

## European Centre BBinars: Social Policies in Eastern Europe: Social spending in times of Covid-19

The aim of this series of webinars is to offer members of the [Eastern European Social Policy Network](#) (EESPN), European Centre colleagues and a wider audience, interested in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership region a possibility to exchange at a practical level about common challenges and progress on different social policy areas.

The first BBinar will discuss the performance of countries in the Western Balkan region on issues covered under the European Pillar of Social Rights, building on the recently published [country reports](#), [cross-country overview report](#) and the updated [Social Scoreboard](#). More concretely, the webinar will take a critical view on some of the targeted social assistance programmes in Serbia and in other countries in the region. Newly introduced measures, such as the universal one-off cash grant or the social card are expected to contribute to reducing inequalities within society. However, considering the enormous social challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic and other factors, it is unclear whether they will become effective tools for social inclusion and have an impact on poverty reduction.

Time & Date: **30 November 2021, 14:00-15:30**, online (via Zoom).

### Agenda:

14:00-14:15: **Introductory input by Mihail Arandarenko**, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Economics (Serbia)

14:15-14:50: **Brief reflections by:**

- **Bernd Wild**, European Commission, DG NEAR (Belgium)
- **Amira Ramhorst**, RCC (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Rahel Kahlert**, European Centre (Austria)
- **Veronica Sandu**, European Centre (Austria)

14:50-15:30: **Q&A and discussion with the audience**

Moderator: **Magdi BIRTHA** (European Centre)

To register, please click [here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Magdi BIRTHA ([birtha@euro.centre.org](mailto:birtha@euro.centre.org)) or Monika Hunjadi ([hunjadi@euro.centre.org](mailto:hunjadi@euro.centre.org))

