and transparency.

Panelists agreed that citizens need some re-branding of the idea of what the rule of law is because the language of the rule of law is sometimes very technical. According to them, citizens need a much better explanation of the rule of law.

The panel was organized within the “WB2EU network” is a long-term project gathering 17 think tanks and academic institutions from the Western Balkans and the EU and lasting until 2023.

The project aims to establish “WB2EU network”, which shall become a reference point in the area of EU enlargement and democratisation efforts to the Western Balkan countries.

The network will focus on gathering information and research results on EU enlargement, supporting civic democratic engagement through the publication of a series of policy briefs and op-eds in major media outlets in all partner countries and fostering cooperation and creating a high knowledge exchange platform with public actors.

EU

MARTA PARDAVI

NEDIM HOGIĆ

NIKOLAOS TZIFAKIS

WB2EU

WESTERN BALKANS



Society

WB2EU: Status quo is no longer providing stability in the WB

by EWB 25. 03. 2021.



Protest in front of the National Assembly on 10 July; Photo: FoNet

Status quo is no longer providing stability in the Western Balkans. The EU should focus more on small victories in order to gain long-term goals, it was concluded during the panel “How to get EU enlargement back on track? Prioritising rule of law and judicial reform”, organised by the “WB2EU network”.

Nikola Dimitrov, Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs of North Macedonia, said that many years ago the enlargement process resembled the highway, then it became small, now it is very tiny and it is uphill.

„The goal of the accession process is not to tick of boxes, but to bring Europe at home, so that we here can have the European way of life. There is no magical stick on the rule of law. This year we mark 20 years since we signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and we mark 16 years as a candidate country. All this waiting time is very challenging,” said Dimitrov.

He added that there is an issue with credibility on the part of the EU.

“*„I think this reflects not only in our case, but lessons are being learned in the capitols of the Western Balkans. We are talking about the region that does not simply border the EU, it is encircled with the blue flag with yellow stars. However, I think that the region is also behind on the delivery of the reforms. We have to make this region properly European in terms of the values of Europe,” Dimitrov pointed out.*

Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for EU and Constitution of Austria, said that she does not see the current situation regarding the enlargement process as negative.

„I think we achieved a lot last year. We were already in the middle of this pandemic when we decided to go further with the enlargement process. It is a question of credibility and security for the EU that we bring the Western Balkans closer to the EU with the goal of membership in the EU,” Edtstadler highlighted.

She added that the EU needs a more political, strategic approach to the EU enlargement process and that a clear perspective should be given to the Western Balkans.

Katarina Barley, Vice President of the European Parliament, stressed that the European Parliament has always been extremely clear and has always taken a side for the accession countries in all of the disputes.

“**„I think we have to really put this into a bigger picture, because the frustration of the accession countries is a part of the process that does not only concerns the accession process, we are witnessing developments within the EU that are extremely worrying and also frustrating to some of us,“ said Barley.**

She underlined that when you make promises you have to keep them.

„Once you raise expectations you have to meet them. What we have seen especially with North Macedonia and Albania is that the EU has not raised to these expectations and it has not kept the promises that it made. The European Parliament works as much as it can to support the accession process“, stressed Barley.

Jovana Marović, Executive Director of Politikon Network in Montenegro, said that it is obvious that the Western Balkans’ perspective of the enlargement process is different than the EU’s.

European Parliament to discuss Serbian elections in plenary session on Wednesday

Screening of the EWB documentary “The Time of Stabilitocracy” held in Berlin

Energy transition and accession to the EU: „Fundamentals first” principle’s application in energy transition in the Western Balkans

„I think that the two most important questions about the EU enlargement are whether the EU is still interested to help with the democratisation of the Western Balkans and is there anything left of the EU transformative power“, Marović pointed out.

Without a clear vision of where the enlargement process is leading, she said, and without engagement from the EU level, I do not see that we will achieve a certain level of democratisation in the meantime.

Barley added that “we as a European Union should not tell neither member states nor accession countries what exactly they have to do, because that is not the way it works, as we can see in Poland and Hungary”.

“**„The question is do you accept that separation of powers, the rule of law and democracy means that you as a government are being controlled and that you are being criticized“, Barley concluded.**

The panel was organized within the “WB2EU network” is a long-term project gathering 17 think tanks and academic institutions from the Western Balkans and the EU and lasting until 2023.

The project aims to establish “WB2EU network”, which shall become a reference point in the area of EU enlargement and democratisation efforts to the Western Balkan countries.

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EU ENLARGEMENT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT JOVANA MAROVIĆ KAROLINE EDTSTADLER KATARINA BARLEY
NIKOLA DIMITROV RULE OF LAW WB2EU WESTERN BALKANS



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

Further information about the event can be found under the following links on the [WB2EU website](#): [Internal Group Debates](#) & [Panel Discussion](#)

Politics

Rule of law and fundamental rights are not top priorities for governments in the region

by EWB 01. 07. 2021.



Sarajevo; Photo: Wikimedia Commons

VIENNA – There is no new momentum for the European future of the Western Balkan countries which for all these years have not moved much forward, and the EU membership slowly turned to EU perspective, it is concluded at the panel discussion “Moving forward or standing still? New momentum for the European future of Bosnia and Herzegovina”, organised by the “WB2EU network”.

Considering that the rule of law, justice and fundamental right reforms do not seem to be of utmost priority to the governments in the region, the aim of the panel was to answer the question is there a way to move forward and create new dynamics by seriously addressing these issues.

The panelists discussed will Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans continue to stand still in terms of EU integration or start to move forward and questioned the role of the citizens and NGO’s in the process.

Johann Sattler, Head of EU Delegation and Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina said that considering the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the past two years, this country is hardly moving forward on its European path.

“If you ask me if Bosnia and Herzegovina is moving forward or is it standing still, I would have to say that it is standing still. 2/3 standing still and 1/3 or even less of movement”, he said.

Sattler explained that in the area of rule of law, the lack of progress is noted. Although some steps have been taken, such as adoption of the public procurement law by the Council of ministers which he hopes will be adopted in the near future, there is still many things that must be done. The most important are constitutional and electoral reform.

“2021 is a year to make a constitutional and electoral reform. Here it is basically about two things. One getting the discrimination out of the constitution and out of the election law. The second part is to get the corruption out of the election system”, he stated adding that in that process civil society organisations must be included.

Senada Šelo Šabić, Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Development and International Relations in Croatia, WB2EU network pointed out that Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to become a member of the European Union must respect the system that other member states have and that it must be strongly and openly committed to that goal.

“That is the main principle. You need to assure a strong democracy, strong institution, basically blind institutions to the faith, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation or whatever is a particular characteristic of a person”, she highlighted.

She added that to achieve that the experts in BiH should be more focused on its advantages.

“Everybody involved in the processes of this country must be more ambitious and positive while explaining the possibilities of BiH, rather than its limitations”, she said.

Marko Savković, Executive Director of Belgrade Fund for the Political Excellence, WB2EU network referred to the long duration of the WB European integration process and its complex nature which sometimes can be discouraging. Accordingly, he was not much optimistic when it comes to the EU membership of the Western Balkan countries in the near future.

“I don’t see a new momentum for the European future of the Western Balkans. EU membership has been returned into European perspective”, he noted adding that a positive thing can be a demand for democratization by the citizens.

Savković explained that the situation in Serbia is very difficult considering the lack of legal opposition and the fact that reforms which are being implemented as the most important for Serbia to become a member of the Union, are leading to even more state capture. Thus, membership remains far away.

“In some respect, we are still candidates for EU membership, but in other, we talk about what is plan B, if there is no enlargement”, he said.

Emina Veljović, Executive Director of Aarhus Centre in BiH explained the role of civil society in the integration process of BiH. Through an example of action in the field of environment, she showed how the civil sector managed to put the problem on the agenda and then motivated institutions to actually do something in order to harmonise the legislation with EU standards.

“We were able to pull off the draw of the Parliament the Draft of the Law on the environment. Then the civic sector in the area of an environment prepared the amendment for the Law to be harmonised with EU legislation and we constantly communicated with delegates and suggested that amendments should become a part of the Draft Law” she said and concluded that that is not the end since they continue to push reforms and inspire changes in BiH.

The panel was organized within the “WB2EU network” is a long-term project gathering 17 think tanks and academic institutions from the Western Balkans and the EU and lasting until 2023.

The project aims to establish “WB2EU network”, which shall become a reference point in the area of EU enlargement and democratisation efforts to the Western Balkan countries.

The network will focus on gathering information and research results on EU enlargement, supporting civic democratic engagement through the publication of a series of policy briefs and op-eds in major media outlets in all partner countries and fostering cooperation and creating a high knowledge exchange platform with public actors.

BIH EMINA VELJKOVIĆ EU JOHANN SATTLER MARKO SAVKOVIĆ
SENADA ŠELO ŠABIĆ WB2EU WESTERN BALKANS



WB2EU 2nd Ideas go public Lab

14 – 15 October 2021, Ljubljana

Programme

Day I

Venue for all events on both days: University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences (Grand Hall: main faculty entrance, 2nd floor), Kardeljeva ploščad 5, 1000 Ljubljana

10.00–11.30: *Tackling illiberalism and Euroscepticism from below* project meeting (closed session)

12.00h: Lunch

15.00–16.30: Workshop – “*Eurosceptic and illiberal alliance in the region*” (closed session)

Joint meeting within the framework of the EU projects *WB2EU* and *Tackling illiberalism and Euroscepticism from below*

Presentations followed by discussion:

- Tackling illiberalism and Euroscepticism from below: The case of Italy, **Manuela Caiani**
- Tackling illiberalism and Euroscepticism from below: The case of Poland, **Adam Balcer**
- WB2EU: Presentation of the Policy Brief by **Christina Griessler** and **Fanni Elek**, Andrassy University Budapest, Hungary
- WB2EU: Policy Brief by Djordje Popović, presentation by **Marko Savković**, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE), Serbia
- Tackling illiberalism and Euroscepticism from below: Presentation by **Faris Kočan**, University of Ljubljana, Centre of International Relations (CIR), Slovenia, WB2EU Network

Moderated by Marko Lovec, University of Ljubljana, Centre of International Relations (CIR), Slovenia, WB2EU Network

17.00–18.00: Coffee break



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Tackling Illiberal/Eurosceptic
Narratives from Below

Europeanisation meets democracy from
below: The Western Balkans on the
search for new European and
democratic Momentum (WB2EU)

18.00–19.30: *Is the EU losing the Western Balkans and/or vice versa?*

Public debate in hybrid format with livestream

For a long time, the Central and East European new member states, such as Slovenia, were a symbol of successful Europeanisation and of the strength of the enlargement policy as the most important foreign policy tool of the European Union. In the last decade, they have taken a central role in the divide over fundamental norms and rules such as independent judiciary, media, and civil society, thus ultimately playing in favour of the enlargement fatigue in Western Europe.

The public debate will, among others, address the following questions:

- What did Ursula Von der Leyen's tour in September tell about the reformed enlargement policy being up to the institutional and geopolitical challenges in the region?
- How will the German elections impact the rule of law and enlargement policy?
- What is the climate in the European Council as seen from the outcome of the informal EU-Western Balkans Summit? How prominently figure here the questions of the rule of law and the lack of reforms in this sector?
- Are multi-ethnic countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and North Macedonia losing their ground vis-à-vis the strongmen and growing nationalisms in the region? How will this impact the reform impetus?
- Are we witnessing a re-emergence of ethnic conflicts as a result of the weakening of the multilateral normative framework?

Discussants:

Peter Grk, Head of the Bled Strategic Forum (BSF) department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Marko Makovec, Director/Deputy Managing Director, Western Europe, Western Balkans, Turkey and United Kingdom, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Donika Emini, Executive Director of CiviKos Platform, Kosovo

Dimitar Nikolovski, Director of the Centre for European Strategies (EUROTHINK), North Macedonia, WB2EU Network

Christina Griessler, Research Fellow for netPOL-Network for Political Communication, Andr ssy University Budapest, WB2EU Network

Moderated by Vedran D zih c, Senior Researcher, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oip), WB2EU Network

- Livestreaming via [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)
- On-site participants are required to pre-register, wear a mask and display a negative corona certificate (recovered, vaccinated, PCR test). Checks will be made upon the entrance.

20.00: Dinner



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**Tackling Illiberal/Eurosceptic
Narratives from Below**

**Europeanisation meets democracy from
below: The Western Balkans on the
search for new European and
democratic Momentum (WB2EU)**

Day II

9.30–10.30: *WB2EU Network meeting (closed session)*

10.30–11.00h: Coffee break

10.30–12.00h: *WB2EU Network meeting (closed session)*

12.00h: Lunch

Further information can be found under the following links on the [WB2EU website](#): [2nd Ideas go public Lab](#) (entire event) & [Public Debate](#)



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**Tackling Illiberal/Eurosceptic
Narratives from Below**



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**Europeanisation meets democracy from
below: The Western Balkans on the
search for new European and
democratic Momentum (WB2EU)**

Society

It is in Slovenia's interest to promote geopolitical importance of the Western Balkans

by EWB 13. 10. 2021.



Josep Borrell, Janez Janša and Charles Michel in Brdo, Slovenia; Photo: Flickr / Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU

VIENNA – The Western Balkans is perhaps Slovenia's most important strategic region. A next round of EU enlargement would therefore bring immense benefits to Slovenia in terms of trade, investment, political stability and security in the region, emphasise the authors of a policy brief published by Austrian Institute for International Affairs (OiiP).

The brief, titled [“What can the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union do for the Western Balkans?”](#) stresses that, after the various EU as well as domestic crises, Slovenia became less of a political actor in the WB. Still, it continues to enjoy a relatively positive image in the Western Balkans and is in the position to share its valuable experience with EU accession.

The authors recommended, primarily in the context of the recently held EU-Western Balkans Summit, that the Slovenian Presidency should promote the geopolitical importance of the region for the EU amidst the enlargement fatigue, promote the new investment plan as an economic backbone for the “Open Balkan” initiative. Also, to prove critics wrong, the Slovenian government should promote a positive narrative on the EU-Western Balkans relations and raise awareness

regarding the negative prospects for the whole region due to Bulgaria's veto to North Macedonia.

In addition, certain priorities of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, such as resilience to health crisis and cybersecurity, that have gained in importance during the COVID-19 pandemic, go hand in hand with the EU's strategy on WB, the authors assessed. The same goes for the issue of migration.

"One of the specific trajectories that goes hand in hand with the question of mobility, economic migration and broader security paradigm is the question of the illegal migration, as the 2015/2016 Balkan route showed how ineffective policies can be if countries do not work together. In this context – and in line with the new types of uncertainties deriving from the withdrawal of the U.S. from Afghanistan – Slovenia could exploit further the EU Council presidency and pursue the idea of working together regionally in order to manage the regional borders and control illegal immigration", the paper reads.

The non-paper controversy: Sign that geopolitical challenges persist

The SDS-led government in Slovenia, which took office in early 2020, highlighted geopolitical challenges from countries such as China and Turkey. However, it also aligned with the Donald Trump administration, the illiberal regimes of Fidesz in Hungary and PiS in Poland, Aleksandar Vučić in Serbia and Milorad Dodik in the Republic Srbska, the authors stress.

"This was the context in which the non-paper on the "Plan B" for the WB proposing new borders in the region along ethnic lines was published in April and was attributed to Slovenia", the policy brief reads, reminding that the government denied having anything to do with it.

According to the authors, the non-paper probably did not intend to actually change the borders since this would go against the development of norms and rules since the Second World War and would most probably trigger new conflicts.

"Nevertheless, by supporting the ideas of ethnic borders and of Great Serbia, Great Albania and Great Croatia it assisted nationalist status quo players in those countries, who also enjoy support of third countries. In contrast, it further pressured the multinational states, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia, where support for the EU is currently the strongest", the paper reads.

It reminds that the criticism against the non-paper was fierce in the Atlantic community.

“The new US administration under Joe Biden specifically threatened any actors that would attempt to destabilise the Western Balkans with sanctions. The other reactions from Russia, Turkey together with another non-paper from Zagreb (the latter which Slovenia officially supported called for a stronger role of (Bosnian) Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina), show that geopolitical challenges persist”, the paper reads.

EU losing its transformative power, Slovenia no longer the best example of transition

“In the last 10 years there has been a growing impression that the EU has lost its transformative powers. The weakening of the pull and push powers for the integration have been explained in terms of the triple C crisis: weakened Conditionality, Credibility loss and higher Costs to domestic elites”, the brief reads.

Slovenia was also heavily affected by the various crises and is no longer the lighthouse of transition to the liberal democracy and Europeanisation for the region it used to be, the brief also analysed.

“The government led by Janez Jansša of the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) that presided the Council of the EU back in 2008 recently used the fight against COVID-19 as pretext to interfere with the independent state institutions and free media and further align with illiberal regimes in the region and beyond resulting in tensions with the EU institutions”, the authors stress.

They add that democratic backsliding in the candidate and potential candidate countries and some of the new EU members from the CEE (including Slovenia) have strengthened the need of enhanced conditionality, potentially extended beyond accession and including member states conditionality in terms of rule of law

The Policy Brief is published in the framework of the WB2EU Project, which aims at the establishment of a network of renowned think-thanks, universities, higher education institutes, and policy centers in the Western Balkans, neighboring countries, and EU member states that will be most decisive for the enlargement process and Europeanisation of the region in the upcoming years.

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EU-WESTERN BALKANS SUMMIT 2021

SLOVENIA

WB2EU



3rd Ideas go public Lab

Pristina, 17 – 18 February 2022

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

Programme including the closed sessions

Day I

The WB2EU 3rd Ideas go public Lab will serve the following purpose:

- To have an intensive debate about the situation and future of young people in Kosovo and the Western Balkans region, and the social dimension of EU enlargement, etc.
- To discuss the Policy Briefs of phase II *social dimension*
- To have an exchange with political stakeholders and further establish an academia-policy-politics alliance around the project

15.30–17.00: WB2EU Network meeting (closed session)

Discussion of the Policy Brief drafts by the WB2EU Network partners from Albania, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

17.00-17.30h: Coffee break

17.30–19.00: WB2EU Network meeting (closed session)

Discussion of the Policy Brief drafts by the WB2EU Network partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Serbia.

20.00h: Dinner

Day II

09.00–10.30: WB2EU Network meeting (closed session)

Discussion of the first Policy Brief drafts by the WB2EU Network partners from France, Germany, Italy, Kosovo, and Slovenia.

10.30–11.00: Coffee break

11.00–12.30: Public Debate (hybrid format)

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

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.

Europeanisation meets democracy from below:

The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum
(WB2EU)



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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 Džihić, Senior Researcher, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip), WB2EU Network

- Livestreaming via [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)
- 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.

12.30–14.00: Lunch

Further information about the event can be found under the following links on the [WB2EU website](#): [3rd Ideas go public Lab](#) & [Public Debate](#)

Society

Youth participation and culture are important for the Europeanisation and democratization of Kosovo

by EWB 21. 02. 2022.



Pristina, Kosovo; Photo: European Union

PRISTINA – Participation of youth in creating policies and culture plays a significant role in the Europeanization and democratization of Kosovo, but young people and citizens must be heard by politicians, stressed the participants during the panel “Succeeding despite – The challenges of young Europeans”, organized by WB2EU network.

Editor in Chief of Kosovo 2.0 **Besa Luci** spoke about the experience of this portal, whose second-largest group of readers are young people in Kosovo. They have the opportunity to write various blogs on the Kosovo 2.0 portal

about topics that concern them.

“A lot of issues that they are bringing up in this blog are really the issues that are actually faced by the society at large and it really made me think about how we think of youth and how we talk of youth, because in a lot of these blogs, what was distinct for me was that there were all written from a very personal experience that they went through,” says Luci.

According to Luci, there are sometimes there is a tendency to think of youth as this like one group where age becomes a common denominator.

“Of course, age is important because it allows a lot of sharing of similar experiences but I would like the conversation to youth to go to the next stage, when we talk about youth as citizens and not through their age marker because I think it also ends up stripping them away from their agency as well,” says Luci.

She stressed the importance of talking about fundamental and women’s rights, about LGBT rights, “about how different groups experience poverty and how different identity markers affect that as well”.

“When we think of democracy we tend to talk about freedom of expression, and we really think of the right of freedom of expression and the right to be listened to. I think this is important today, the right to be listened to, not just the right to speak. I think this applies to youth,” says Luci.

Mimoza Kusari Lila, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo, said that the government should take great responsibility and deliver concrete steps in fighting corruption, justice, education.

She assessed that people need to be told, need to actually hear it constantly.

“Today, there has been for the first time in Kosovo a lot of implementation of the policies that they have promised including free university education, including scholarships for minorities, funding the start up. However, in this line of work, I think it needs more intensified communication with people. Because from being a political party that has started and grown from a grassroots and had been close to the people to a party that is governing based on its principles and promises. We need to communicate that”, said Kusari-Lila.

Eroll Bilibani, Producer / Head, Dokufest, Kosovo, spoke about the importance of cultural festivals, such as Dokufest, for the promotion of Kosovo, both externally and internally.

Dokufest has created this flavor that is known in Kosovo as a Dokufest spirit, but its journey was not that easy. Culture in Kosovo was financed through subsidies, once a year both at local and central level. The influence of culture on social economic development and potential was never recognized. It was seen as an activity that is entertainment to those who create it and those who experience it, “says Bilibani.

He told that Dokufest has increased economic activity, GDP in the amount of over 2.4 million euros and if consumption expenditures are included the annual impact is estimated to be over 4.7 million euros.

According to Bilibani, Dokufest has played a role in building the new history of Kosovo by creating an alternative space in which young people could learn, create and collaborate with others.

“This confirmed that culture is beyond entertainment for us that make and those to consume it. Dokufest and some other CSOs did the opposite of locked door policies. We gave opportunities, we didn’t considered youth as beneficiaries, they were our partners, their ideas they were always... if they had a good idea, they would go for that and we would help them “, he said.

The panel was organized within the WB2EU network, a long-term project gathering 17 think tanks and academic institutions from the Western Balkans and the EU until 2023. The project aims to establish a network that shall become a reference point in the area of EU enlargement and democratization efforts to the Western Balkan countries. The network will focus on gathering information and research results on EU enlargement, supporting civic democratic engagement through the publication of a series of policy briefs and op-eds in major media outlets in all partner countries and fostering cooperation and creating a high knowledge exchange platform with public actors.

"WB2EU NETWORK" BESA LUCI DOKUFEST
EROLL BILIBANI KOSOVO MIMOZA KUSARI LILA

4th Ideas go public Lab Paris, 19 – 20 May 2022

Right in between the tail of the presidential race and the head of the parliamentary elections, the WB2EU 4th Ideas go public Lab will focus on the general politics of enlargement in France. The Russian aggression on Ukraine has rekindled a movement of solidarity and mobilisation akin to those of 1956 for Hungary, 1968 for Prague, or the 1980s for Poland. The reconfirmation for Ukraine of its European destiny in the face of war and its domino effect on Georgia and Moldova triggered a refreshed interest in the French public and political spectrum for the EU's enlargement goals and processes. In this regard, we found it relevant to reflect on what this novel context could mean for the Balkans' path into the EU. And the associated political narratives and plays.

Following the usual pattern, the *Ideas go public Lab* will have an afternoon *specialist round table*, an evening *public event* – followed by a formal *get together* – and a *WB2EU Network meeting* for debriefing and reflecting on the next steps in the framework of the project.

So, the WB2EU 4th Ideas go public Lab will serve the following purpose:

- To have an intensive debate about the general politics of enlargement in France and the EU's enlargement goals and processes
- To reflect on what the latest developments in Europe mean for the Balkans' path into the EU
- To have an exchange with political stakeholders and further establish an academia-policy-politics alliance around the project
- Debriefing, discussion, and reflecting on the WB2EU Network's next steps

Programme

Day I

16.00–16.30: Coffee reception

16:30 – 18:00: Round table discussion (closed session)

Venue: EuropaNova premises, 64bis av. de New York, 75016 Paris

The Western Balkans EU accession process in a French perspective

Speakers:

Julien Arnoult, EuropaNova

Clotilde Warin, European Affairs expert, French MFA, Centre d'Analyse, de Prévision et de Stratégie

Krisela Hackaj, Executive Director, Cooperation and Development (Tirana), WB2EU Network

Moderated by Elise Bernard, EuropaNova, WB2EU Network

18.00–18.30: Q&A

Europeanisation meets democracy from below:

The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum (WB2EU)



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Featuring: academic experts, students, institutional stakeholders, and opinion leaders

Partners invited: Institut Montaigne, ECFR-French office, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Paris, Fondation Jean-Jaurès, Fondapol, Groupe d'Études Géopolitiques, diplomatic circles in Paris
Bearing in mind the possible changes in the institutions after the April presidential election, the cabinet of the French president and the Secretary for European Affairs will be represented.

Media partners invited: La Croix, Ouest-France (press), Radio France, Euradio (radio), AFP (agency)

18.30–19.00: Break

19.00–20.30: Public debate (livestreaming will be provided)

Venue: EuropaNova premises, 64bis av. de New York, 75016 Paris

The path to the EU – How the war in Ukraine has reopened the case for enlargement

Keynote speech:

André Gattolin, French Senator LREM, Vice-chair of the European Affairs

Discussants:

Tineke Strik, Dutch MEP Greens EFA (video message)

Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, French MEP Greens EFA

Nebojsa Vukadinovic, Expert for the European Commission on pre-accession funds

Oana Popescu-Zamfir, Director, GlobalFocus Center (Bucharest), WB2EU Network

Moderated by Paul Schmidt, General Secretary, Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE), WB2EU Network

Concluding remarks: Elise Bernard, EuropaNova, WB2EU Network

Registration and livestreaming:

[On-site registration](#)

[Distance registration](#)

[Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

21.00: Dinner at Café Kléber, 4 place du Trocadéro, 75016 Paris

Day II

09.30–11.30: WB2EU Network Meeting (closed session)

Debriefing, discussion, and reflecting on the next steps

Venue: French Senate, 15 rue de Vaugirard, 75006 Paris

11.30–12:30: Visit of the French Senate

13.30: Lunch reception and discussion in the Austrian Embassy

Venue: 6 rue Fabert, 75007 Paris

Further information about the event can be found under the following links on the [WB2EU website](#): [4th Ideas go public Lab](#) & [Public Debate](#)

Society

WB2EU discussion: The EU has a huge responsibility in the Western Balkans

by EWB 25. 05. 2022.

*Paris; Photo: Unsplash / Andrea Maschio*

PARIS – The citizens of the Western Balkans deserve to live in societies where the rule of law and the fight against corruption function, and that is why the region needs a credible perspective on the road to the European Union, the conference said. on the politics of EU enlargement in France.

The event gathered experts from the Western Balkans and the EU countries and discussed what the novel context in Europe could mean for the Balkans' path into the EU.

Tineke Strik, Member of the European Parliament, said that the Western Balkans need more active and sustainable support from the European Union for certain reforms.

„The EU has a huge responsibility for the enlargement process. We must be credible partners in the Western Balkans if we want to integrate them into the European Union“, Strik told adding that such perspective was lacking.

„North Macedonia and Albania are waiting, although they have met all

the criteria, and the EU still refuses to open accession negotiations. The disappointment in the region is huge and this is an opportunity for the EU to improve the situation“, said Tineke Strik.

She underlined that some countries in the region support regime of the Kremlin, which undermines the unity of Europe. Strik added that even after 20 years of stabilization and democratization process, in some countries, such as BiH, there is still an ethnic-nationalistic division with a high level of corruption.

Gwendolin Delbos-Corfield, a member of the European Parliament from France assessed that Europe is in a specific momentum and that the EU should be clearer when it comes to the Western Balkans region.

She assessed that not much is known about the Balkans in some member states, except for the part of history that refers to the wars from the end of the 1990s.

According to Delbos-Corfield, the focus on the enlargement process should remain on the rule of law, but the future of the European Union is in the Balkans.

Oana Popescu-Zamfir, Director of GlobalFocus Center from Bucharest, emphasized that Europe is in competition with two blocs and that in such a situation, the enlargement process must remain based on common values and principles.

“The EU enlargement process must be seen as a process of converging values and norms. Geopolitics and values go hand in hand,” said Popescu-Zamfir.

She referred to the experiences of Bulgaria and Romania in the process of joining the European Union and assessed that the two countries were not completely ready when they joined the EU.

Following the example of Bulgaria and Romania, the rule of law, the judiciary, and the fight against corruption must remain the focus of the enlargement process.

The Russia-Ukraine war must be the impetus for a new EU enlargement and neighbourhood policy

EU enlargement has stalled since the accession of Croatia in 2013, **Vedran Džihić** and **Paul Schmidt** argue that following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, it is time for the EU to reassess how its enlargement and neighbourhood policies can respond to the new realities faced by Europe.

In an op-ed, they said that Ukraine is pushing for a clear European

perspective, rightly arguing that the country is now on the frontline in the defense of European values against Russia's invasion.

"The countries in the Western Balkans that have already lingered for far too long in the waiting room of the Union are also an important part of this geopolitical equation. Non-democratic great powers such as China and Russia represent a clear challenge to the EU and the West. This is visible in countries like Serbia, where Aleksandar Vučić continues to manoeuvre between pressure from the West to join sanctions against Russia, the supposed sympathy of large parts of the Serbian population for Putin, and his personal preference for the Chinese state model", write Džihic and Schmidt.

They explained that for years, people in the Western Balkans have been waiting for progress on EU integration.

"This has resulted in authoritarian tendencies gaining further ground in several countries across the region. The blocking of EU accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia has damaged the population's trust in the EU. The latest opinion polls in Serbia show that for the first time since the country's accession process started, a majority of Serbs are no longer in favour of EU membership", authors said.

According to Džihic and Schmidt, the deadlock on both sides is a major risk to political stability and that is why a more credible EU accession perspective is needed.

"It will be necessary to overcome the obstructive actions of individual member states and attempts by nationalist politicians to use the enlargement process to win concessions, as the Bulgarian government has sought to do in the case of North Macedonia. Serbian acceptance of Russian narratives on Ukraine must be strongly condemned, and there must be a strong response to the ongoing attempts to undermine the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina", underlined Džihic and Schmidt.

They concluded that the EU is still learning how to use its considerable economic power to exert political influence, and these lessons should feed into a new and forward-looking policy stance toward the Western Balkans to avoid any destabilizing developments in the region.

GWENDOLIN DELBOS-CORFIELD

OANA POPESCU ZAMFIR

PAUL SCHMIDT

VEDRAN DŽIHIC

WB2EU



WB2EU SUMMER SCHOOL

5 –9 September 2022, Cres

WB2EU - NextGeneration: Regaining new European and democratic momentum together

The “**Summer School**”, organised in Cres (Croatia), will focus on the main topic “*Researchers meeting Activists: Regaining new European and democratic momentum together*”.

Aims of the Summer School:

The involvement of young researchers in the project will provide them with knowledge, experience and skills relevant for their academic and professional futures.

This shall lead to

1. an increased interest and understanding of the topic of Europeanisation and democracy development in the Western Balkans among young researchers and thus better opportunities to carry out specific research on the subject for young researchers,
2. increased opportunities in terms of employability and career development,
3. new ties and networks between researchers and civic activists to raise mutual understanding for democracy and Europeanisation,
4. new ways of influencing public debates through qualified and evidence based and yet politically engaged activities.

Target group:

- 17 young scientists and active young civic activists

The participants (age max. 28 years) will be nominated by the partners (1 participant from each partner). Furthermore, a few decision-makers and stakeholders will be invited and engaged in dialogue with the young participants on the topic of Europeanisation and democratisation.

Working methods and approaches:

- Lectures, workshops with presentations and discussions of research projects and forms of civic activism
- Developing scenarios and action plans regarding the future of Europe and the Western Balkans
- Field trip
- A specific dialogue format dedicated to the meetings with stakeholders (both from Croatia as well as European Parliament)
- Preparation of a set of YouTube-videos and some live streaming sessions from the Summer School featuring main discussions

- Report of the most important results (online and social media campaigns)
- This new generation of “young influencers” will be closely involved in organising the final public event in the framework of the WB2EU project in Brussels - “Democratic activism for Europe – New Horizons” and
- in contributing to the final chapter of the final WB2EU book publication “*Vision Western Balkans 2030 – Voices for the future*”. This chapter will outline the visions and alternative horizons for the Europeanisation and democratic development of the region. This chapter will be first discussed and elaborated in a common thinking and writing session at the Summer School and further refined following the Summer School.

The Summer school will be also used to present and discuss results of the two-years project by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe “The Western Balkans Discuss the Future of Europe”, which from March 2020 until March 2022 organised a series of civic-oriented debates and events in the context of the Conference on the “Future of Europe”.

Senior external experts/researchers engaged in teaching and supervising the Summer School will include: Rector of the University of Rijeka, Prof. Dr. Snježana Prijić-Samaržija, Assist. Prof. Dr. Sanja Milutinović Bojanić, Prof. Dr. Dejan Jović, Prof. Dr. Florian Bieber, Dr. Florant Marciacq, Dr. Martin Selmayr, Mag. Andreas Schieder, Tonino Picula, Juan González-Barba, members of the WB2EU network;

Working language: English

Programme:

Sunday, 4 September: Arrival, First Meeting, Dinner

Monday, 5 September: Opening Session – Welcome, Keynote Addresses, Introduction to the working methods and programme, Lunch, Creative Workshop 1, Dinner

Tuesday, 6 September: Plenary Inputs and Workshops, Lunch, Creative Workshop 2, Dinner

Wednesday, 7 September: Plenary Inputs, Lunch, Exploring the Island, Dinner

Thursday, 8 September: Future of EU – Western Balkans Manifesto – Drafting and creating a common document, Social Programme, Farewell Dinner

Friday, 9 September: Departure

Workshop topics:

Rule of law and justice / Social Dimension / New Geopolitical Moment – War in Ukraine / Democratisation from below – to be discussed

Venue: Center for Advanced Studies - South East Europe (CAS SEE), Moise Palace, Zagrad 6, HR-51557 Cres, <https://cas.uniri.hr/o-centru/about/>

Accommodation: Moise Palace, Zagrad 6, HR-51557 Cres / <https://cas.uniri.hr/o-centru/about/> & Hotel Kimen, Melin I br. 16, HR-51557 Cres / <https://www.hotel-kimen.com/>

Contact & information: Susan Milford-Faber, susan.milford-faber@oegfe.at

www.wb2eu.eu

WB2EU Network:

The network consists of 17 renowned think-tanks, do-tanks, higher education institutes and policy centres from the countries that will be most decisive for the enlargement process in the upcoming years.

Project initiators	
Austria	Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE), Vienna (Coordinator & Project Leader)
Austria	Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip), Vienna
Western Balkan countries	
Albania	Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI), Tirana
BiH	University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Political Sciences
Kosovo	Change Experts Group, Pristina
Montenegro	Politikon Network (PIN), Podgorica
North Macedonia	EUROTHINK - Center for European Strategies, Skopje
Serbia	Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society (BFPE), Belgrade
EU member countries	
Bulgaria	New Bulgarian University, Centre for European Refugees, Migration and Ethnic Studies (CERMES), Sofia
Croatia	Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO), Zagreb
France	EuropaNova, Paris
Germany	Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP), Berlin
Greece	Department of Political Science & International Relations, University of the Peloponnese, Corinth
Hungary	Andrássy University, Budapest
Italy	International Affairs Institute (IAI), Rome
Romania	GlobalFocus Center, Bucharest
Slovenia	Centre of International Relations (CIR) – University of Ljubljana

Cooperation partners:

Center for Advanced Studies - South East Europe (CAS SEE), European Western Balkans, etc.

WB2EU SUMMER SCHOOL

5 – 9 September 2022, Cres

Venue: Center for Advanced Studies - South East Europe (CAS SEE), Moise Palace
Zagrad 6, HR- 51557 Cres

***WB2EU - NextGeneration:
Regaining new European and democratic momentum together***

Programme

Sunday, 4 September:

Arrival

Monday, 5 September:

9.30–10.30 Opening session: *Welcome by the organisers and introduction of the participants*

10.30–10.45 Coffee break

10.45–12.30 Keynote address and open discussion with Andreas Schieder, Member of the European Parliament

"A new European momentum? How the war in Ukraine changes the future of Europe"

Chaired by the Academic Coordinators of the WB2EU project Paul Schmidt, Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE) and Vedran Džihic, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiiip)

12.30–14.00 Lunch (Pizzeria i spaghetteria Luna Rossa, Palada ul. 4b)

14.00–15.30 Open exchange with Andreas Schieder, Member of the European Parliament

"EU Enlargement – what is at stake?"

Moderated by Paul Schmidt and Vedran Džihic

15.30–19.00 Free time

19.00–20.30 Evening inspiration: *"NextGeneration sharing experiences"* with inputs by Dennis Miskic, Alice Lojic et al.

20.30 Welcome dinner (Riva, Creskih Kapetana 13)

Tuesday, 6 September:

10.00–12.00 Inputs and open discussion with Paul Schmidt and Vedran Džihic

"EU internal processes and reforms meeting democracy challenges in the Western Balkans"

12.00–13.30 Lunch (Pizzeria i spaghetteria Luna Rossa)

***Europeanisation meets democracy from below:
The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum***



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Contact & information: Susan Milford-Faber, susan.milford-faber@oegfe.at / www.wb2eu.eu

13.30–15.00 Creative workshop led by Senada Šelo Šabić, Senior Scientific Associate, (Institute for Development and International Relations, IRMO) and Vedran Džihic

"Democratic activism for Europe – Ideas and actions to move the region towards new horizons" – Part I

15.00–18.30 Free time

18.30–20.00 Evening inspiration: *"Democracy bottom-up: Crosscutting perspectives"* with Sanja Milotinović Bojanić, Executive Director, Center for Advanced Studies Southeast Europe (CAS SEE), University of Rijeka, Tena Prelec, Research Fellow (University of Oxford, CAS SEE) and Marko-Luka Zubčić, Fellow (CAS SEE)

20.30 Dinner (Santa Lucia, Lungomare Svetog Mikule 4)

Wednesday, 7 September:

09.30–11.00 Keynote address and open discussion with H. E. Juan González-Barba, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Croatia

"EU enlargement – its risks and opportunities – Spanish perspective"

Chaired by Paul Schmidt and Vedran Džihic

11.00–11.30 Coffee break

11.30–13.00 Creative workshop led by Senada Šelo Šabić and Vedran Džihic

"Democratic activism for Europe – Ideas and actions to move the region towards new horizons" – Part II

13.00–14.30 Lunch (Pizzeria i spaghetteria Luna Rossa)

14.30–19.00 Free time – Exploring the island

19.00–20.30 Evening inspiration: *"From activism to politics and back"* – Talk with Nebojša Zelić, University of Rijeka and candidate of MOZEMO for the city mayor of Rijeka

20.30 Dinner (Santa Lucia)

Thursday, 8 September:

10.00–13.00 Creative workshop – with coffee breaks – led by Senada Šelo Šabić and Vedran Džihic

"Democratic activism for Europe – Ideas and actions to move the region towards new horizons" – Part III (Drafting a joint document)

13.00–14.30 Lunch (Pizzeria i spaghetteria Luna Rossa)

14.30–18.30 Free time

18.30–20.00 Presentation of the *final results – discussion – further steps*

20.00 Farewell dinner (Riva)

Friday, 9 September:

Departure

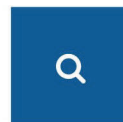
➔ [Joint op-ed and translations & videos & entire information about the Summer School](#)

**Europeanisation meets democracy from below:
The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum**



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Contact & information: Susan Milford-Faber, susan.milford-faber@oegfe.at / www.wb2eu.eu

[Opinions](#)

Yes, EUtopia is possible!

by Group of authors 09. 11. 2022.

“**Europe will be forged in crisis, and will be the sum of the solutions adopted for those crises**”, **Jean Monnet, founding father of the European project**

While the war is raging in Ukraine, we might not even recognize what a paradoxical gift we hold in our hands, which is to live in peace. New security risks for Europe as a whole, but especially for fragile regions such as the Western Balkans, have brought the area back into international spotlight and given it a renewed chance to leave conflicts and frictions behind, thus moving towards a common European future.

The Western Balkans were torn apart by its wars in the 1990s and although the prospect of joining the European Union (EU) rose in the early 2000s,

the process has proven to be unpleasantly slow. In many aspects, EU enlargement has still not achieved concrete steps towards progressive change so much needed by the people in the region, especially the youth. In consequence, the odds of joining the EU started to fade, driving national and regional Euroscepticism.

However, there will be no stability for the whole European continent without anchoring the Western Balkans firmly within the EU. We believe that the long-term guarantee for peace and prosperity is not only secured by the ink to sign treaties but based on sustainable and ever closer European cooperation for which we need a common vision – our EUtopia.

Building strong and resilient democracies

In the past years and decades, anti-democratic tendencies and the rise of far-right parties have contributed to the polarization of European societies. Their political game consists of simplifying complex problems and effortlessly offering unrealistic solutions. The ‘migration card’ has been played intensively, resulting in hate speech, the rise of discrimination as well as violations of human rights. Consequently, the Russian war against Ukraine has posed new threats to democracy. Yet, it could also sharpen our understanding of democratic values and offer a new momentum to strengthen the unity of Europe. It has become more obvious than ever: if we want to live in a pluralistic and liberal democracy, we have got to take action. Now.

Dysfunctional democracies provide fertile ground for autocrats in the Western Balkans and beyond to capture core-mechanisms of democracy such as elections, rule of law, free media, and

independent institutions. Democratic backsliding, a lack of political engagement, disinformation and threats to the freedom of speech is daily reality particularly for the citizens of the region and puts us, the progressive youth, into a seemingly hopeless situation.

But we are not giving up, we feel responsible for our region and the whole of Europe and we want to push for change. We will not stand still, but rather do everything in our power to safeguard freedom of speech by actively countering disinformation both in social media and within our peer groups. By investing in our education and claiming for us the right to be listened to, we will contribute to the resilience of our society. We don't want to be mere passengers on a ship without a clear course, but rather contribute to shaping a progressive and open society based on solidarity and equality.

“ Yet, we cannot do it alone. Many more of the young people in the region – or with roots in the Balkans and living all across Europe – need to join us. We all call for being recognized and accepted as equal Europeans. Let us start by saying loud and clear that what is sold as “freedom of movement” shall be no more burden to anyone. Kosovo for example has fulfilled all the conditions for visa liberalization the EU has demanded for years. Now is the time to abolish this absurd visa regime.

We demand more institutionalized participatory processes, like the Conference on the Future of Europe – where the youth of the Western Balkans shall be an integral part of this transnational exercise. Our ideas and experiences also need to

be translated into concrete political action and tangible policies.

No second-class Europeans

February 24th has put the European political landscape upside down. It is now high time to bring the Western Balkans closer to a European, progressive, and democratic future. For that, it is crucial to reiterate and further promote the common European values such as human rights, dignity, democracy, freedom, and equal opportunities.

Although many young people in the Western Balkans share these values, they are not recognized as equal Europeans. The region is often perceived as not “good” or “mature” enough to belong to the EU. This public perception runs the danger of breeding new frustrations. This feeling of exclusion becomes a reality on the labour market, in education, health and social security systems – all aspects of daily life – when the promise of liberal democracy turns into a false illusion and deception for so many of us. Intentionally or not, EU leaders treat millions of people as inferior even though they only want the same things as their counterparts fortunately to them born slightly further west: a prosperous and good life in peace and stability. This discrimination has to end.



Photo: WB2EU network

Education and social inclusion are key in the fight for equal opportunities. That is true also within the EU where inequality between member states, take the example of Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania, is alarmingly high. While EU enlargement has taken place, integration is still lacking behind.

Second-class status is ghettoizing. If you're not given a perspective to break out of your pigeonhole, you will stop even striving for it. Western Balkan countries thus need a realistic perspective to be an integral part of the European family to make sure that they do not turn away from it– no more empty promises but equal opportunities!

Together we want to work towards our real EUtopian idea, our vision for Europe's future. Given the historic momentum Europe finds itself in, not only do we need to learn how to dream of utopias but we need to learn to actively live in them. As the Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek put it, the core of pursuing this real utopian idea lies in shaping reality and opening up the space for a possible other and better future.

***This OP ED was written during the WB2EU network's Next Generation Summer School by 17 young people from 13 countries on the Croatian island of Cres. It is part of a project on the future of the Western Balkans and EU enlargement, co-funded by the European Commission under its Erasmus+ Jean Monnet programme:
www.wb2eu.eu.***

5th Ideas go public Lab

19 – 20 September 2022, Belgrade

Programme

DAY I – Public debates (hybrid format)

Venue: Roma Education Fund, Majke Jevrosime 51/II floor, 11000 Belgrade

[YouTube](#) & [Facebook](#)

11.00–11.30: Registration

11.30–13.00: TACKLING INEQUALITY – A STEP TOWARDS SOLIDARITY

According to **the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index**, Serbia is at the bottom of Europe and 84th on the list of 154 countries in the world. One of the causes of high inequality in Serbia is the high percentage of people who have very low work intensity. A similar state of affairs affects the entire Western Balkans region, as Albania is ranked 80th, North Macedonia 103rd, and there is no data for others. The share of these persons aged up to 60 years old in Serbia (21.2%) is much higher than the European average (10.5%) and individual EU countries. The economic insecurity is followed by a lack of social measures and respect for basic human rights for the most vulnerable groups in the Western Balkans region, such as Roma, women 45+, people with disabilities, and the LGBTI+ community.

- Can European Integration foster more solidarity within society in Western Balkans region?
- What are the mechanisms for the governments to take a more active role in tackling inequality?
- How can CSOs contribute?

Speakers:

Brankica Janković, Commissioner for Protection of Equality of Republic of Serbia

Sofija Todorović, Programme Director, Youth Initiative for Human Rights

Sarina Bakić, Professor and researcher at the Department of Sociology, University of Sarajevo's Faculty of Political Science, WB2EU Network

Moderated by Sonja Licht, President, Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society

13.00–15.00: Lunch break

Location: Grmeč Restaurant, Makedonska 32, Belgrade



15.00–16.30: MAINSTREAMING YOUTH VISION – AVOIDING YOUTHWASHING

In the Republic of Serbia, an institutional, legislative, and strategic framework aimed at young people has been developed. The position of young people, however, is often assessed as unsatisfactory, primarily due to the position of young people in the labour market but also the quality of the education system, which is the case throughout the whole WB6 region. Regarding the views of youth on the Republic of Serbia entering the EU in 2021, a **historic low of 39%** of young people supported Serbia joining the EU, 33% were against it, while 28% did not know.

According to the research, more than half of young people are not interested in being informed about socio-political events, while their interest in being actively involved in socio-political events is even less. The slow process and often the status quo in EU integration led to a loss of trust among youth towards the process itself, which can cause a spill-over effect in the entire WB region.

- What are the key mechanisms to involve youth in the decision-making process?
- Is there a need for a change and additions to the Law on Youth for its better efficiency?
- How to raise youth interest in socio-political events and their active participation?

Introductory remarks:

Summarising the "young influencers" conclusions from the WB2EU Summer School at Cres

Mirjana Đorđević, Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society, WB2EU Summer School participant

Speakers:

Andrea Mićanović, Youth Representative of RYCO Governing Board, Regional Youth Cooperation Office

Angela Angjelovska, Vice President, National Youth Council of North Macedonia Governing Board

Milica Borjanić, Project Manager, National Youth Council of Serbia

Moderated by Nikola Burazer, Executive Editor, European Western Balkans

20.00: Joint dinner of the WB2EU Network

Location: Tri šesira, Skadarska, Belgrade

DAY II – Closed sessions

09.30–10.30: WB2EU Network meeting

*Europeanisation meets democracy from below:
The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum
(WB2EU)*

11.00–12.00: Meeting with EUROPRIDE organisers

EuroPride 2022 was planned to happen in Belgrade from September 12th to 18th, 2022. Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, is the first city in Southeast Europe and the first outside the EEA (European Economic Area) to host a major event for the pan-European LGBTI+ community.

In the name of the organisers: **Goran Miletić**, Organisational Board of the EUROPRIDE

12.30–13.30: Meeting with representatives of the MORAMO Movement

The Movement Ne Davimo Beograd (Don't Let Belgrade Drown) has formed, together with Otvorena građanska platforma (Open Civic Platform) AKCIJA and Ekološki ustanak (Environmental Uprising), the green-left coalition MORAMO (WE MUST) in January 2022, which runs in the Belgrade and national elections in April. In addition to these three organizations, the MORAMO coalition consists of a large number of other individuals, activists, and movements.

The MORAMO coalition bases its joint work on key topics of ecology and the fight for a healthy living environment. In addition, one of the most important issues they deal with is social justice, i.e., the fight for better living and working conditions for all citizens.

14.00–15.00: Lunch Reception and discussion at the Austrian Embassy

Venue: Kneza Sime Markovića 2, Belgrade

Further information about the event can be found under the following links on the [WB2EU website](#): [5th Ideas go public Lab](#) & [Public Debate](#)

Society

WB2EU discussion: Tackling inequality a step towards solidarity

by EWB 20. 09. 2022.



Belgrade; Photo: Pixabay

BELGRADE – Citizens are major actors in democratic development, together with both governmental and external support, we are able to raise awareness of the significance of respecting basic human rights and building solidarity among each other, it was concluded at the WB2EU 5th Ideas go public Lab in Belgrade.

Brankica Janković, Commissioner for Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia, states that discrimination undermines social cohesion but also increases social inequalities, which represents a multi-dimensional challenge we all have to deal with.

According to Janković, in those circumstances, European Integration serves as an important guide for building social cohesion, and inclusion and combating those inequalities. She emphasizes that undertaking the necessary changes is something we do for our well-being and future and not only to fulfill the agenda of conditions that are defined as such.

When asked if the support from foreign diplomats creates a counter-effect in the society because of mainstream politics, she answered that we are “facing the notable negative trends among our citizens, who have a feeling that the EU authorities are only worried about the LGBTIQ community.

“That creates a new kind of polarization. Unfortunately, it is even easier to change the law than those already established cultural patterns,” she said adding that ambassadors and NGOs, who are pressuring local governments to allow and secure the events, are marked as spies paid by foreign governments and the media presentation is one of the greatest creators of that image.

Sofija Todorović, Programme Director of Youth Initiative for Human Rights, brings attention to the recent events during Pride week in Belgrade which showed that “the rights of the LGBT+ community could simply be abolished by the state. Its position was used to distract the public from big events that are happening on a bilateral level between Serbia and Kosovo. Resolving these issues usually goes with the price of treating vulnerable and already discriminated groups.”

Todorović assessed that the work of institutions and development should be put as a priority in the accession process instead of focusing solely on the multilateral reputation of Serbia. “It is not just about human rights, it’s the matter of preserving democracy”, added Todorović.

Sarina Bakić, Professor and researcher at the Department of Sociology at the University of Sarajevo’s Faculty of Political Science and a member of WB2EU Network, underlined the importance of international support in tackling the educational system issue by changing the cultural inequality resulting from the Dayton Peace Agreement and creating two schools under one roof.

According to her, nowadays we have a society where the neoliberal consumeristic ideology is mixed with the traditional, patriarchal ideology.

“***The opportunistic behavioral patterns fostered by popular culture, the media and throughout education are great blockers for solidarity among the citizens. We have to work on developing empathy between different groups in order to avoid a fragmented society***”, she said.

During the discussion, it is concluded that the level of regional cooperation, integration, and constituency is fruitful for the required institution-building.

Mainstreaming Youth Vision

The second panel was dedicated to the perspective and challenges the younger generations in the Western Balkans face. It referred to the linkage between the way the democratic institutions function and the level of political participation of the youth and offered some potential mechanisms that could encourage this relevant part of the population to get socially involved.

Andrea Mićanović, Youth Representative of the RYCO Governing Board

on behalf of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office, pointed out the most notable reasons, why the young in Montenegro are unmotivated to undertake the necessary changes that would bring the collective benefits to all of them.

According to her, the problem lies partly in the recalling of the public discourse from the 90s and the predominantly pessimistic public opinion that doesn't put focus on the youth and their future.

"This causes a lack of willingness and faith in their ability to change anything which eventually leads to brain drain", she said.

According to Mićanović, the key solution to the problem is seen in changing the education system. Schools should make the students acquainted with the concept of human rights, strengthen student parliaments and encourage critical thinking.

Angela Angjelovska, Vice President of the National Youth Council of North Macedonia Governing Board, touched upon the work of institutions in North Macedonia when speaking about the implementation of the laws.

“**The problem should be solved from the bottom to the top. The education system is ought to teach the young to be socially responsible and engaged. She underlines the influence of political and civil education at school accompanied by lowering the voting age that'd make this part of the society important also for the political parties**”, she said.

According to **Milica Borjanić**, Project Manager, National Youth Council of Serbia, 77% of the young population in Serbia don't find any political party which would adequately represent them.

"For that reason, they don't vote. On the other hand, the politicians don't recognize them as their target group and don't try to address their concerns. It unfortunately creates a vicious circle we have to break. She says that even when there are young representatives in the parliament, they are often at the bottom of the lists with no power of influence. The system doesn't encourage them to be active and involved since they are not in decision-making positions", Borjanić told.

She concluded that the youth represents an important factor of society and giving voice to them is in the collective interest of our community and future. There are many impediments on that path but we certainly have to start from something.

ANDREA MIĆANOVIĆ ANGELA ANGJELOVSKA BRANKICA JANKOVIĆ EU
MILICA BORJANIĆ OEGFE SOFIJA TODOROVIĆ WB2EU WESTERN BALKANS

WB2EU 6th Ideas go public Lab**23-24 March 2023, Berlin****PROGRAMME****DAY I**

Venue: Europäisches Haus, Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin

12.30-13.30: Registration & light lunch

Venue: Press room

13.30-15.00: Expert Roundtable**“Zeitenwende” for EU Enlargement Policy? A view on the Berlin process and the promotion of regional integration****Welcome remarks:**

Nora Hesse, Head of Political Team, European Commission in Germany

Speakers:

Valeska Esch, Personal Advisor to the Special Representative for the Countries of the Western Balkans, German Federal Foreign Office

Nedžma Džananović, Professor at University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Political Science, representative of the WB2EU Network

Moderated by Katrin Böttger, Director at Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP), WB2EU Network & **Vedran Džihic**, Senior Researcher at Österreichisches Institut für Internationale Politik (oiip), WB2EU Network

Participants: WB2EU and Berlin-based experts on EU enlargement and the Western Balkans, journalists, civil society representatives. Discussion under Chatham House rules.

Please note that the debate will be held in English.

15.00-16.00: Coffee break



16.00-17.30: WB2EU Ideas go public debate

The event will extend the current discussion on the EU's enlargement policy in the Western Balkans to a broader public in Germany. The debate will focus on the question to what extent the "Zeitenwende" proclaimed by Chancellor Scholz in Germany after Russia's invasion of Ukraine has an impact on the EU's enlargement policy in the Western Balkans. It will furthermore offer the opportunity to get first hand insights on the current developments in the region.

Venue: Conference room

Towards a credible EU Enlargement Policy? What does the German "Zeitenwende" mean for the Western Balkans?**Welcome remarks:**

Jörg Wojahn, Representative of the European Commission in Germany

Speakers:

Susanne Schütz, Director for South-Eastern Europe, Turkey, OSCE, Council of Europe, German Federal Foreign Office

Senada Šelo Šabić, Senior Scientific Associate, Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO), representative of the WB2EU Network

Moderated by Katrin Böttger, Director at Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP), WB2EU Network & **Paul Schmidt**, Secretary General, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (ÖGfE), WB2EU Network

Participants: General public, journalists, civil society representatives. Discussion not under Chatham House rules.

18.30: Dinner WB2EU Network

DAY II

Venue: Institut für Europäische Politik, Bundesallee 23, 10717 Berlin

09.45-11.45: WB2EU Network meeting at IEP (Hybrid meeting)

11.45-12.45: Lunch at IEP

13.00-14.00: Virtual Meeting with MdBs Josip Juratovic (SPD) & Thomas Hacker (FDP) at IEP (Hybrid meeting)

15.00: Departure

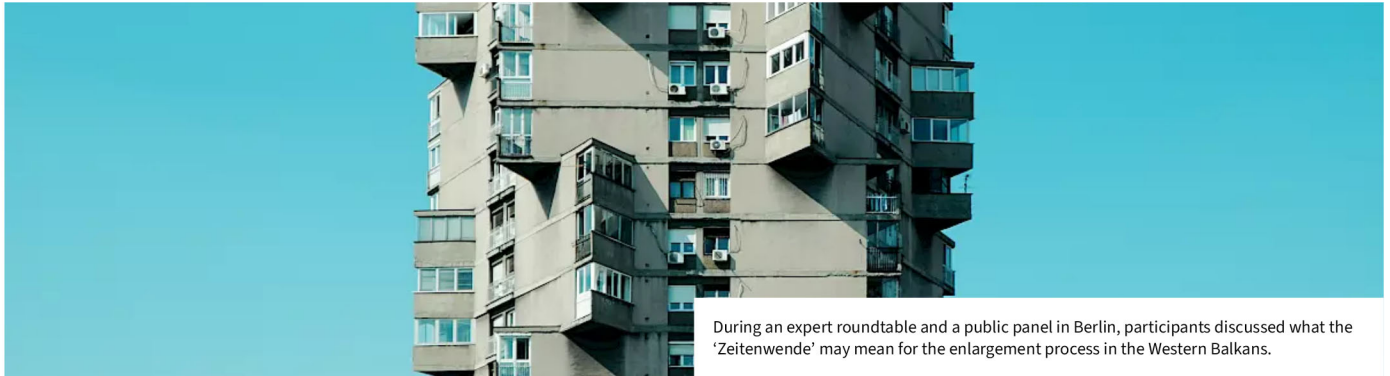
Further information about the event can be found under the following links on the [WB2EU website](#): [6th Ideas go public Lab](#) & [Public Debate](#)

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6th WB2EU Ideas go public lab in Berlin 23/03/2023



During an expert roundtable and a public panel in Berlin, participants discussed what the 'Zeitenwende' may mean for the enlargement process in the Western Balkans.

Post WB2EU Western Balkans Enlargement European Integration

During the public panel discussion, participants agreed that the Russian war against Ukraine and the 'Zeitenwende' increased the strategic imperative of Western Balkan enlargement. However, there was doubt about how much a change in rhetoric will translate into a change in action. The implementation of the mobility agreements of the Berlin Process would be a welcome step in the right direction, but whether the 'Zeitenwende' aids in resolving long-standing sources of conflict between Kosovo and Serbia or in Bosnia and Hercegovina is uncertain.

The EU should further extend its cooperation in economic and energy policy and must ensure a credible and transparent enlargement perspective. At the same time, democratic change must be home-grown. Here, the EU should strengthen its democratic conditionality and make sure it supports actors that align with its own values.

The 6th Ideas go public lab of the WB2EU project took place on March 23, 2023 at the European Commission's Representation Office in Berlin. The WB2EU project brings together IEP and 16 other think-tanks, do-tanks, higher education institutes and policy centers from the Western Balkan countries and those most decisive for the enlargement process to support locally-grown democratic momentum and reform in the Western Balkan countries.

The event took off with an expert roundtable, where Berlin-based experts and representatives of the WB2EU network discussed the Berlin Process and Germany's role in the Western Balkans with Valeska Esch, Senior Advisor to the Special Representative for the Countries of the Western Balkans at the German Federal Foreign Office, and Dr Nedžma Džananovic, Professor at the University of Sarajevo's Faculty of Political Science. This was followed by a public panel discussion with Susanne Schütz, Director for South-Eastern Europe, Turkey, OSCE and the Council of Europe at the Federal Foreign Office, and Dr Senada Šelo Šabić, Senior Scientific Associate at the Institute for Development and International Relations in Zagreb.

The 6th WB2EU Ideas go public lab was supported by the European Commission's Representation in Germany, Erasmus+ , and the Federal Foreign Office.

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About the WB2EU – Europeanisation meets democracy from below: The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic momentum project: With research questions on the rule of law and justice, the social dimension of the enlargement process, and democratisation "from below," the IEP is intensifying its work on the EU enlargement process vis-à-vis the countries of the Western Balkans.

Image copyright: Ivan Aleksic / Unsplash





Closing Event of the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Network Project

Europeanisation meets democracy from below: The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum (WB2EU)

Is EU enlargement back on track? Moving towards a democratic and united Europe

With Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, EU enlargement policy has taken on a completely new dynamic. Ukraine, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina have been granted candidate status; Kosovo has applied for membership; and accession negotiations have started with Northern Macedonia and Albania. In addition, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gave the debate further momentum in her State of the Union address with the prospect of an "EU30+". However, it is not only the candidate countries that must meet the accession criteria; the Union itself must also implement important reforms in order to be fit for enlargement. While EU members are still weighing geopolitical, national, and institutional interests against each other, the Western Balkan countries are in a protracted process of negotiation and reform.

At the conclusion of our three-year Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Network project on Europeanisation, democratisation and strengthening of civil society in the Western Balkans [WB2EU](#), coordinated with the oiip and in cooperation with 15 partners from all over Europe, we want to discuss current developments, obstacles, and perspectives of the EU enlargement and reform process. The project was co-funded by the European Commission under its Erasmus+ Jean Monnet programme.

Monday, 9 October, 17.00–19.00: Public debate

Venue: [House of the European Union](#) (Wipplingerstr. 35, 1010 Vienna)

Introduction:

Paul Schmidt, Secretary General, Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE), Project Leader and Academic Coordinator of the WB2EU project

Key note speech:

Alma Zadić, Minister of Justice, Austria

Panel:

Martin Selmayr, Head of Representation of the European Commission in Austria

Jovana Marović, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs, Montenegro, member of the Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group (BiEPAG)

Sofija Todorović, Programme Director, Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Serbia

Anna Krasteva, Professor of Political Sciences, Centre for European Refugees, Migration and Ethnic Studies (CERMES), New Bulgarian University, Representative of the WB2EU Network

Moderated by Vedran Džihic, Senior Researcher, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip), Academic Coordinator of the WB2EU project

At the end of the public debate, refreshments will be offered.





19.30: Joint dinner of the WB2EU Network (STUWER am Schottentor, Rockgasse 1, 1010 Vienna)

Tuesday, 10 October, Programme for the WB2EU Network

10.00–11.15: Guided tour at the newly renovated Austrian Parliament (Parliament Austria, Dr. Karl Renner-Ring 3, 1017 Vienna, visitors entrance behind the Pallas Athene fountain, <https://www.parlament.gv.at/en/experience/guided-tours/>)

Please bring your valid identification card or passport!

11.45–12.45: WB2EU Network meeting ([oiip – Austrian Institute for International Affairs](#), Währinger Straße 3/12, 1090 Vienna)

13.00: Joint lunch of the WB2EU Network

Further information about the event can be found under the following links on the [WB2EU website](#): [Public Debate](#) & [Closing Event](#)



Society

WB2EU: Western Balkans should use the existing window of opportunity, rule of law remains the key

by EWB 24. 10. 2023.



Photo: WB2EU Network/APA

VIENNA – Regional cooperation among the Western Balkan countries is crucial for their European integration process, agreed the participants of the closing event of the project “Europeanisation meets democracy from below: The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum” (WB2EU), held in Vienna on 9 October.

The event gathered leaders, academics, and experts from the Western Balkan countries and across Europe and served as a platform for discussing the critical role of regional cooperation among the Western Balkan countries in their journey towards European integration.

Secretary General of the Austrian Society for European Politics and the Project Leader for the WB2EU project **Paul Schmidt** set the stage by highlighting the importance of the three-year project and the collaboration among 17 policy and university institutes from 16 different countries.

Schmidt said that European enlargement had transitioned from a technical approach to a politically driven exercise. He also emphasized three core topics: the rule of law, the social dimension of integration, and democratization from below. Schmidt stressed the common European values shared by the region and the need to act swiftly, given the limited

window of opportunity.

“We don’t have a common language. We have many different languages. We don’t have a common religion, but many different religions, but we do have common European values”, said Schmidt.

Schmidt underlined that enlargement was not just about engaging with political elites but engaging with the people, their dreams, and their daily lives. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of ownership and political will in EU capitals, crucial for the success of this ambitious project.

“There’s a window of opportunity, but the window will not be open for many years to come. So, we have to use this time and seize this opportunity now to make progress. There are political winds of change that could move the political landscape in a direction, which would make it more difficult to make progress in terms of accession and negotiating with new and future members”, explained Schmidt.



Paul Schmidt; Photo: WB2EU Network/APA

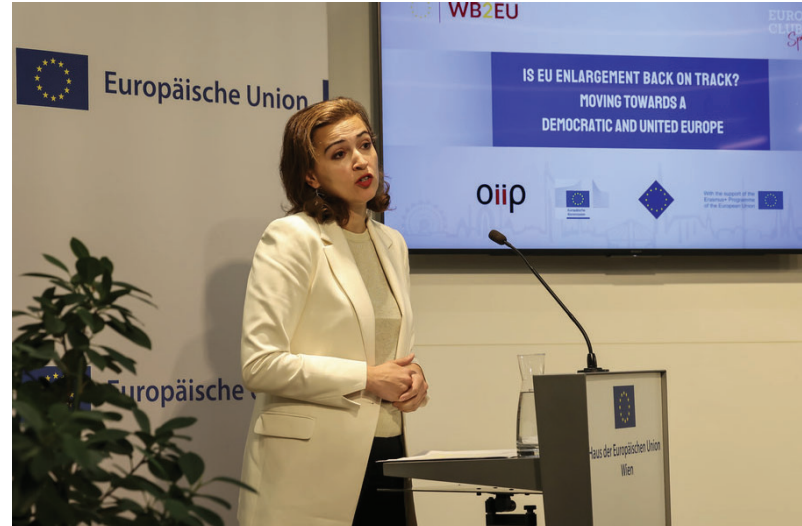
Austrian Minister of Justice **Alma Zadić** reflected on what it means to be European – a commitment to peace, solidarity, the rule of law, and democracy.

She acknowledged that European integration had returned to the agenda after years of stagnation and emphasized that it was not merely a matter of geopolitics but the essence of a united Europe.

“The road is long, we know that, but the future of the Western Balkans lies in the European Union. And we should pave those roads to enable visible results in integration quickly, because the people in the Western Balkans, they need to see that progress is there, and they need to see that change is possible”, said Zadić.

Zadić acknowledged the challenges of waning trust in both the EU and national politics and called for delivering on promises and ensuring political leaders in the Western Balkans did the same. She believed that

the youth and civil society could drive change and expressed her support for fostering the rule of law in the Western Balkan countries.



Alma Zadic; Photo: WB2EU Network/APA

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs of Montenegro **Jovana Marović** called for a reconsideration of the EU's approach to democracy in the Western Balkans. She questioned the efficacy of various EU strategies and emphasized the importance of the rule of law in EU conditionality.

"The fundamentals are really fundamentals. Rule of law is the most important part of the European integration process and the EU conditionality ", said Marović.

Marović believes that the EU's success depended on strengthening democracy at all levels. She argued that the Western Balkans represented the last chance for the EU not to fail as a political project.

"The future of the European Union, and the answer to the question of why the European Union has to be bigger, is actually that all processes are really connected, and it is really important to focus on all the issues and all the countries where the democracy is struggling ", explained Marović.

Programme Director of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Serbia **Sofija Todorović** highlighted the crucial role of peace in any progress. She criticized the lack of genuine support for the EU and expressed concerns about the economic cooperation model presented as a solution. Todorović stressed that peace should be a guiding principle and called for leaders to reflect this in their actions.

"We cannot talk about trade without peace. We cannot talk about democratic progress without peace. We cannot discuss any other issue that can increase the quality of daily life of people. Because when we are in the conflict people only want peace", said Todorović.

Professor at the New Bulgarian University and representative of the

WB2EU Network **Anna Krasteva** discussed the role of nationalism and populism in the current political landscape. She drew attention to the need for authority in such times, emphasizing the importance of addressing the deep-seated issues within the region.

Moreover, Head of Representation of the European Commission in Austria **Martin Selmayr** emphasized the enduring success of EU enlargement. He pointed out that the enthusiasm for this project remains, with 10 countries currently knocking at the EU's door.

Selmayr also acknowledged moments of frustration and the need for a realistic approach. He highlighted the new momentum and the positive implications for the EU and the candidate countries, emphasizing that the core purpose of the EU is to ensure peace and stability among its Member States.

"We cannot just enlarge the European Union for the sake of enlargement. It must lead to a strengthening of the European Union", concluded Selmayr.

ALMA ZADIC ANNA KRASTEVA ENLARGEMENT JOVANA MAROVIĆ
MARTIN SELMAYR PAUL SCHMIDT SOFIJA TODORVIĆ WB2EU



Interviews

[EWB Interview] Schmidt: EU integration process is always the art of compromise

by Sofija Popović 26. 10. 2023.

“Europeanisation meets democracy from below: The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum (WB2EU)” project was launched in 2020. The idea of three-years project was to gather a network consists of 17 think-tanks, do-tanks, higher education institutes and policy centres from the countries that will be most decisive for the enlargement process in the upcoming years.

Some of the aims of the projects was to strengthen pro-European and pro-democratic momentum in the Western Balkans, support the democratic reform process and progressive democratic changes from below, create a sustainable network able to accompany and support Europeanisation and democracy, as well as to foster cooperation between the networks

and relevant EU institutions and stakeholders...

During the three years network published 45 policy briefs, multiple op-eds and interviews, gathered a new generation of 'young influentials' dedicated to enlargement, democratisation, well connected to national and EU decision-makers. The closing event of the project was held on 9 October in Vienna. About the results of the projects, the future of EU enlargement on the Western Balkans we spoke with **Paul Schmidt**, Secretary-General of the Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖgfE) – coordinator of WB2EU project.

European Western Balkans: In the time when WB2EU project was launched there was not much room for optimism when it comes to enlargement. The French No to opening the negotiation with North Macedonia and Albania created a new vacuum in the EU and in the region. In the same time WB region faced rooted structural problems with the states and societies being captured by dominant elites... How much has the situation changed today?

Paul Schmidt: The situation has changed completely. Reform and enlargement are back on the table and high up on the political agenda. The Russian war against Ukraine has put the world upside down and is a historic turning point for European integration.

It is a window of opportunity to make it right, but it is also a window that may not stay open for long. It will take political strength and real commitment to make the Union ready for enlargement and the candidate countries fit to join. There will be no political shortcuts to this process, but where there is a will, there is always a way.

EWB: How do you describe the results of the WB2EU projects? What are the main achievements?

PS: We have all been pushing for a new momentum for EU-reform and enlargement. But to be honest, without the Russian aggression against Ukraine it might have been a mission impossible to reenergize this process. Who is we? At the core of our WB2EU project lies a network of 17 policy institutes from 16 countries.

It is a very diverse group of people with different backgrounds, that has worked together, has learned from each other over the last three years and has been, is and will always be very much engaged in EU-policy making as well as public outreach and advocacy. In this period, we have organized many public debates and ideas labs with stakeholders in the different countries of the region and beyond.

We have published policy briefs on the divergent situations regarding the rule of law, social questions and democracy as well as joint op-eds on the state of enlargement and the political discussions in the countries of our network. We have supported and engaged with progressive and emancipatory forces from below – from grassroot-movements to citizens and local initiatives – that are truly European and pro-democratic.

And we have assisted youth and alternative voices and forces in the society to be heard, get connected and build their own networks. We might not have managed to completely change the world, but tried to contribute our grain of sand. At the end of the day every little bit helps and we will continue doing so.

EWB: How do you assess the target 2030, which was announced by Charles Michel as a potential date for new enlargements? Do you think that this date is realistic?

PS: It is not enough to name possible target dates for the next round of EU enlargement. The accession process is still merit based.

Dates have to be accompanied by a concrete roadmap for reforms otherwise they overshoot expectations, which then may lead to another round of undesired frustration. Setting 2030 as a target date is optimistic, but not impossible. It all depends on the political will and commitment to make real progress on this path towards a stronger EU.

EWB: In the past decade, several times we have seen that the EU was not able to fulfill its promises towards some WB countries, like North Macedonia. Do you think that EU should be cautious when promising dates?

PS: The EU should definitely be careful. I understand the reasoning behind it to push for reforms and political agreements. However, and having in mind the track record of setting dates, one could consider being more cautious.

“ *The political wind in the EU capitals can be changing and, in the end, it is the EU member states that have to decide. Moreover, keeping with a date not always depends on the side, that is making the promise.*

EWB: In an interview for EWB a year ago, you stated that there will no be enlargement without internal reform of the European Union. What should this reform look like?

PS: The EU's internal set up has to be ready for enlargement otherwise, I am convinced, it will not take place. Enlargement may have become a geopolitical imperative. However, enlargement is not only driven by foreign and security policy concerns but also entails a strong economic, financial, and social dimension. That is why the European Commission proposed reviewing all policy areas and making them ready for a bigger Union.

This is why it is paramount to include the EU candidate countries in the yearly Rule of Law Monitoring of the EU already at an early stage. Here institutional questions might be the easier exercise. But the sheer weight of a possible next enlargement, with nine countries, in particular with Ukraine currently fighting for its existence, has no comparison.

Next to the special security dimension, we should not neglect the substantial economic differences between the EU-27 and the current candidate countries; the nine potential new member states all belong to the ten poorest countries in Europe. Once tough questions of competition or the future financing of the EU are on the table, negotiations and political decisions will naturally become more complicated.

EWB: How do you assess the proposal for the EU reform presented in the so-called French-German report, published in September? Could some solutions related to the enlargement help resolving the standstill in accession negotiations of candidate countries?

SP: I think it a very valuable and interesting report that focuses on reforming the functioning of the EU prior to enlargement. In essence it proposes a set of reforms within the current set of rules as

well as outside the EU treaties.

It stresses different degrees of integration as a possible way to succeed, where the differentiation between countries would enable a varying group of core member states to move on and further deepen integration. These are interesting ideas that need to be discussed and would obviously not reduce complexity but rather enhance it. And as always the prove of the pudding is in the eating.

EWB: Last month Austrian Government sent a non-paper calling for the acceleration of EU integration of the Western Balkans. Vienna demands an action plan that would include concrete steps for the gradual integration of the countries from the region. What is your opinion on gradual/phased accession? Do you share concern that maybe some countries may become stuck in certain phases?

SP: I do understand that there is a certain amount of skepticism, but I do not share these concerns. A gradual integration may frontload benefits and thus the glass would be half full and not half empty. The objective of EU-membership would not change.

EWB: It seems that new enlargement has become a geopolitical imperative for the EU. Is there any risk that criteria like rule of law, fight against organized crime and corruption, will no longer be the main for progress on the EU path?

PS: EU-integration is always the art of compromise. However, and while the geopolitical argument is today paramount, enlargement is about more than foreign and security policies.

There can no compromise regarding the rule of law otherwise the Union risks its implosion.

The interview is published in the framework of the WB2EU project. The project aims at the establishment of a network of renowned think-tanks, do-tanks, universities, higher education institutes and policy centres from the Western Balkans, neighbouring countries and EU member states that will be most decisive for the enlargement process and Europeanisation of the region in the upcoming years. The WB2EU project is co-funded by the European Commission under its Erasmus+ Jean Monnet programme.

**Europeanisation meets democracy from below:
The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum**



PHASE I – RULE OF LAW AND JUSTICE

15 Policy Briefs (published between 23 September 2021 – 9 March 2022)

23.9.2021: Böttger, K., Maugeais, D. (2021). Countering the Rule of Law Backsliding in the Western Balkans. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 11'2021

4.10.2021: Kočan, F., Lovec, M. (2021). What can the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union do for the Western Balkans? Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 12'2021.

13.10.2021: Popović, D. (2021). Rule of Law and Justice – Case Serbia. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 13'2021

22.10.2021: Griessler, C., Elek, F. (2021). Hungary, an anti-role model for successful EU integration? Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 14'2021

28.10.2021: Nikolovski, D., Stojanovski, A. (2021). The controversy of 'more (economic) freedom'. Can liberalisation in North Macedonia cause more problems than benefits? Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 15'2021

16.11.2021: Tzifakis, N., Valvis, A. (2021). The Rule of Law and Foreign Direct Investment in the Western Balkans: The Greek Experience. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 17'2021

1.12.2021: Poli, E., Salvia, M. (2021). The Conditionality Regulation: A true European means to face a rule of law crisis in wider Europe and foster media freedom. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 20'2021

3.12.2021: Kolar, N. (2021). Rule of Law and Justice in Croatia after the EU accession. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 21'2021

7.12.2021: Krasteva, A. (2021). State Capture versus Contestatory Citizenship in Bulgaria. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 22'2021

20.12.2021: Mumin, N. (2021). The rule of law in Montenegro between deep polarisation and an unstable majority – how to get back on track? Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 23'2021

22.12.2021: Nela, I. (2021). Lessons learned from the justice reform in Albania. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 24'2021

19.1.2022: Bernard, E., Leloup, J. (2022). Considering EU enlargement through the prism of security cooperation. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 01'2022

10.2.2022: Popescu-Zamfir, O. (2022). Building a constituency for rule of law. Lessons from the Romanian anti-corruption drive. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 03'2022

17.2.2022: Tahiri, B. (2022). Is there hope for Kosovo's rule of law system? Three immediate actions needed. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 04'2022

9.3.2022: Džananović, N., Turčalo, S. (2022). Rule of Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Transformation of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 05'2022

PHASE II – SOCIAL DIMENSION

15 Policy Briefs (published between 13 October 2022 – 5 May 2023)

13.10.2022: Tzifakis, N., Valvis, A. (2022). The social impact of air pollution in the Western Balkans. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 15'2022

22.10.2022: Bakić, S. (2022). Cultural Policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Recognising Culture as an Integration Tool. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 16'2022

4.11.2022: Staykova, E. (2022). Return Migration in Bulgaria: A Policy Context of Missed Opportunities. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 17'2022

11.11.2022: Bernard, E., Ibrahim, F. (2022). Kosovo: ending isolation. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 18'2022

17.11.2022: Stefanović, S., Vračar, M. (2022). The Vulnerability of Women in the Labour Market in Serbia. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 19'2022

24.11.2022: Mahmutović, M. (2022). Listening to the people: How the Green Agenda Action Plan can do better for the Western Balkans. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 20'2022

1.12.2022: Šelo Šabić, S. (2022). Demographic decline of Croatia: What is to be done? Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 21'2022

7.12.2022: Nikolovski, D., Stojanovski, A. (2022). Digital Europeanisation in North Macedonia: slowly moving forward. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 22'2022

19.12.2022: Elek, F., Griessler, C. (2022). Youth Cooperation in the Serbian-Hungarian Context. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 23'2022

21.12.2022: Mumin, N. (2022). Local elections in Montenegro: beyond political campaigns. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 24'2022

27.2.2023: Nela, I., Smolica, G. (2023). Sustainable development in the Western Balkans: Is youth on board? Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 03'2023

9.3.2023: Maugeais, D. (2023). Making the EU and member state policy towards the Western Balkans socio-economically more sustainable. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 04'2023

15.3.2023: Fattibene, D., Castiglioni, F., Bonomi, M. (2023). Bringing sustainability to the Western Balkan region. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 05'2023

28.4.2023: Kelmendi, F. (2023). Kosovo's youth: Overcoming challenges and creating opportunities. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 09'2023

5.5.2023: Tiut, A., Teacă, A. M. (2023). Emigration from Romania: impact and legacy. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 10'2023

PHASE III – DEMOCRATISATION FROM BELOW

15 Policy Briefs (published between 7 June – 28 October 2023)

7.6.2023: Vukadinovic, N. (2023). Environmental democracy in the Western Balkans between dependent capitalism and integration into the European Union. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 12'2023

15.6.2023: Aleksić, R., Milovanović, L., Đorđević, M. (2023). Civil society: a driver for democratisation from below in Serbia. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 13'2023

6.7.2023: Mrdović, P. (2023). The role of digitalisation in transforming Western Balkan societies. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 14'2023

13.7.2023: Elek, F., Griessler, C. (2023). Civil society organisations and their "space" in backsliding democracies. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 15'2023

21.7.2023: Tzifakis, N., Valvis, A. (2023). A missed opportunity? Civil society organisations in

Greece and North Macedonia after the 2015 refugee crisis. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 16'2023

2.8.2023: Krasteva, A. (2023). Citizens vs. Elites: Symbolic Battles Over the Uses of Political Crises in Bulgaria. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 17'2023

29.9.2023: Hackaj, A. (2023). Convergence of the Western Balkans towards the EU: from enlargement to cohesion. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 18'2023

5.10.2023: Bonomi, M., Rusconi, I. (2023). From EU 'enlargement fatigue' to 'enlargement enthusiasm'? Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 19'2023

13.10.2023: Jašić, M. (2023). Balancing Freedom of Expression and Democracy: The Case of the "Za Dom Spretni" Greeting in Croatia. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 20'2023

19.10.2023: Tiut, A. (2023). Democracy from below in Romania: how far can it get before breaking. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 21'2023

25.10.2023: Hajrullahu, V., Hoxha, T., Puka, D. (2023). Kosovo: democratising democracy. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 22'2023

27.10.2023: Maugeais, D. (2023). How to support democratisation in the Western Balkans? Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 23'2023

27.10.2023: Missini, I., Nikolovski, D. (2023). Tackling the local beyond partisan politics. Can independent lists in North Macedonia boost local democracy? ÖGfE Policy Brief, 24'2023

28.10.2023: Mumin, N., Popović Kalezić, M. (2023). Rebuilding democracy from below: A case for local communities in Montenegro. Vienna. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 25'2023

28.10.2023: Bakić, S. (2023). Media and minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina: a path towards an inclusive and democratic society. ÖGfE Policy Brief, 26'2023

45 Policy Briefs in the framework of the WB2EU Project

All partner organisations produced 15 Policy Briefs in each of the three project phases:

I Rule of law and justice / II Social dimension / III Democratisation from below

The "Ideas go public Labs" and "Network Meetings" served for discussion on the drafts of the Policy Briefs. The two Austrian partner organisations, initiators and coordinators of the WB2EU project – the Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE) and the Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip) – took care of editing, proofreading, designing, publishing, and

intense dissemination. The “Ideas go public Labs” also provided room for the presentation and discussion of the final policy briefs to main stakeholders and to a wider public.

The network partners from the Western Balkans provided a national perspective on the project phases. The neighbouring countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Rumania) offered insights into the (trans)regional dimension of the topic, while the Policy Briefs from important EU member states for the process (France, Germany, and Italy) tackled the topic from the perspective of the EU institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, and EU Council) and member states.

All Policy Briefs can be found under the following link on the [WB2EU website](https://www.wb2eu.eu/?page_id=2981):
https://www.wb2eu.eu/?page_id=2981

Europeanisation meets democracy from below: The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum



The next few years will be decisive for the democratic and European future of the Western Balkans. In addition to a credible enlargement perspective and a positive enlargement narrative, which need to be reinvented and reinvigorated, it is vital to support rule of law, civil dialogue, pluralism, and the fight against corruption, as well as the social dimension. It is crucial to invest more in social inclusion to support the broad vision of just and democratic societies, which needs to include various bottom-up initiatives and actors.

Our “WB2EU Network” will *activate / connect / research / disseminate and create* joint output on the defined topics by bringing together academia, civil society, and relevant stakeholders at the national, regional, and EU levels.

Key points:

- reform, consolidate and reenergise EU enlargement until 2025 and beyond
- mobilise, support and engage with progressive and emancipatory forces from below (movements, citizens, local initiatives) that are truly European and pro-democratic
- enhance youth and alternative voices and forces in the society
- strengthen social dimension, rule of law and justice in the region
- connect young and senior researchers, scholars, representatives of civil society, national and EU institutions, stakeholders, policy-makers, and citizens engaged in pro-democratic initiatives (local/regional/national)

The proposed activities shall be implemented in 3 phases (29.10.2020-28.10.2023):

I Rule of law and justice / II Social dimension / III Democratisation from below

- reform, consolidate, and reenergise EU enlargement until 2025 and beyond
- mobilise, support, and engage with progressive and emancipatory forces from below (movements, citizens, and local initiatives) that are truly European and pro-democratic
- enhance youth and alternative voices and forces in society
- strengthen the social dimension, rule of law, and justice in the region
- connect young and senior researchers, scholars, representatives of civil society, national and EU institutions, stakeholders, policy-makers, and citizens engaged in pro-democratic initiatives (local, regional, and national)

WB2EU Network:

The network consists of 17 renowned think tanks, do tanks, higher education institutes and policy centres from the countries that will be most decisive for the enlargement process in the upcoming years.

Project initiators	
Austria	Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE), Vienna (Coordinator & Project Leader)
Austria	Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiiip), Vienna
Western Balkan countries	
Albania	Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI), Tirana
BiH	University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Political Sciences
Kosovo	Change Experts Group, Pristina
Montenegro	Politikon Network (PIN), Podgorica
North Macedonia	EUROTHINK - Center for European Strategies, Skopje
Serbia	Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society (BFPE), Belgrade
EU member countries	
Bulgaria	New Bulgarian University, Centre for European Refugees, Migration and Ethnic Studies (CERMES), Sofia
Croatia	Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO), Zagreb
France	EuropaNova, Paris
Germany	Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP), Berlin
Greece	Department of Political Science & International Relations, University of the Peloponnese, Corinth
Hungary	Andrássy University, Budapest
Italy	International Affairs Institute (IAI), Rome
Romania	GlobalFocus Center, Bucharest
Slovenia	Centre of International Relations (CIR) – University of Ljubljana

**Europeanisation meets democracy from below:
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**OP-EDS BY THE WB2EU NETWORK PUBLISHED IN DIFFERENT
MEDIA**

Zwischen Autoritarismus und Gleichgültigkeit, Jovana Marović, Wiener Zeitung, 20. März 2021

EU-Erweiterung: Der Westbalkan braucht eine neue Chance, Paul Schmidt & Vedran Džihic, Der Standard, 22. März 2021

Western Balkans' Plight is Wake-up Call for Europe, Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, on behalf of the WB2EU Network, Balkan Insight, 23 March 2021

Der Westbalkan braucht eine neue Chance. Ein Weckruf für Europa! Paul Schmidt & Vedran Džihic, EURACTIV, 26 March 2021

Η πανδημία ως καταλύτης αφύπνισης της Ε.Ε. για την κατάσταση στα Δυτικά Βαλκάνια, Αναστάσιος Βάλβης, Huffington Post Greece, 7 April 2021

I Balcani occidentali chiamano l'Europa: c'è bisogno di cambiamento, Eleonora Poli, EURACTIV, 8 April 2021

Vaccine diplomacy and enlargement fatigue: Why the EU must rethink its approach to the Western Balkans, Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, LSE EUROPP Blog, 28 April 2021

Gefährliche Grenzerfahrungen für den Balkan und die EU, Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, Wiener Zeitung, 19. Mai 2021

Non-Papers and the Elephant in the Room: Rule of Law in the Western Balkans, Jovana Marović & Nikolaos Tzifakis, European Western Balkans (EWB), 23 July 2021

Gefährliche Fantasien auf dem Westbalkan, Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, im Namen des WB2EU Netzwerks, Die Presse, 28. Juli 2021

Streit in der Union: Das Spiel mit der Demokratie & Vedran Džihic, Der Standard, 22. Oktober 2021

Europa darf das neue Momentum nicht verschlafen, Paul Schmidt & Vedran Džihic, Wiener Zeitung, 17. Mai 2022

Ukraine War is Europe's Wake-up Call to Revive Enlargement, Op-ed by Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, on behalf of the WB2EU Network, Balkan Insight, 20 May 2022

The Russia-Ukraine war must be the impetus for a new EU enlargement and neighbourhood policy, Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, LSE EUROPP, 24 May 2022

Yes, EUtopia is possible! Op-ed by the WB2EU Network's Next Generation Summer School participants, European Western Balkans (EWB), 9 November 2022

Die EUtopie ist möglich!, Alice & Larissa Lojić im Namen des WB2EU-Netzwerks, Wiener Zeitung, 14. Dezember 2022

Die EU-Erweiterung – ein geopolitischer Imperativ, Martin Selmayr & Paul Schmidt, Wiener Zeitung, 3. März 2023

Die EU-Migrationspolitik braucht Fakten statt Emotionen, Martin Selmayr & Paul Schmidt, Wiener Zeitung, 12. Mai 2023

Auferstehung der EU-Erweiterung? Gastkommentar Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, Der Standard, 8. Oktober 2023

Europe Must Seize this Opportunity to Enlarge – and Reform, Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, on behalf of the WB2EU Network, Balkan Insight, 17 October 2023

Towards a more equal and democratic Europe, op-ed of the "Cres Summer School" participants 2023 (follow-up project of the WB2EU Network's Next Generation Summer School 2022), European Western Balkans (EWB), 1 December 2023

All 21 op-eds and also other articles published by the WB2EU Network can be found under the following link on the [WB2EU website](https://www.wb2eu.eu/?page_id=2990): https://www.wb2eu.eu/?page_id=2990

Several WB2EU Network members prepared translations of selected op-eds and published them on their websites and platforms. The translations can be found at the following link: https://www.wb2eu.eu/?page_id=1978



Europeanisation meets democracy from below: Western Balkans on the search for a new European and democratic Momentum (WB2EU)



The Centre for Contemporary Politics (CSP) has provided media support in the framework of a "Media Cooperation" to the *Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Network Project* **Europeanisation meets democracy from below: Western Balkans on the search for a new European and democratic Momentum (WB2EU)** through its European Western Balkans web portal (EWB).

From March 2021 to October 2023, EWB has published 45 articles about Policy Briefs published within the project, 6 announcements of events organised within the WB2EU project, 8 reports about the organised events, 3 interviews and 2 op-eds by individuals connected to the project, and 2 other articles, totalling 66 published articles.

Articles published on EWB were also published on EWB's social networks, primarily Facebook, Twitter, X and LinkedIn, as well as promoted through newsletters and EWB's mobile app through push notifications.

The total readership of all the articles amounts to a total of 17,007 views. The real numbers were actually much higher due to technical issues with analytics in one 6-month period of the cooperation.

Please find below the dates, names and links to all EWB articles published as a part of media support to the WB2EU project from March 2021 to October 2023:

Articles on WB2EU Policy Briefs:

12 Oct. 2021	Policy brief: Lack of progress on rule of law will render the enlargement a dead end	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/10/12/policy-brief-lack-of-progress-on-rule-of-law-will-render-the-enlargement-a-dead-end/
13 Oct. 2021	It is in Slovenia's interest to promote geopolitical importance of the Western Balkans	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/10/13/it-is-in-slovenias-interest-to-promote-geopolitical-importance-of-the-western-balkans/

1 Nov. 2021	Policy brief: Hungary should not be the role model for the Western Balkans	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/11/01/policy-brief-hungary-should-not-be-the-role-model-for-the-western-balkans/
9 Nov. 2021	Policy Brief: Deregulation initiatives in North Macedonia could have a negative impact on the rule of law	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/11/09/policy-brief-deregulation-initiatives-in-north-macedonia-could-have-a-negative-impact-on-the-rule-of-law/
19 Nov. 2021	Policy Brief: EU still has some mechanisms which could influence rule of law in Serbia	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/11/19/policy-brief-eu-still-has-some-mechanisms-which-could-influence-rule-of-law-in-serbia/
22 Nov. 2021	Policy Brief: Weak rule of law in the Western Balkans affects the quality of FDI	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/11/22/policy-brief-weak-rule-of-law-in-the-western-balkans-affects-the-quality-of-fdi/
2 Dec. 2021	Policy Brief: The EU should continue to insist on Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/12/02/policy-brief-the-eu-should-continue-to-insist-on-rule-of-law-conditionality-regulation/
6 Dec. 2021	Policy Brief: State of Croatian judiciary sheds light on the shortcomings of EU accession	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/12/06/policy-brief-state-of-croatian-judiciary-sheds-light-on-the-shortcomings-of-eu-accession/
10 Dec. 2021	Policy Brief: The fight against corruption in Bulgaria should result with convictions in high-level corruption cases	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/12/10/policy-brief-the-fight-against-corruption-in-bulgaria-should-result-with-convictions-in-high-level-corruption-cases/
23 Dec. 2021	Policy Brief: Government in Montenegro should fully open the reforms to the public	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/12/23/policy-brief-government-in-montenegro-should-fully-open-the-reforms-to-the-public/
28 Dec. 2021	Policy Brief: The lessons of the justice reform in Albania can be	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/12/28/policy-brief-the-lessons-of-the-justice-reform-in-albania-can-be-applied-to-other-wb-countries/

	applied to other WB countries	
21 Feb. 2022	Policy Brief: The lack of security is driving force behind the political discourse of Eurosceptic	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/02/21/policy-brief-the-lack-of-security-on-the-continent-driving-force-for-eurosceptic/
10 Mar. 2022	Policy Brief: Romania's enlargement experience shows "how to" and "how not to" build rule of law	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/03/10/policy-brief-romania-enlargement-experience-shows-how-to-and-how-not-to-build-rule-of-law/
11 Mar. 2022	Policy Brief: Rule of law in Kosovo has many loops that need to be straightened	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/03/11/policy-brief-rule-of-law-in-kosovo-has-many-loops-that-need-to-be-straightened/
17 Mar. 2022	Policy Brief: Pressures on judges and prosecutors in BiH decrease trust in the judiciary	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/03/17/policy-brief-pressures-on-judges-and-prosecutors-in-bih-decrease-trust-in-the-judiciary/
7 Nov. 2022	Policy Brief: Environmental degradation is an alarming problem in the Western Balkans	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/11/07/policy-brief-environmental-degradation-is-an-alarming-problem-in-the-western-balkans/
8 Nov. 2022	Policy Brief: Migration discourse in Bulgaria is usually focused on its negative aspects	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/11/08/policy-brief-migration-discourse-in-bulgaria-is-usually-focused-on-its-negative-aspects/
9 Nov. 2022	Policy Brief: BiH needs a common and sustainable cultural policy	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/11/09/policy-brief-bih-needs-a-common-and-sustainable-cultural-policy/?fbclid=IwAR0JgEChzxOxSc8gJ1fN41NWQ7wFG6fEs3T19w4Urt_vMyzyAL3nb6Tysrk
15 Nov. 2022	Policy Brief: Visa liberalization for Kosovo should be resolved with urgency	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/11/15/policy-brief-visa-liberalization-for-kosovo-should-be-resolved-with-urgency/
17 Nov. 2022	Policy Brief: Systematic gender inequality deeply present in Serbia	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/11/17/policy-brief-systematic-gender-inequality-deeply-present-in-serbia/

28 Nov. 2022	Policy Brief: Civil society is necessary for progress on the WB Green Agenda	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/11/28/policy-brief-civil-society-is-necessary-for-progress-on-the-wb-green-agenda/
1 Dec. 2022	Policy Brief: Croatia needs to address root causes of its demographic decline	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/12/01/policy-brief-croatia-needs-to-address-root-causes-of-its-demographic-decline/?fbclid=IwAR2TW3DdYsOyZSNyk2HMSzX9jYQkYL4TbQoqw-7IQv6oRUOTSyUr_e-5zFY
7 Dec. 2022	Policy Brief: Digital Europeanisation in North Macedonia slowly moving forward	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/12/07/policy-brief-digital-europeanisation-in-north-macedonia-slowly-moving-forward/
21 Dec. 2022	Policy Brief: Youth cooperation between EU and WB to go beyond economy and culture	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/12/21/policy-brief-youth-cooperation-between-eu-and-wb-to-go-beyond-economy-and-culture/
20 Jan. 2023	Policy Brief: The sustainability of Montenegrin local self-governments is in question	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/01/20/policy-brief-the-sustainability-of-montenegrin-local-self-governments-is-in-question/
3 Mar. 2023	Policy Brief: Youth from the region should be more included in sectoral policy-making processes	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/03/03/policy-brief-youth-from-the-region-should-be-more-included-in-sectoral-policy-making-processes/
15 Mar. 2023	Policy Brief: The socio-economic policies of EU towards Western Balkans should be more sustainable	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/03/15/policy-brief-the-socio-economic-policies-of-eu-towards-western-balkans-should-be-more-sustainable/
7 Apr. 2023	Policy Brief: Transnational cooperation is needed to advance Sustainable Development Goals in the Western Balkans	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/04/07/policy-brief-transnational-cooperation-is-needed-to-advance-sustainable-development-goals-in-the-western-balkans/
9 May 2023	Policy Brief: Youth in Kosovo demonstrate a clear willingness to become active citizens	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/05/09/policy-brief-youth-in-kosovo-demonstrate-a-clear-willingness-to-become-active-citizens/

10 May 2023	Policy Brief: More focus on social and educational policy in Romania is needed	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/05/10/policy-brief-more-focus-on-social-and-educational-policy-in-romania-is-needed/
11 Jul. 2023	Policy Brief: Civil society and the EU can contribute to environmental democracy in the Western Balkans	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/07/11/policy-brief-civil-society-and-the-eu-can-contribute-to-environmental-democracy-in-the-western-balkans/
18 Jul. 2023	Policy Brief: Activities of civil society can lead to successful bottom-up democratization	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/07/18/policy-brief-activities-of-civil-society-can-lead-to-successful-bottom-up-democratization/
19 Jul. 2023	Policy Brief: Digitalization should remain a high priority in the Western Balkans	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/07/19/policy-brief-digitalization-should-remain-a-high-priority-in-the-western-balkans/
21 Jul. 2023	Policy Brief: The marginalization of CSOs leads to an exclusive form of democracy	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/07/21/policy-brief-the-marginalization-of-csos-leads-to-an-exclusive-form-of-democracy/
31 Jul. 2023	Policy Brief: Despite positive steps, capacity and resilience challenges in Greek and Macedonian CSOs remain	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/07/31/policy-brief-despite-positive-steps-capacity-and-resilience-challenges-in-greek-and-macedonian-csos-remain/
8 Aug. 2023	Policy Brief: Protest parties in Bulgaria should learn to govern and translate citizens' expectations into policies	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/08/08/policy-brief-protest-parties-in-bulgaria-should-learn-to-govern-and-translate-citizens-expectations-into-policies/
4 Oct. 2023	Policy Brief: WB6 economies must grow quickly to catch up with their EU peers	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/04/policy-brief-wb6-economies-must-grow-quickly-to-catch-up-with-their-eu-peers/
9 Oct. 2023	Policy Brief: EU should provide proposals to convert support for enlargement	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/09/policy-brief-eu-should-provide-proposals-to-convert-support-for-enlargement-among-citizens-into-concrete-policies/

	among citizens into concrete policies	
23 Oct. 2023	Policy Brief: Education plays a crucial role to prevent the rehabilitation of extremist ideologies in Croatia	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/23/policy-brief-education-plays-a-crucial-role-to-prevent-the-rehabilitation-of-extremist-ideologies-in-croatia/
25 Oct. 2023	Policy Brief: Romanian politicians failed to communicate effectively, leaving room for extremist to exploit weaknesses of democracy	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/25/policy-brief-romanian-politicians-failed-to-communicate-effectively-leaving-room-for-extremist-to-exploit-weaknesses-of-democracy/
27 Oct. 2023	Policy Brief: Alternative forms of civic initiatives has a higher potential to mobilise diverse groups of citizens	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/30/policy-brief-active-citizen-participation-can-be-catalyst-of-social-change-in-montenegro/
30 Oct. 2023	Policy Brief: Active citizen participation can be catalyst of social change in Montenegro	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/30/policy-brief-active-citizen-participation-can-be-catalyst-of-social-change-in-montenegro/
30 Oct. 2023	Policy Brief: Media reforms to safeguard democracy in BiH are needed	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/30/policy-brief-media-reforms-to-safeguard-democracy-in-bih-are-needed/
30 Oct. 2023	Policy Brief: The EU should flank its support for democratisation with clear political measures	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/30/policy-brief-the-eu-should-flank-its-support-for-democratisation-with-clear-political-measures/
31 Oct. 2023	Policy Brief: Independent lists in North Macedonia could boost local democracy	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/31/policy-brief-independent-lists-in-north-macedonia-could-boost-local-democracy/

Announcements of WB2EU events:

23 Mar. 2021	„Western Balkans 2 EU“ opening conference takes place today and tomorrow	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/03/23/western-balkans-2-eu-opening-conference-takes-place-today-and-tomorrow/
13 Oct. 2021	Public debate “Is the EU losing the Western Balkans and/or vice versa?” tomorrow in Ljubljana	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/10/13/public-debate-is-the-eu-losing-the-western-balkans-and-or-vice-versa-tomorrow-in-ljubljana/
17 May 2022	WB2EU conference on the politics of enlargement in France in Paris on 19 and 20 May	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/05/17/wb2eu-conference-on-the-politics-of-enlargement-in-france-in-paris-on-19-and-20-may/
18 Sep. 2022	WB2EU public debate on inequality in the Western Balkans tomorrow in Belgrade	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/09/18/wb2eu-public-debate-on-inequality-in-the-western-balkans-tomorrow-in-belgrade/
22 Mar. 2023	WB2EU discussion on EU enlargement in the Western Balkans on Thursday in Berlin	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/03/22/wb2eu-discussion-on-eu-enlargement-in-the-western-balkans-on-thursday-in-berlin/
5 Oct. 2023	WB2EU discussion on EU enlargement in Vienna on Monday	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/05/wb2eu-discussion-on-eu-enlargement-in-vienna-on-monday/

Reports from WB2EU events:

24 Mar. 2021	WB2EU: Citizens need some re-branding of the idea of what the rule of law is	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/03/24/wb2eu-citizens-need-some-re-branding-of-the-idea-of-what-the-rule-of-law-is/
25 Mar. 2021	WB2EU: Status quo is no longer providing stability in the WB	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/03/25/wb2eu-status-quo-is-no-longer-providing-stability-in-the-wb/
1 Jul. 2021	Rule of law and fundamental rights are not top priorities for governments in the region	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/07/01/rule-of-law-and-fundamental-rights-are-not-a-top-priority-for-governments-in-the-region/
15 Oct. 2021	Public debate: The EU enlargement process needs creative solutions	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/10/15/public-debate-the-eu-enlargement-process-needs-creative-solutions/
21 Feb. 2022	Youth participation and culture are important for the Europeanisation and democratization of Kosovo	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/02/21/youth-participation-and-culture-are-important-for-the-europeanisation-and-democratization-of-kosovo/

25 May 2022	WB2EU discussion: The EU has a huge responsibility in the Western Balkans	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/05/25/wb2eu-discussion-the-eu-has-a-huge-responsibility-in-the-western-balkans/
20 Sep. 2022	WB2EU discussion: Tackling inequality a step towards solidarity	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/09/20/wb2eu-discussion-tackling-inequality-a-step-towards-solidarity/
24 Oct. 2023	WB2EU: Western Balkans should use the existing window of opportunity, rule of law remains the key	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/24/wb2eu-western-balkans-should-use-the-existing-window-of-opportunity-rule-of-law-remains-the-key/

WB2EU interviews:

13 Sep. 2022	[EWB Interview] Schieder: Bulgaria and North Macedonia should look to the future	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/09/13/ewb-interview-schieder-bulgaria-and-north-macedonia-should-look-to-the-future/
10 Nov. 2022	[EWB Interview] Schmidt: If the EU doesn't reform, enlargement will probably never take place	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/11/10/ewb-interview-schmidt-if-the-eu-doesnt-reform-enlargement-will-probably-never-take-place/
26 Oct. 2023	[EWB Interview] Schmidt: EU integration process is always the art of compromise	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/10/26/ewb-interview-schmidt-eu-integration-process-is-always-the-art-of-compromise/

WB2EU op-eds:

23 Jul. 2021	Non-Papers and the elephant in the room: Rule of law in the Western Balkans	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2021/07/23/non-papers-and-the-elephant-in-the-room-rule-of-law-in-the-western-balkans/
9. Nov. 2022	Yes, EUtopia is possible!	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2022/11/09/yes-eutopia-is-possible/

Other:

15 May 2023	ÖGfE survey: No majority for EU enlargement in Austria	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/05/15/ogfe-survey-no-majority-for-eu-enlargement-in-austria/
3 Nov. 2023	WB2EU Network published final publication on EU integration of the Western Balkans	https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2023/11/03/wb2eu-network-published-final-publication-on-eu-integration-of-the-western-balkans/

WB2EU Social Media Activities & Statistics

YouTube

22.03.2021 #WB2EU Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution Karoline Edtstadler, Austria

Views	607
Reach/Impressions	8.412
Engagement	29

23.03.2021 Western Balkans 2 EU #wb2eu Kick_Off Conference - Panel 1 (Livestream)

Views	312
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24.03.2021 Western Balkans 2 EU #wb2eu Kick_Off Conference - Panel 2 (Livestream)

Views	286
Reach/Impressions	4.144
Engagement	26

30.07.2021 1st Ideas go public Lab (Livestream)

Views	83
Reach/Impressions	862
Engagement	10

14.10.2021 2nd Ideas go public Lab (Livestream)

Views	410
Reach/Impressions	3.798
Engagement	67

18.02.2022 3rd Ideas go public Lab (Livestream)

Views	119
Reach/Impressions	2.378
Engagement	3

19.05.2022 4th Ideas go public Lab (Livestream)

Views	89
Reach/Impressions	778
Engagement	2

31.05.2022 4th Ideas go public Lab (Video)

Views	71
Reach/Impressions	2.396
Engagement	0

19.09.2022 5th Ideas go public Lab (Livestream)

Views	44
Reach/Impressions	2.226
Engagement	1

15.02.2022 Europeanisation meets democracy from below: Introduction of our #WB2EU project

Views	78
Reach/Impressions	573

	Engagement	1
28.01.2022	WB2EU Policy Brief: Inva Nela (CDI, Albania)	
	Views	84
	Reach/Impressions	642
	Engagement	3
02.02.2022	WB2EU Policy Brief: Aleksandar Stojanovski (EUROTHINK, North Macedonia)	
	Views	25
	Reach/Impressions	849
	Engagement	0
09.02.2022	WB2EU Policy Brief: Christina Griessler (AUB, Hungary)	
	Views	53
	Reach/Impressions	922
	Engagement	2
10.02.2022	WB2EU Policy Brief: Marko Savković (BFPE, Serbia)	
	Views	34
	Reach/Impressions	679
	Engagement	0
12.02.2022	WB2EU Policy Brief: Nikica Kolar (IRMO, Croatia)	
	Views	47
	Reach/Impressions	502
	Engagement	1
12.02.2022	WB2EU Policy Brief: Anna Krasteva (CERMES, Bulgaria)	
	Views	31
	Reach/Impressions	700
	Engagement	1
28.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Paul Schmidt/1st posting	
	Views	78
	Reach/Impressions	1.013
	Engagement	1
28.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Vedran Džihic/1st posting	
	Views	102
	Reach/Impressions	735
	Engagement	1
28.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Senada Šelo Šabić/1st posting	
	Views	59
	Reach/Impressions	611
	Engagement	1
28.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Andreas Schieder/1st posting	
	Views	13
	Reach/Impressions	326
	Engagement	3
28.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Zharko Boshinov/1st posting	
	Views	13
	Reach/Impressions	479

Engagement 0

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Ioana Chilom/1st posting

Views 25
Reach/Impressions 260
Engagement 0

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Vanna Ćurin/1st posting

Views 28
Reach/Impressions 385
Engagement 1

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Mirjana Đorđević/1st posting

Views 20
Reach/Impressions 341
Engagement 0

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Fjollë Ibrahim/1st posting

Views 26
Reach/Impressions 517
Engagement 2

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Katerina Juba/1st posting

Views 30
Reach/Impressions 194
Engagement 0

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Csongor Körömi/1st posting

Views 19
Reach/Impressions 284
Engagement 1

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Alice Lojić/1st posting

Views 29
Reach/Impressions 220
Engagement 0

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Larissa Lojić/1st posting

Views 51
Reach/Impressions 241
Engagement 1

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Smail Lokvančić/1st posting

Views 77
Reach/Impressions 2.614
Engagement 0

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Dennis Miskić/1st posting

Views 63
Reach/Impressions 397
Engagement 1

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Nikola Mumin/1st posting

Views 29
Reach/Impressions 280

Engagement 0

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Elena Nikolova/1st posting

Views 20
Reach/Impressions 792
Engagement 0

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Vanina Ninova/1st posting

Views 45
Reach/Impressions 1.026
Engagement 4

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Sofija Popović/ 1st posting

Views 91
Reach/Impressions 1.526
Engagement 2

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Jasmina Šarić/1st posting

Views 62
Reach/Impressions 536
Engagement 0

28.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Wiebke Stimming/1st posting

Views 62
Reach/Impressions 1.105
Engagement 1

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Andreas Schieder/2nd posting

Views 17
Reach/Impressions 221
Engagement 0

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Nikola Mumin/2nd posting

Views 13
Reach/Impressions 217
Engagement 0

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Paul Schmidt/2nd posting

Views 102
Reach/Impressions 1.554
Engagement 1

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Vedran Džihić/2nd posting

Views 57
Reach/Impressions 327
Engagement 1

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Larissa Lojić/2nd posting

Views 49
Reach/Impressions 217
Engagement 2

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Wiebke Stimming/2nd posting

Views 37
Reach/Impressions 4.122

	Engagement	1
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Ioana Chilom/2nd posting	
	Views	15
	Reach/Impressions	412
	Engagement	0
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Senada Šelo Šabić/2nd posting	
	Views	82
	Reach/Impressions	567
	Engagement	1
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Csongor Körömi/2nd posting	
	Views	7
	Reach/Impressions	238
	Engagement	1
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Katerina Juba/Version Christian	
	Views	36
	Reach/Impressions	295
	Engagement	1
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Alice Lojić/2nd posting	
	Views	71
	Reach/Impressions	235
	Engagement	1
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Jasmina Šarić/2nd posting	
	Views	26
	Reach/Impressions	506
	Engagement	1
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Mirjana Đorđević/2nd posting	
	Views	38
	Reach/Impressions	307
	Engagement	0
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Fjollë Ibrahim/2nd posting	
	Views	23
	Reach/Impressions	295
	Engagement	0
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Elena Nikolova/2nd posting	
	Views	5
	Reach/Impressions	362
	Engagement	1
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Sofija Popović/2nd posting	
	Views	175
	Reach/Impressions	3.076
	Engagement	1
16.12.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Dennis Miskiće/2nd posting	
	Views	22
	Reach/Impressions	266

Engagement 0

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Vanina Ninova/2nd posting

Views 29
Reach/Impressions 311
Engagement 3

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Zharko Boshinov/2nd posting

Views 7
Reach/Impressions 273
Engagement 2

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Smail Lokvančić/2nd posting

Views 40
Reach/Impressions 404
Engagement 3

16.12.2022 WB2EU Summer School: Vanna Ćurin/2nd posting

Views 25
Reach/Impressions 737
Engagement 1

Sum

WB2EU Events
Views 2.099
Reach/Impressions 58.685
Engagement 186

WB2EU Policy Briefs
Views 274
Reach/Impressions 4.294
Engagement 7

WB2EU Summer School
Views 1.789
Reach/Impressions 28.824
Engagement 40

Views 4.162
Reach/Impressions 91.803
Engagement 233

WB2EU Social Media Activities & Statistics

Facebook

22.03.2021 VIDEO	Western Balkans 2 EU: Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler for the EU and Constitution, Austria Views 849 Reach/Impressions 1099 Engagement 20
23.03.2021 LIVESTREAM	Western Balkans 2 EU: "New perspectives on rule of law and justice - Where do we stand and what do we need?" Kick_Off Conference - Panel 1 Views 1391 Reach/Impressions 3625 Engagement 21
24.03.2021 POSTING	Announcement: Heute 16:00 Uhr Teil 2 unserer Western Balkans 2 EU Kick_Off Conference Impressions 7 Reach 4 Engagement 4
24.03.2021 LIVESTREAM	Western Balkans 2 EU: "How to get EU enlargement back on track?" Kick_Off Conference - Panel 2 Views 6203 Reach/Impressions 12675 Engagement 28
19.05.2021 POSTING	Op-ed Gefährliche Grenzerfahrungen für den Balkan und die EU, Gastkommentar Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, Wiener Zeitung, 19. Mai 2021 Impressions 16 Reach 13 Engagement 8
29.06.2021 POSTING	Announcement: 1st Ideas go public Lab Livestream Impressions 10 Reach 5 Engagement 10
30.06.2021 LIVESTREAM	Western Balkans 2 EU: Moving forward or standing still? New momentum for the European future of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1st Ideas go public Lab Views 452 Reach/Impressions 1774 Engagement 6
23.07.2021 POSTING	Op-ed Non-Papers and the Elephant in the Room: Rule of Law in the Western Balkans, op-ed by Jovana Marović & Nikolaos Tzifakis, European Western Balkans (EWB), 23 July 2021 Views 9 Reach/Impressions 5 Engagement 10
04.10.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid024rhmN87SMiqlMQ8D5afFYCHPKtVqZdfYJb6eb2Czh86jQH3mDusVbsMCFY23x Impressions 12 Reach 6 Engagement 12
21.10.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid036uxm1m3YGNjioZs36Tb351QzhsrQdc22Uf5fudosaKw4h5pjt3FDNUvbxqAMl Impressions 14 Reach 8 Engagement 5
24.10.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0Gvdm2Qf7LzJ4kCy5kDwVJf14yn6HxLmNAzpxCGUwuDZEPPrY4EPHafkP49l Impressions 17 Reach 10 Engagement 8
28.10.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02praVDeB4zFBUXx75PIA1V88cn8JehXHfYRPTd7dQf5ALxynXghmgQhBFuI Impressions 15 Reach 9 Engagement 6
16.11.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0WbHGikdoNocM4wVlHpaFXNV9VvLxRc9bS6FileCwwWYyh1gzZx6sfw88Ava1Sr5l Impressions 18 Reach 10 Engagement 8
01.12.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0y4SvoeuIU4bjEbfF6kpmes1E542dl2qI9JZBQ7R9qjSRkA3HCcScsdcbRCxd Impressions 29 Reach 16 Engagement 3
03.12.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid037Vvh4nmSzRaonvRXzf4LrRbFRqExsMI9eAD1nrQZbeacVAJcDKvUB5B756E1GwFj Impressions 30 Reach 18 Engagement 10
07.12.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0MU3oedBxVo9sahurXkc1xXBd3QBFX1VrvjIBRF23iHWHfMakMiuZdevhF5BzcTQDl Impressions 32 Reach 20 Engagement 3
20.12.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02kFwk9tzA6CYUJqavo19cpGGELdGfFsQVtGpYJxeiJUL2WqV9iZFGzKf1cDvPael Impressions 60 Reach 32 Engagement 6
22.12.2021 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0qN57RxcA1Fx75Pq13xmeezvaYzy3WFKJpN21hveKN5CaogCC6EGVDJrk2QmDol Impressions 200 Reach 153 Engagement 26
19.01.2022 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02kNvB1w8f9QFvUHDAcP3mpoxQvos5viSpw8aGcRubLn8KeAbVVWgZb5rDKSPpNU2l Impressions 917 Reach 841 Engagement 28
28.01.2022 POSTING	#WB2EU Policy Brief https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02wLjohsFY7WqTEJdJkIPQafNnRehTZDzmRtEcsT3BjQfWw3wrfCkRpYiaouLd Impressions 411 Reach 389 Engagement 11
29.01.2022 VIDEO	#WB2EU Policy Brief WB2EU Policy Brief: Inva Nela (CDI, Albania)

	Views	188
	Reach/Impressions	219
	Engagement	7
07.02.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
VIDEO	WB2EU Policy Brief: Aleksandar Stojanovski (EUROTHINK, North Macedonia)	
	Views	177
	Reach/Impressions	201
	Engagement	15
09.02.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
VIDEO	WB2EU Policy Brief: Christina Griesler (AUB, Hungary)	
	Views	128
	Reach/Impressions	148
	Engagement	19
10.02.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02w5T27Vb69EuyxP3lUxoejkCEJuNlvCo7ca82Ft8Bn1JkLkefDVeQSAARHvav/	
	Impressions	1039
	Reach	990
	Engagement	39
11.02.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
VIDEO	WB2EU Policy Brief: Marko Savković (BFPE, Serbia)	
	Views	133
	Reach/Impressions	157
	Engagement	12
13.02.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
VIDEO	WB2EU Policy Brief: Nikica Kolar (IRMO, Croatia)	
	Views	166
	Reach/Impressions	187
	Engagement	27
14.02.2022	Facebook Event	
EVENT	3rd Ideas go public Lab	
	Impressions	0
	Reach	3630
	Engagement	3
14.02.2022	Announcement Event (promotion)	
POSTING	3rd Ideas go public Lab	
	Impressions	247
	Reach	225
	Engagement	19
15.02.2022	Announcement	
VIDEO	#WB2EU Policy Brief Presentation-Video: The following years will be decisive for the democratic and European future of the Western Balkans	
	Views	132
	Reach/Impressions	155
	Engagement	34
16.02.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
VIDEO	WB2EU Policy Brief: Anna Krasteva (CERMES, Bulgaria)	
	Views	167
	Reach/Impressions	189
	Engagement	16
17.02.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0vKmp2QxjPNsQ1dbrvYYAvdqz2K4puDFmD4VkcCn97LjdCGWfJp56aNYazmSS1LXZTI/	
	Impressions	441
	Reach	398
	Engagement	18
18.02.2022	3rd Ideas go public Lab	
LIVESTREAM	Succeeding despite... - the challenges of "young Europeans" in Western Balkan countries.	
	Views	654
	Reach/Impressions	3625
	Engagement	13
18.02.2022	Recorded Livestream	
VIDEO	3rd ideas go public Lab	
	Views	171
	Reach/Impressions	195
	Engagement	4
08.03.2022	Video	
VIDEO	Mimozha Kusari-Lila at the 3rd Ideas go public Lab	
	Views	10669
	Reach/Impressions	10948
	Engagement	451
09.03.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02a1AnKzxMzNyFAjJra7pcrqxmksiBkqawbMbdy8A99HdHkhDCdVMGvPLuYEciVSoH/	
	Impressions	497
	Reach	469
	Engagement	14
15.03.2022	Video	
VIDEO	Besa Luci at the 3rd Ideas go public Lab	
	Views	281
	Reach/Impressions	206
	Engagement	52
16.03.2022	Video	
VIDEO	Erol Bilibani at the 3rd Ideas go public Lab	
	Views	617
	Reach/Impressions	797
	Engagement	98
16.03.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02mVUBUIRka29HFkoGUYW4Ps8qmy44YenUmBUtUFIvbrZqS5W6isD1SF22a85I/	
	Impressions	448
	Reach	418
	Engagement	11
12.05.2022	Facebook Event	
EVENT	4th Ideas go public Lab	
	Impressions	0
	Reach	3834
	Engagement	0
12.05.2022	Announcement Event (promotion)	
POSTING	4th Ideas go public Lab	
	Impressions	0
	Reach	1901
	Engagement	12
17.05.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02pCwaFzUXF3hPpkc3kW5Eba82mGMHCC8Xs5ra1Kp23cfpj9M64U58bEA48H/	
	Impressions	158
	Reach	138
	Engagement	7
17.05.2022	Op-ed	
POSTING	Europa darf das neue Momentum nicht verschlafen, Gastkommentar Paul Schmidt & Vedran Džihčić, Wiener Zeitung, 17. Mai 2022	
	Impressions	316
	Reach	285
	Engagement	8

19.05.2022	Announcement Event		
POSTING	4th Ideas go public Lab		
	Impressions	645	
	Reach	681	
	Engagement	23	
19.05.2022	4th Ideas go public Lab – Public Debate		
LIVESTREAM	The path to the EU – how the war in Ukraine has reopened the case for enlargement		
	Views	365	
	Reach/Impressions	903	
	Engagement	9	
20.05.2022	Op-ed		
POSTING	Ukraine War is Europe's Wake-up Call to Revive Enlargement, op-ed by Vedran Džihčić & Paul Schmidt, Balkan Insight, 20 May 2022		
15.09.2022	Facebook Event		
EVENT	5th Ideas go public Lab		
	Impressions	0	
	Reach	3117	
	Engagement	0	
15.09.2022	Announcement Event (promotion)		
POSTING	5th Ideas go public Lab		
	Impressions	0	
	Reach	378	
	Engagement	6	
19.09.2022	5th Ideas go public Lab		
LIVESTREAM	2 parts		
	Views	445	
	Reach/Impressions	2289	
	Engagement	16	
04.11.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02nuuxaVRCIccuAxc1AUJaQSu4fkRUwVuKmb1AezHCoc98V7K2sBz7Vrz98voZsevQkl		
	Impressions	204	
	Reach	187	
	Engagement	12	
09.11.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02mKjksRRM9mYhnpDANECl5mneAhChqB2Tq5zXApFQIuZVgRex2s4PiUlwtoH7qhHl		
	Impressions	57	
	Reach	50	
	Engagement	1	
09.11.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02XymXp8czexTC5zAzrQUlMxM4SwL3emR5v46zivDFsfDc8mEWgCzYmwww1mJpZBl		
	Impressions	297	
	Reach	211	
	Engagement	10	
10.11.2022	Op-ed Summer School, Cres		
POSTING	Op-ed: Yes, EUtopia is possible! By the WB2EU network's Next Generation Summer School participants, European Western Balkans (EWB), 9 November 2022		
	Impressions	1618	
	Reach	420	
	Engagement	64	
10.11.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0mwnFYYPD9DclCdF98CuaFza5u5Bnaco3SHawWNKl6viYAGVVsAJDUj5Rvmv3kfGhl		
	Impressions	72	
	Reach	61	
	Engagement	1	
10.11.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02JyfvYIAqbwSaK6kwS4G6ZzdJefQadl9X6279o7hquWeasZv8xfix8XKYCndpx4xl		
	Impressions	1616	
	Reach	419	
	Engagement	63	
11.11.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid08amUjBpdAWekdHA3GahnKT98H1GuQpQ4zGDAB3AAbkuPWxoaEmk4xDdETcdTlZWyl		
	Impressions	193	
	Reach	168	
	Engagement	23	
17.11.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0SfHQwCfFrk91ApUJZacyawCTMpuXgREKobudTKBSX5BSyHJEXmWbgW6eKGGzUj		
	Impressions	157	
	Reach	137	
	Engagement	7	
24.11.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0xBEDhacXuEaRkr5PRHfoZQDhbECH4VMTH3N8bcYmJYj2rC2Wxxj0PjJsv4viWl		
	Impressions	146	
	Reach	133	
	Engagement	6	
01.12.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02Cd66ahwUMUwJ4m3NxW6syosaACEacYCLxsfqaci9HrPwun9Ty83raZd35fySUNl		
	Impressions	150	
	Reach	130	
	Engagement	5	
12.12.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02C1NqafnGcd2gpeuuVLZh2UNgWbDFdz1wV58BqteBoPw8lWUjBReoRbQS6ueSntllml		
	Impressions	740	
	Reach	664	
	Engagement	50	
19.12.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02V1d5LoYzeWYK06jNxeXhk45eVbwNvheSh264x8ehYcXFWqYXGDs6YID6uEvoSl		
	Impressions	187	
	Reach	166	
	Engagement	8	
21.12.2022	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0unKADHEJZDPDMMKD1SgBYXXlyMBAvLzWefAujafPj8CjFYP44yEbl6hDvXG8l		
	Impressions	219	
	Reach	196	
	Engagement	11	
27.02.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0355ovoEioa3vd9doYxAGPRWgac9K32zirHnPa8wG9N9lbfkK2VnTRfbgMs3lH46l		
	Impressions	423	
	Reach	362	
	Engagement	22	
09.03.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0Nu3qT84sijPYLcwMAAugsHl1Q8cda2Rb4raqHXZ8SPsd5PKRqCFCMLxby8JlmiJl		
	Impressions	537	
	Reach	494	
	Engagement	19	
16.03.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0cVKy6k72sQMfxiwXsHM65Ym3iDQpUBz4qktsPeM4kPUMuGwDy65ZJd7SKqXTsxl		
	Impressions	252	
	Reach	230	

	Engagement	7
17.03.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0ekpKzkogdJnLGZK2QD3KGyKjvX4h89xJFwxBI8LUSNT4Ia8faT35dVr6a44Ko2l	
	Impressions	104
	Reach	93
	Engagement	2
18.03.2023	Announcement Event: 6th Ideas Go Public Lab	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0yG8iCaLieBFuARtRWuGwLxEWjK79u5MfS4Uf4P7sbkAF5xLuS5F2od57u7Ihbw	
	Impressions	205
	Reach	169
	Engagement	32
28.04.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0a1DRuMpd5yKiwnHuEw8a1e9J3ef5CRwT69EzhUjF3lBb2aY2Vz5GB1zUN6Nll	
	Impressions	174
	Reach	158
	Engagement	7
05.05.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02X1rRpNC2f8HX7ps2iwugBKJbzbVg1JvEwzVDNIaKNpoHbapnr3nPLDsULP96l	
	Impressions	162
	Reach	134
	Engagement	32
07.06.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02C6Hrd77Zyppw36a42DUdNcR4v4Q291DobJbNpzuF994BLcroGigW4VQtrAPtfl	
	Impressions	74
	Reach	59
	Engagement	10
15.06.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0pAybQJfEbxQLXVe3xalDbWkhj3wWXBjGEUtaYn8zwc1he38vNvE7IhuVTVvEQULEjI	
	Impressions	2445
	Reach	1059
	Engagement	80
06.07.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0da5w6H7i8kWiEemra4e8DBdUMaaKVELh29CQ8PK2EteQ87F4dupHz8iv29Ue3cl	
	Impressions	82
	Reach	66
	Engagement	19
13.07.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02WX8Y94hJWKTQQVKGFQvYXgiartWzsDaz4N5u7XumkmVP8qc4iIDP4DivawuiMip5l	
	Impressions	90
	Reach	68
	Engagement	13
19.07.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
European Western Balkans (Shared link)	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid0MmxflJFCr1JagF87yce14YXBLzk49N9dCxEvea758iDFuDHmhwFEezWwvZXorTpl	
	Impressions	81
	Reach	62
	Engagement	3
21.07.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02Qsr8My8UwTy6vYsThNbPKRv6IFyVvVa5HpaBij9QDes91BDJiEjNanaJiwS7x28l	
	Impressions	3042
	Reach	2630
	Engagement	90
02.08.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02Ph8oxRfc5VeiDe2cKeDLSiWmzCmNlkb27VQZoY2KSRESHZD478DjZPB8AkMIMaj	
	Impressions	146
	Reach	120
	Engagement	8
29.09.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid022PK9i35veZiouXD7Cmmt9xulgsmwHz8W52YyLuPeEstEQ6U591tst57WRS3E1GI	
	Impressions	240
	Reach	193
	Engagement	31
09.10.2023	Op-ed	
POSTING	Auferstehung der EU-Erweiterung? Gastkommentar Vedran Džihčić & Paul Schmidt, Der Standard, 8. Oktober 2023	
	Impressions	181
	Reach	168
	Engagement	12
09.10.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid037KSakz8hsk2sYXrW9B2Hcwuwi25r95kzREtPLKA2bkz7zVZK76CPgYmeBzXFGil	
	Impressions	122
	Reach	103
	Engagement	21
10.10.2023	#WB2EU Closing Event	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02RlhC3XRJzBtwcPP775Y7UV7WsnlFa35CPknJlFmp29Dolbkz5P5voFbN25tZRPi	
	Impressions	158
	Reach	132
	Engagement	29
11.10.2023	#WB2EU Closing Event Addendum	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=702620991913112&set=a.29584494259072l	
	Impressions	102
	Reach	87
	Engagement	16
13.10.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02DhSvARTnIGvInx2XmseR9Y2ibHCogA2MlWc7qzX8aa3cEq5vpm9meTiwY85LXuvl	
	Impressions	99
	Reach	81
	Engagement	6
19.10.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02aMltsuvUozQ5bdmXQcxsY7cSx97liccUsvdeYraQ5p7qabh94NLBIEJ25VvyaU8l	
	Impressions	131
	Reach	106
	Engagement	17
30.10.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
European Western Balkans (Shared link)	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid02i7zka51pmAMFHvXohJRHdKRKgbS27K8E1RiHa33svw42JgrzixixNPY3E6hJhcl	
	Impressions	61
	Reach	48
	Engagement	1
20.11.2023	#WB2EU Final Publication	
POSTING	https://www.facebook.com/oeafe/posts/pfbid027F8fH8r23oPfywRw6xmKTPScJgYQ1WaFNRL1ZJ5abYWDnu8yCa74yk4Vz8QYl	
	Impressions	8104
	Reach	4644
	Engagement	242
04.12.2023	Cres Summer School 2023 (Follow-up event of the W82EU Summer School 2022)	
POSTING	European Western Balkans: op-ed	
	Impressions	118
	Reach	106
	Engagement	16

Sum

VIDEOS	
Views	13.678
Reach/Impressions	14.501
Engagement	755

LIVESTREAMS	
Views	9.510
Reach/Impressions	24.891
Engagement	93

POSTINGS	
Views	28.377
Reach/Impressions	28.596
Engagement	1.311

FACEBOOK EVENTS	
Views	0
Reach/Impressions	10.581
Engagement	3

Views	51.565
Reach/Impressions	78.569
Engagement	2.162

WB2EU Social Media Activities & Statistics

Twitter & X

18.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Announcement: Kick_Off Conference 01
	Reach/Impressions 11.410
	Engagement 251
18.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Announcement: Panel 1
	Reach/Impressions 1.918
	Engagement 36
18.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Announcement: Kick_Off Conference 03
	Reach/Impressions 1.519
	Engagement 23
18.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Announcement: "What is WB2EU?" - Kick_Off 03
	Reach/Impressions 1.856
	Engagement 44
22.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Edtstadler Video, WB2EU Kick-Off
	Reach/Impressions 5.123
	Engagement 119
22.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Announcement: Kick_Off Conference 04
	Reach/Impressions 4.471
	Engagement 92
23.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Announcement: Kick_Off Conference 05/Op-ed
	Reach/Impressions 4.882
	Engagement 23
23.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Kick_Off Conference: credits and summary
	Reach/Impressions 3.435
	Engagement 19
24.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Announcement: Kick_Off Conference - Panel 2
	Reach/Impressions 5.438
	Engagement 22
24.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Edtstadler Video 02
	Reach/Impressions 2.202
	Engagement 15
24.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Kick_Off Conference: "...wrap for our Western Balkans 2 EU Conference..."
	Reach/Impressions 4.239
	Engagement 68
24.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	Kick_Off Conference: credits, summary and preview
	Reach/Impressions 3.207
	Engagement 16
24.03.2021	#WB2EU
POSTING	"We are excited for you to ..."
	Reach/Impressions 3.208

	Engagement	43
08.06.2021	#WB2EU	
POSTING	Policy Brief Drafts	
	Reach/Impressions	1.687
	Engagement	66
28.06.2021	#WB2EU	
POSTING	Announcement: 1st Ideas Go Public Lab. Bosnia/Live Stream 01	
	Reach/Impressions	8.384
	Engagement	113
30.06.2021	#WB2EU	
POSTING	LIVE NOW! 1st Ideas Go Public Lab - Livestream	
	Reach/Impressions	2.571
	Engagement	59
24.09.2021	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	https://www.oegfe.at/policy-briefs/countering-the-rule-of-law-backsliding-in-the-western-balkans/?lang=en	
	Reach/Impressions	1.333
	Engagement	64
04.10.2021	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	What can the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union do for the Western Balkans?	
	Reach/Impressions	778
	Engagement	49
12.10.2021	#WB2EU	
POSTING	Announcement: 2st Ideas go public Lab 01	
	Reach/Impressions	4.131
	Engagement	131
14.10.2021	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	Rule of Law and Justice – Case Serbia	
	Reach/Impressions	9.112
	Engagement	192
14.10.2021	#WB2EU	
POSTING	Event: 2nd Ideas go public Lab	
	Reach/Impressions	1.337
	Engagement	27
14.10.2021	#WB2EU	
POSTING	"We are LIVE": 2st Ideas Go Public Lab, Ljubljana	
	Reach/Impressions	1.153
	Engagement	51
25.10.2021	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	Hungary, an anti-role model for successful EU integration?	
	Reach/Impressions	1.809
	Engagement	65
28.10.2021	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	The controversy of 'more (economic) freedom'. Can liberalisation in North Macedonia cause more problems than benefits?	
	Reach/Impressions	1.214
	Engagement	38
16.11.2021	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	The Rule of Law and Foreign Direct Investment in the Western Balkans: The Greek Experience	
	Reach/Impressions	992
	Engagement	45
01.12.2021	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	The Conditionality Regulation: A true European means to face a rule of law crisis in wider Europe and foster media freedom	
	Reach/Impressions	1.561
	Engagement	45
03.12.2021	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	Rule of Law and Justice in Croatia after the EU accession	
	Reach/Impressions	1.285
	Engagement	29
07.12.2021	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	State Capture versus Contestatory Citizenship in Bulgaria	

Reach/Impressions	1.154
Engagement	43

20.12.2021 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING The rule of law in Montenegro between deep polarisation and an unstable majority – how to get back on track?

Reach/Impressions	1.629
Engagement	46

22.12.2021 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING Lessons learned from the justice reform in Albania

Reach/Impressions	1.929
Engagement	54

19.01.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING Considering EU enlargement through the prism of security cooperation

Reach/Impressions	2.426
Engagement	128

20.01.2022 #WB2EU

POSTING Announcement: Phase II

Reach/Impressions	3.329
Engagement	82

30.01.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

VIDEO WB2EU Policy Brief: Inva Nela (CDI, Albania)

Views	284
Reach/Impressions	1.300
Engagement	69

07.02.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

VIDEO WB2EU Policy Brief: Aleksandar Stojanovski (EUROTHINK, North Macedonia)

Views	227
Reach/Impressions	1.010
Engagement	55

10.02.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING Building a constituency for rule of law. Lessons from the Romanian anti-corruption drive

Reach/Impressions	1.016
Engagement	49

11.02.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

VIDEO WB2EU Policy Brief: Marko Savković (BFPE, Serbia)

Views	129
Reach/Impressions	621
Engagement	27

13.02.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

VIDEO WB2EU Policy Brief: Nikica Kolar (IRMO, Croatia)

Views	111
Reach/Impressions	362
Engagement	19

14.02.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

VIDEO WB2EU Policy Brief: Christina Griessler (Andrássy Universität Budapest, Hungary)

Views	123
Reach/Impressions	466
Engagement	16

14.02.2022 Announcement: 3rd Ideas Lab Go Public, Pristina

POSTING 3rd ideas go public lab: Pristina

Impressions	1.587
Engagement	42

15.02.2022 Announcement

VIDEO #WB2EU Policy Brief Presentation Video: The following years will be decisive for the democratic and European future of the Western Balkans

Views	174
Reach/Impressions	914
Engagement	37

16.02.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

VIDEO WB2EU Policy Brief: Anna Krasteva (CERMES, Bulgaria)

Views	86
Reach/Impressions	402
Engagement	44

17.02.2022	Announcement		
POSTING	3rd Ideas go public Lab		
	Impressions	2,155	
	Engagement	111	
18.02.2022	3rd Ideas go public Lab		
POSTING	Succeeding despite..." - the challenges of "young Europeans" in Western Balkan countries.		
	Reach/Impressions	1,248	
	Engagement	63	
18.02.2022	That's a wrap for our #WB2EU 3rd Ideas go Public Lab in #Pristina		
POSTING	3rd ideas go public Lab		
	Reach/Impressions	1,832	
	Engagement	109	
12.05.2022	Announcement - Part 1		
POSTING	4th Ideas go public Lab		
	Reach/Impressions	4,359	
	Engagement	69	
12.05.2022	Announcement - Part 2		
POSTING	4th Ideas go public Lab		
	Reach/Impressions	344	
	Engagement	8	
17.05.2022	Announcement - Part 3		
POSTING	4th Ideas go public Lab		
	Reach/Impressions	1,782	
	Engagement	50	
19.05.2022	Announcement - Part 4		
POSTING	4th Ideas go public Lab		
	Reach/Impressions	2,286	
	Engagement	74	
03.06.2022	The Russia-Ukraine war must be the impetus for a new EU enlargement and neighbourhood policy, op-ed by Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, LSE EUROPP, 24 May 2022		
POSTING			
	Reach/Impressions	1,170	
	Engagement	70	
05.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School		
POSTING	Opening session of our #WB2EU summer school on Cres		
	Reach/Impressions	1,642	
	Engagement	119	
05.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School		
POSTING	Next up at our #WB2EU summer school is an exchange with @SCHIEDER		
	Reach/Impressions	480	
	Engagement	31	
05.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School		
POSTING	Finishing off the first day of our #WB2EU summer school with a round of #inspirationaltalks		
	Reach/Impressions	1,274	
	Engagement	85	
06.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School		
POSTING	Day 2 of our #WB2EU summer school on Cres starting off with an exchange on EU internal processes		
	Reach/Impressions	802	
	Engagement	82	
06.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School		
POSTING	The past session of our #WB2EU summer school was a creative workshop with @SeloSabic and @vedrandzihic		
	Reach/Impressions	1,234	
	Engagement	171	
06.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School		
POSTING	Finishing day 2 of our #WB2EU summer school with a round of evening inspiration		
	Reach/Impressions	1,032	
	Engagement	116	
07.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School		
POSTING	This morning our #WB2EU summer school started off with particularly interesting insights		
	Reach/Impressions	696	
	Engagement	50	
07.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School		

POSTING For tonight's inspirational talk of our #WB2EU summer school we invited ...
Reach/Impressions 835
Engagement 92

09.09.2022 WB2EU Summer School

POSTING That's a wrap for our #WB2EU "Next generation" summer school on Cres!
Reach/Impressions 1.559
Engagement 189

15.09.2022 Announcement Event 01

POSTING Our 5th Ideas go public Lab in Belgrade - here we come!
Reach/Impressions 17.673
Engagement 149

19.09.2022 Announcement Event 02

POSTING ... and we continue with panel 2 #wb2EU of our 5th Ideas go public Lab, Bgrade. Now Live!
Reach/Impressions 406
Engagement 16

21.09.2022 5th Ideas go public Lab

POSTING The 5th Ideas go public Lab in Belgrade was marked by many impulses and exciting discussions - Part 1
Reach/Impressions 679
Engagement 68

21.09.2022 5th Ideas go public Lab

POSTING The 5th Ideas go public Lab in Belgrade was marked by many impulses and exciting discussions - Part 2
Reach/Impressions 81
Engagement 6

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

POSTING-AR Our #WB2EU network met on Cres for our #NextGeneration Summer School
Reach/Impressions 2.340
Engagement 259

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

VIDEO Paul Schmidt
Views 51
Reach/Impressions 256
Engagement 57

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

VIDEO Vedran Džihčić
Views 39
Reach/Impressions 268
Engagement 50

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

VIDEO Senada Šelo Šabić
Views 43
Reach/Impressions 286
Engagement 48

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

VIDEO Andreas Schieder
Views 367
Reach/Impressions 1.854
Engagement 58

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

VIDEO Zharko Boshinov
Views 51
Reach/Impressions 313
Engagement 73

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

VIDEO Ioana Chilom
Views 44
Reach/Impressions 284
Engagement 51

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

VIDEO Vanna Ćurin
Views 45
Reach/Impressions 303
Engagement 86

23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Mirjana Đorđević		
	Views	55	
	Reach/Impressions	302	
	Engagement	73	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Fjollë Ibrahim		
	Views	71	
	Reach/Impressions	400	
	Engagement	102	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Katerina Juba		
	Views	58	
	Reach/Impressions	366	
	Engagement	158	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Csongor Körömi		
	Views	289	
	Reach/Impressions	1.790	
	Engagement	90	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Alice Lojić		
	Views	60	
	Reach/Impressions	463	
	Engagement	89	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Larissa Lojić		
	Views	54	
	Reach/Impressions	419	
	Engagement	75	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Smil Lokvančić		
	Views	56	
	Reach/Impressions	380	
	Engagement	90	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Dennis Miskiđ		
	Views	378	
	Reach/Impressions	1.589	
	Engagement	213	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Nikola Mumin		
	Views	30	
	Reach/Impressions	355	
	Engagement	42	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Elena Nikolova		
	Views	42	
	Reach/Impressions	398	
	Engagement	63	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Vanina Ninova		
	Views	68	
	Reach/Impressions	458	
	Engagement	94	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Sofija Popović		
	Views	39	
	Reach/Impressions	374	
	Engagement	42	
23.09.2022	Summer School, Cres, 2022		
VIDEO	Jasmina Šarić		

Views	38
Reach/Impressions	342
Engagement	34

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

VIDEO	Wiebke Stimming	
	Views	55
	Reach/Impressions	353
	Engagement	31

23.09.2022 Summer School, Cres, 2022

POSTING	Image	
	Reach/Impressions	504
	Engagement	42

13.10.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	The social impact of air pollution in the Western Balkans	
	Reach/Impressions	724
	Engagement	41

22.10.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	Cultural Policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Recognising Culture as an Integration Tool	
	Reach/Impressions	713
	Engagement	38

04.11.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	Return Migration in Bulgaria: A Policy Context of Missed Opportunities	
	Reach/Impressions	594
	Engagement	29

10.11.2022 Op-ed: Yes, EUTOPIA is possible! By the WB2EU network's Next Generation Summer School participants, European Western Balkans (EWB), 9 November 2022

POSTING	Reach/Impressions	8,658
	Engagement	143

10.11.2022 WB2EU Summer School

POSTING	Share Pic	
	Reach/Impressions	219
	Engagement	10

11.11.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	Kosovo: ending isolation	
	Reach/Impressions	823
	Engagement	38

17.11.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	The Vulnerability of Women in the Labour Market in Serbia	
	Reach/Impressions	3,486
	Engagement	46

24.11.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	Listening to the people: How the Green Agenda Action Plan can do better for the Western Balkans	
	Reach/Impressions	769
	Engagement	41

01.12.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	Demographic decline of Croatia: What is to be done?	
	Reach/Impressions	3,069
	Engagement	67

12.12.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	Digital Europeanisation in North Macedonia: slowly moving forward	
	Reach/Impressions	599
	Engagement	15

19.12.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	Youth Cooperation in the Serbian-Hungarian Context	
	Reach/Impressions	1,014
	Engagement	29

21.12.2022 #WB2EU Policy Brief

POSTING	Local elections in Montenegro: beyond political campaigns	
	Reach/Impressions	700
	Engagement	25

27.02.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Sustainable development in the Western Balkans: Is youth on board?		
	Reach/Impressions	759	
	Engagement	38	
09.03.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Making the EU and member states policy towards the Western Balkans socio-economically more sustainable		
	Reach/Impressions	897	
	Engagement	54	
15.03.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Bringing sustainability to the Western Balkan region		
	Reach/Impressions	722	
	Engagement	46	
16.03.2023	Announcement Event 01		
POSTING	On 23rd of March join us in Berlin to discuss what German "Zeitenwende" means for the Western Balkans		
	Reach/Impressions	861	
	Engagement	73	
28.03.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Kosovo's youth: Overcoming challenges and creating opportunities		
	Reach/Impressions	347	
	Engagement	8	
05.05.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Emigration from Romania: impact and legacy		
	Reach/Impressions	940	
	Engagement	29	
07.05.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Environmental democracy in the Western Balkans between dependent capitalism and integration into the European Union		
	Reach/Impressions	1.624	
	Engagement	84	
15.05.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Civil society: a driver for democratisation from below in Serbia		
	Reach/Impressions	1.278	
	Engagement	38	
06.07.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	The role of digitalisation in transforming Western Balkan societies		
	Reach/Impressions	643	
	Engagement	43	
13.07.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Civil society organisations and their "space" in backsliding democracies		
	Reach/Impressions	735	
	Engagement	25	
21.07.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	A missed opportunity? Civil society organisations in Greece and North Macedonia after the 2015 refugee		
	Reach/Impressions	776	
	Engagement	19	
02.08.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Citizens vs. Elites: Symbolic Battles Over the Uses of Political Crises in Bulgaria		
	Reach/Impressions	855	
	Engagement	30	
29.09.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief		
POSTING	Convergence of the Western Balkans towards the EU: from enlargement to cohesion		
	Reach/Impressions	759	
	Engagement	40	
04.10.2023	Announcement Closing Event 01		
POSTING	„Is EU enlargement really back on track?“, fragen wir uns beim Europa Club Spezial		
	Reach/Impressions	2.193	
	Engagement	80	
04.10.2023	Announcement Closing Event 02		
POSTING	We might conclude our joint #WB2EU project next Monday, but		
	Reach/Impressions	1.535	
	Engagement	66	

09.10.2023	Announcement Closing Event 03	
POSTING	Today we conclude our joint #WB2EU project, but rest assured there is a real new momentum and there is more to come	
	Reach/Impressions	5,351
	Engagement	109
09.10.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	From EU 'enlargement fatigue' to 'enlargement enthusiasm'?	
	Reach/Impressions	468
	Engagement	26
10.02.2023	WB2EU Closing Event	
POSTING	At our #WB2EU closing event ... Thank you for joining us yesterday & stay tuned!	
	Reach/Impressions	2,309
	Engagement	126
11.10.2023	WB2EU Closing Event	
POSTING	After exciting days in Vienna our truly inspiring has come to an end. Many thanks to all participants & partners	
	Reach/Impressions	853
	Engagement	69
13.10.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	Balancing Freedom of Expression and Democracy: The Case of the "Za Dom Spremni" Greeting in Croatia	
	Reach/Impressions	1,326
	Engagement	39
19.10.2023	#WB2EU Policy Brief	
POSTING	Democracy from below in Romania: how far can it get before breaking	
	Reach/Impressions	654
	Engagement	21
20.10.2023	WB2EU	
POSTING	Final Publication	
	Reach/Impressions	1,181
	Engagement	101

	Sum
WB2EU Videos	
Views	3,067
Reach/Impressions	16,628
Engagement	1,886
WB2EU Postings	
Reach/Impressions	197,797
Engagement	5,907

	Total
Views	3,067
Reach/Impressions	214,425
Engagement	7,793

WB2EU Social Media Activities & Statistics

Instagram

		Post	Story	Reels
14.10.2020	#WB2EU			
POSTING	Annoucement WB2EU Project			
	Views	0		
	Reach/Impressions	0		
	Engagement	6		
22.10.2021	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Hungary, an anti-role model for successful EU integration?			
	Views	0		
	Reach/Impressions	0		
	Engagement	12		
01.12.2021	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	The Rule of Law and Foreign Direct Investment in the Western Balkans: The Greek Experience			
	Views	0		
	Reach/Impressions	0		
	Engagement	11		
10.12.2021	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	The Conditionality Regulation: A true European means to face a rule of law crisis in wider Europe and foster			
	Views	0		
	Reach/Impressions	0		
	Engagement	12		
09.02.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	WB2EU Policy Brief: Christina Griessler (AUB, Hungary)			
	Views	0		
	Reach/Impressions	0		
	Engagement	11		
10.02.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Building a constituency for rule of law. Lessons from the Romanian anti-corruption drive			
	Views	0		
	Reach/Impressions	0		
	Engagement	7		
14.02.2022	WB2EU 3rd Ideas go public Lab			
POSTING	Annoucement: 3rd Ideas Go Public Lab			
	Views	0		
	Reach/Impressions	0		
	Engagement	7		
16.02.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	State Capture versus Contestatory Citizenship in Bulgaria			
	Views	0		
	Reach/Impressions	0		
	Engagement	8		
17.02.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Is there hope for Kosovo's rule of law system? Three immediate actions needed			
	Views	0		
	Reach/Impressions	0		
	Engagement	8		
24.02.2022	3rd Ideas go public Lab			

VIDEO	Jehona Gjurgjela		
	Views		73
	Reach/Impressions		0
	Engagement		11
07.03.2022	3rd Ideas go public Lab		
VIDEO	Vedran Džihic		
	Views		67
	Reach/Impressions		0
	Engagement		10
21.03.2022	3rd Ideas go public Lab		
VIDEO	Besa Luci		
	Views		33
	Reach/Impressions		0
	Engagement		8
22.03.2022	3rd Ideas go public Lab		
VIDEO	Eroll Bilibani		
	Views		45
	Reach/Impressions		0
	Engagement		10
17.05.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs		
POSTING	Announcement: 4rd Ideas Go Public Lab		
	Views	0	
	Reach/Impressions	0	
	Engagement	12	
04.09.2022	We are on our way to the WB2EU Summer School		
POSTING	Views	241	
	Reach/Impressions	246	
	Engagement	0	
05.09.2022	Opening Session of the WB2EU Summer School		
POSTING	Views	222	
	Reach/Impressions	225	
	Engagement	0	
05.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School Info		
POSTING	Views	196	
	Reach/Impressions	200	
	Engagement	0	
05.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School Q&A session		
POSTING	Views	185	
	Reach/Impressions	191	
	Engagement	0	
05.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School Afternoon Session with Andreas Schieder		
POSTING	Views	182	
	Reach/Impressions	190	
	Engagement	0	
05.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School Finishing 1st Day		
POSTING	Views	204	
	Reach/Impressions	212	
	Engagement	0	
06.09.2022	WB2EU Summer Day 2		
POSTING	Views	197	
	Reach/Impressions	203	
	Engagement	0	
06.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School Creative Workshop		

POSTING	Views	171
	Reach/Impressions	175
	Engagement	0
07.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School Andreas Schieder, Sofija Popović	
POSTING	Views	131
	Reach/Impressions	135
	Engagement	0
07.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School: IEP-Picture of Laptop	
POSTING	Views	115
	Reach/Impressions	119
	Engagement	0
07.09.2022	WB2EU Summer School: Wiebke Stimming	
POSTING	Views	108
	Reach/Impressions	112
	Engagement	0
14.09.2022	5th Ideas Go Public Lab	
VIDEO	Views	158
	Reach/Impressions	411
	Engagement	13
23.09.2022	Summer School Group Picture	
Shared content	Views	168
	Reach/Impressions	170
	Engagement	0
23.09.2022	Summer School Group Picture	
Shared content	Views	145
	Reach/Impressions	146
	Engagement	0
30.09.2022	Review Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Views	178
	Reach/Impressions	551
	Engagement	27
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Paul Schmidt	
	Views	42
	Reach/Impressions	112
	Engagement	14
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Vedran Džihić	
	Views	71
	Reach/Impressions	149
	Engagement	17
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Senada Šelo Šabić	
	Views	40
	Reach/Impressions	113
	Engagement	13
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Andreas Schieder	
	Views	49
	Reach/Impressions	121
	Engagement	16
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Zharko Boshinov	

	Views	182
	Reach/Impressions	498
	Engagement	22
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Ioana Chilom	
	Views	190
	Reach/Impressions	615
	Engagement	38
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Vanna Ćurin	
	Views	458
	Reach/Impressions	1.105
	Engagement	34
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Mirjana Đorđević	
	Views	43
	Reach/Impressions	264
	Engagement	16
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Fjollë Ibrahim	
	Views	51
	Reach/Impressions	267
	Engagement	15
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Katerina Juba	
	Views	56
	Reach/Impressions	127
	Engagement	14
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Csongor Kőrömi	
	Views	35
	Reach/Impressions	241
	Engagement	14
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Alice Lojić	
	Views	216
	Reach/Impressions	420
	Engagement	36
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Larissa Lojić	
	Views	199
	Reach/Impressions	368
	Engagement	38
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Smail Lokvančić	
	Views	58
	Reach/Impressions	299
	Engagement	18
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	
VIDEO	Dennis Miskić	
	Views	175
	Reach/Impressions	338
	Engagement	15
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022	

VIDEO	Nikola Mumin		
	Views		53
	Reach/Impressions		309
	Engagement		19
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022		
VIDEO	Elena Nikolova		
	Views		39
	Reach/Impressions		277
	Engagement		14
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022		
VIDEO	Vanina Ninova		
	Views		102
	Reach/Impressions		391
	Engagement		20
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022		
VIDEO	Sofija Popović		
	Views		53
	Reach/Impressions		279
	Engagement		11
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022		
VIDEO	Jasmina Šarić		
	Views		81
	Reach/Impressions		320
	Engagement		18
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022		
VIDEO	Wiebke Stimming		
	Views		35
	Reach/Impressions		138
	Engagement		12
30.09.2022	Summer School 2022		
VIDEO	Vanina Ninova		
	Views	78	
	Reach/Impressions	82	
	Engagement	0	
04.11.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs		
POSTING	Return Migration in Bulgaria: A Policy Context of Missed Opportunities		
	Views	300	118
	Reach/Impressions	362	119
	Engagement	17	0
11.11.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs		
	Kosovo: ending isolation		
	Views	287	
	Reach/Impressions	352	
	Engagement	15	
11.11.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs		
POSTING	The Vulnerability of Women in the Labour Market in Serbia		
	Views	303	122
	Reach/Impressions	367	122
	Engagement	16	0
24.11.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs		
POSTING	Listening to the people: How the Green Agenda Action Plan can do better for the Western Balkans		
	Views	144	98
	Reach/Impressions	199	101
	Engagement	9	0

01.12.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Senada Selo Sabic			
	Views	173	47	
	Reach/Impressions	226	47	
	Engagement	14	0	
12.12.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Digital Europeanisation in North Macedonia: slowly moving forward			
	Views	176	160	
	Reach/Impressions	231	161	
	Engagement	11	0	
19.12.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Youth Cooperation in the Serbian-Hungarian Context			
	Views	163		
	Reach/Impressions	214		
	Engagement	11		
21.12.2022	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Local elections in Montenegro: beyond political campaigns			
	Views	488	134	
	Reach/Impressions	550	135	
	Engagement	20	0	
27.02.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Sustainable development in the Western Balkans: Is youth on board?			
	Views	124		
	Reach/Impressions	143		
	Engagement	7		
03.03.2022	Die EU-Erweiterung – ein geopolitischer Imperativ, Gastkommentar von Martin Selmayr & Paul Schmidt			
POSTING	Views	202		
	Reach/Impressions	221		
	Engagement	13		
09.03.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Making the EU and member states policy towards the Western Balkans socio-economically more sustainable			
	Views	170		
	Reach/Impressions	197		
	Engagement	10		
16.03.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Bringing sustainability to the Western Balkan region			
	Views	155	135	
	Reach/Impressions	185	136	
	Engagement	9	0	
18.03.2023	Announcement			
POSTING	6th Ideas Go Public Lab			
	Views	229	68	
	Reach/Impressions	257	69	
	Engagement	15	0	
23.03.2022	WB2EU 6th Ideas go public Lab			
POSTING	Lab: About to start			
(shared content)	Views		93	
	Reach/Impressions		94	
	Engagement		0	
23.03.2022	WB2EU 6th Ideas go public Lab			
POSTING	IPE Berlin 01			
(shared content)	Views		84	
	Reach/Impressions		84	
	Engagement		0	

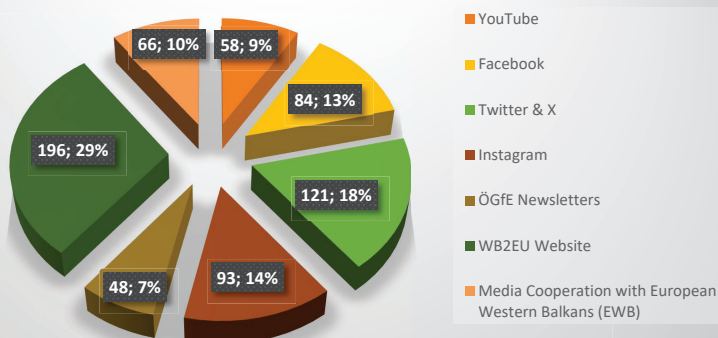
23.03.2022	WB2EU 6th Ideas go public Lab: Berlin			
POSTING	IPE Berlin 02			
(shared content)	Views		83	
	Reach/Impressions		83	
	Engagement		0	
28.04.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Kosovo's youth: Overcoming challenges and creating opportunities			
	Views	169		
	Reach/Impressions	191		
	Engagement	6		
05.05.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Emigration from Romania: impact and legacy			
	Views	170		
	Reach/Impressions	191		
	Engagement	7		
07.06.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Environmental democracy in the Western Balkans between dependent capitalism and integration into the			
	Views	101		
	Reach/Impressions	111		
	Engagement	6		
15.06.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Civil society: a driver for democratisation from below in Serbia			
	Views	232	92	
	Reach/Impressions	273	94	
	Engagement	14	0	
06.07.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	The role of digitalisation in transforming Western Balkan societies			
	Views	154		
	Reach/Impressions	168		
	Engagement	8		
13.07.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Civil society organisations and their "space" in backsliding democracies			
	Views	413		
	Reach/Impressions	446		
	Engagement	6		
21.07.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	A missed opportunity? Civil society organisations in Greece and North Macedonia after the 2015 refugee			
	Views	168		
	Reach/Impressions	180		
	Engagement	7		
02.08.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Citizens vs. Elites: Symbolic Battles Over the Uses of Political Crises in Bulgaria			
	Views	163		
	Reach/Impressions	186		
	Engagement	5		
19.09.2023	WB2EU Summer School			
POSTING	Paul Schmidt: There will be no enlargement without reform			
	Views		166	
	Reach/Impressions		170	
	Engagement		0	
22.09.2023	WB2EU Summer School			
POSTING	Paul Schmidt: It's a wrap! Our 2nd Summerschool ...			
	Views		191	
	Reach/Impressions		192	
	Engagement		0	

29.09.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Convergence of the Western Balkans towards the EU: from enlargement to cohesion			
	Views	105	152	
	Reach/Impressions	113	152	
	Engagement	5	0	
03.10.2023	Announcement - Part 1			
POSTING	Closing Event: "Is EU enlargement back on track?"			
	Views	194	138	
	Reach/Impressions	273	139	
	Engagement	24	0	
03.10.2023	Announcement Closing Event - Story 1		118	
POSTING			119	
(shared content)			0	
03.10.2023	Announcement Closing Event - Story 2		112	
POSTING			113	
(shared content)			0	
03.10.2023	Announcement Closing Event - Story 3		106	
POSTING			107	
(shared content)			0	
09.10.2023	Announcement - Part 2			
	Closing Event: "Is EU enlargement back on track?"			
	Views	182	95	
	Reach/Impressions	232	101	
	Engagement	29	0	
09.10.2023	Auferstehung der EU-Erweiterung? Gastkommentar Vedran Džihic & Paul Schmidt, Der Standard, 8. Oktober 2023			
	Views	204	94	
	Reach/Impressions	224	99	
	Engagement	13	0	
09.10.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	From EU 'enlargement fatigue' to 'enlargement enthusiasm'?			
	Views	134	93	
	Reach/Impressions	154	98	
	Engagement	7	0	
10.10.2023	Closing Event Vienna			
POSTING	"Our #WB2EU Event is happening now!"			
(shared content)	Views	100	97	
	Reach/Impressions	103	98	
	Engagement	0	0	
10.10.2023	Closing Event Vienna			
POSTING	"Yesterday we discussed new dynamics and old obstacles on the track to EU enlargement with ..."			
	Views	309		
	Reach/Impressions	334		
	Engagement	33		
11.10.2023	Closing Event Vienna			
POSTING	After exciting days in Vienna our truly inspiring 3-year EU-Project has come to an end.			
	Views	308		
	Reach/Impressions	329		
	Engagement	36		
13.10.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Balancing Freedom of Expression and Democracy: The Case of the "Za Dom Spremni" Greeting in Croatia			
	Views	143		
	Reach/Impressions	159		
	Engagement	4		

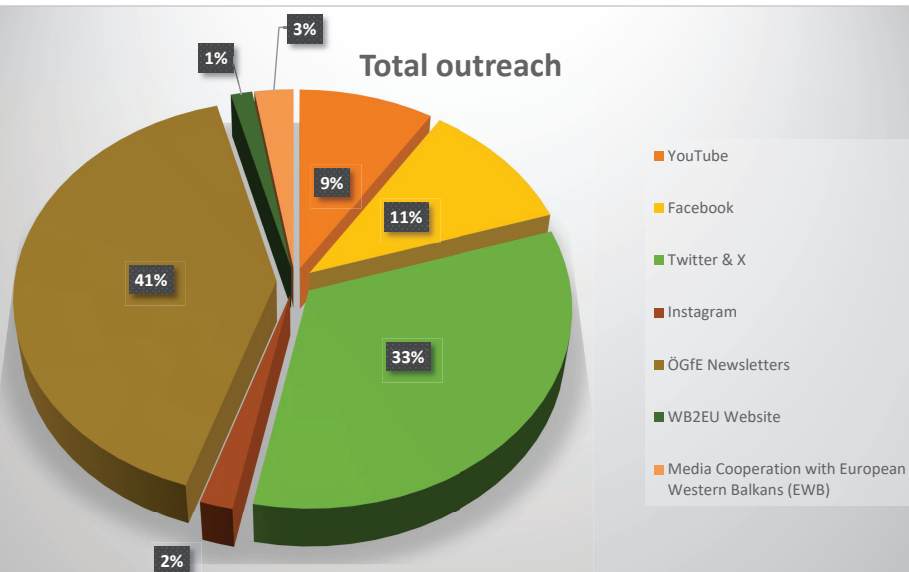
19.10.2023	WB2EU Policy Briefs			
POSTING	Democracy from below in Romania: how far can it get before breaking			
	Views	156	88	
	Reach/Impressions	195	92	
	Engagement	6	0	
20.11.2023	WB2EU			
POSTING	Final Publication			
	Views	211		
	Reach/Impressions	266		
	Engagement	20		
04.12.2023	Cres Summer School 2023 (Follow-up event of the WB2EU Summer School 2022): Joint op-ed			
POSTING	"Towards a more equal and democratic Europe"			
	Views	224		
	Reach/Impressions	246		
	Engagement	19		
05.12.2023	Cres Summer School 2023 (Follow-up event of the WB2EU Summer School 2022): Joint op-ed			
POSTING	"Towards a more equal and democratic Europe"			
	Views		98	
	Reach/Impressions		98	
	Engagement		0	
		Post	Story	Reels
Sum	WB2EU Videos			
	Views			2.782
	Reach/Impressions			7.713
	Engagement			493
Sum	WB2EU Postings			
	Views	6.654	5.128	
	Reach/Impressions	7.775	5.234	
	Engagement	516	0	
Sum	Views	6.654	5.128	2.782
	Reach/Impressions	7.775	5.234	7.713
	Engagement	516	0	493
				Total
				14.564
				20.722
				1.009

Media	Total number of activities	Total outreach
YouTube	58	58,997
Facebook	84	71,177
Twitter & X	121	214,800
Instagram	93	12,098
ÖGfE Newsletters	48	265,335
WB2EU Website	196	9,397
Media Cooperation with European Western Balkans (EWB)	66	17,007
	666	648,811

Total number of activities



Total outreach



The WB2EU Network



ANDRÁSSY
UNIVERSITÄT
BUDAPEST



Cooperation &
Development
Institute
Instituti për Bashkëpunim
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