



The European Centre has launched BBinars, a series of webinars, on social policy in Eastern Europe. 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, especially interested in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership region a possibility to exchange and learn among peers.

The format includes input by our research partners, policy makers from the region, policy experts, civil society organisations or from international organisations, reflections from relevant actors from the region and European Centre staff, as well as a moderated discussion with the audience.

## **Labour Migration: Drivers, impact, and responses in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries**

The ninth BBinar will focus on discussing how high emigration rates from the Western Balkans, particularly among young and skilled workers, combined with the other unfavourable demographic trends, have turned the region with once characterised with abundance of available workforce into a region facing significant labour shortages. The issue is particularly pronounced in some of the key sectors such as healthcare, IT, and manufacturing, limiting the growth of these sectors. In response, countries in the region have started to redesign their immigration policies aimed at easing the employment of foreigners. The questions of expected effectiveness of such policies and implementation of related policies that will assure protection of migrant workers' rights and full utilisation of their skills remain to be answered. The BBinar aims to focus on (1) the key trends and motivations of migration from the Western Balkans, (2) its impact on labour markets and the policies of adjustment, and the (3) various measures undertaken by countries in the region to address migration driven labour shortages.

**Time & Date: 6 February 2025, 10:00 – 11:30 (CEST); online (via Zoom), English.**

### **Agenda:**

#### **10:00 – 10:10: Introductory input (Welcome)**

- Sonila Danaj, Lead of Employment and Mobility research team, European Centre (Austria)

#### **10:10 – 10:25: Input presentation from**

- Nermin Oruč, PhD, Director of Research at the Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research (CREDI) (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

#### **10:25 – 10:55: Comments to the presentation from**

- Bresena Kopliku PHD, Lecturer, University of Shkodra (Albania)
- Tibor Meszmann, PHD, Project Coordinator, Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI) (Slovakia)
- Olena Fedyuk, DR, Researcher, Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI) (Slovakia)

#### **10:55 – 11:30: Q&A and discussion with audience**

**Moderator:** Sonila Danaj, European Centre (Austria)

If you have any questions, please contact Sabina Gjylsheni ([gjylsheni@euro.centre.org](mailto:gjylsheni@euro.centre.org)).