

The New Enlargement Strategy for the Western Balkans: How to Enhance Civil Society Role in Anti-Corruption and Good Governance

Roundtable Discussion

Venue: Hotel Hilton, Milica Hall

Podgorica, Montenegro

EC President Juncker listed Montenegro and Serbia as the next in line candidates from the Western Balkans to join the European Union, in one of the ten priorities of the “Roadmap for a More United, Stronger and More Democratic Union”. To achieve this objective however, they should create a consistent strategy for accession, with “particular emphasis on the rule of law, fundamental rights and the fight against corruption and on the overall stability of the region.” This is a process, which could only be successful through the collaboration between the government and the civil society.

The roundtable discussion will review recent CSO efforts in corruption assessment and monitoring and will explore the potential for synergies with public bodies at national and regional level in SEE in light of the EC Roadmap for the region. It will focus on the topic of anti-corruption in the framework of the Berlin Process and the new Enlargement Strategy for the Western Balkans. The participants will share experience in implementing new and innovative corruption monitoring methodologies, as well as ideas on how to utilize the principles of public-private partnership and to keep the focus of the EU and local elites on good governance and anti-corruption. During the discussion they will have the possibility to exchange views on the effectiveness of the EU conditionality strategy when addressing the gaps in the rule of law, and the fight against corruption and state capture. How should the EU Enlargement strategy change to keep the focus on anticorruption while investing more in infrastructure and economic development? What should the EC and civil society do to reverse the theoretical link between increased funding and its inefficiency in the presence of high levels of systemic corruption risks? Can civil society help avert the seeming choice of “stabilitocracy” in the region? Are alternative models for the region proposed by Russia, China, Turkey and/or others viable and what can civil society do to aid the further democratization of the Western Balkans? What role should and can SELDI play in the new Western Balkans Integrated Security Governance Initiative and reinvigorated international attention towards the region? Which public institutions should it focus its attention to until 2021?

AGENDA
28 November, 2017

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10.00 – 10.30	<p>Opening</p> <p>Mr. Ruslan Stefanov, Coordinator, Southeast European Leadership for Development and Integrity (SELDI)</p> <p>Ms. Milica Kovačević, Centre for Democratic Transition, Montenegro</p>
10.30 – 12.30	<p><i>SELDI Anti-Corruption Monitoring Instruments: Sustainable Policy Impact through State-of-the-Art-Research and Advocacy</i></p> <p>Ms. Daniela Mineva, Research Fellow, SELDI / Center for the Study of Democracy, BG</p> <p><i>Civil Society's Role in Guarding the Public Interest and Enhancing the Public Administration Reform</i></p> <p>Ms Milena Milošević, Public Policy Researcher, Institute Alternative, MNT</p> <p><i>Balkan Civil Society Development and Policy Participation</i></p> <p>Mr. Aleksandar Kržalovski, Executive Director, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, MK</p> <p><i>Clientelism and Corruption as Crisis Generators and Obstacles Towards Integration and Development</i></p> <p>Ms Vlora Rechica, Researcher, Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis' Skopje (IDSCS), MK</p> <p><i>Use of New Technologies and Monitoring Tools for Countering Corruption</i></p> <p>Mr. Darko Brkan, President, Zasto Ne, BiH</p> <p>Mr. Ramadan Sopot, Researcher, Albanian Center for Economic Research (ACER), AL</p> <p><i>The New Enlargement Strategy for the Western Balkans and the Role of the CSOs</i></p> <p>Mr. Stefan Karaboev, Analyst, SELDI / Center for the Study of Democracy, BG</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Ruslan Stefanov, Coordinator, Southeast European Leadership for Development and Integrity (SELDI)</p>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch