



Equality Matters!

Inequality in the Western Balkans – An impediment for joining the EU?

21 November
13h00-14h30
(light lunch from 12h30)

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung EU Office
Rue du Taciturne 38
Brussels

Program

The European discourse on transition mainly looks at democratization through growth. But might the current enlargement strategy have it wrong after all? Is it truly a “functioning market economy” that leads to democracy? Does not the reverse hold true, that is non-inclusive growth might undermine democratic development? Unleashing the market where social structures are weak means giving advantage to those already powerful and well-connected. An unfair economic competition entrenches social and political inequality – leading to unstable, indebted economies, low levels of trust, participation, happiness, health, public safety, education, and social mobility. To discuss the new [FES study on inequality in Southeast Europe](#), we would like to invite you to our roundtable debate:

from 12h30	Light Lunch
13:00	Welcoming remarks Marco Schwarz, <i>FES EU Office</i>
13:05	Presentation of the key findings of the study Mirna Jusić, <i>Analitika Centre for Social Research</i>
13:30	Comment by Nikolina Obradović, <i>University of Mostar</i>
13:45	Comment by Tonino Picula MEP, <i>S&D Group in the European Parliament</i>
14:00	Q&A
14:30	End of event