

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.

Pension systems in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries: between financial sustainability and adequacy

The tenth BBinar will focus on the state, functioning and target achievement of pension systems in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries as of today and forecasted for the future. Starting with the increasing challenges posed by demographic change (keywords: rising life expectancy, falling birth rates, emigration, ratio of contributors to pensioners), the pillars of the pension systems and their most important (reformed) parameters like legal pension age, accrual rates, deductions for early retirement are analysed. We will also address the situation on the labour markets and the extent to which these enable older people to remain in employment for longer. An attempt is made to position the pension systems in terms of their balance between the (sometimes contradictory) goals of financial sustainability (contribution rates, public subsidy requirement, pension expenditure as % of GDP, etc.) on the one hand and adequacy or prevention of poverty in old age (poverty rate of people 65+, requirements for and level of minimum pension, coverage by social assistance, etc.) on the other hand. Finally, potential plans for reform and expert recommendations will be discussed.

Time & Date: **24 June 2025, 11:00 – 12:30 (CEST)**; online (via Zoom), English.

Agenda:

11:00 – 11:10: Introductory input (Welcome)

- **Micheal Fuchs**, Researcher, Social Protection and Inclusion research team, European Centre (Austria)

11:10 – 11:25: Input presentation from

- **Muamer Halilbašić**, Director, Sarajevo Institute of Economics (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

11:25 – 11:55: Comments to the presentation from

- **Prof. Dr. Gordana Matković**, Program Director, Center for Social Policy (Serbia)
- **Michael Herrmann**, Senior Advisor, Economics and Demography (United Nations Population Fund)
- **Tigran Jrbashyan**, Ameria CJSC, Partner, Director of Management Advisory Services, Team Leader of UNFPA funded “Development of population strategy and results framework for Armenia” and “National Transfer Accounts” projects

11:55 – 12:30: Q&A and discussion with audience

Moderator: Michael Fuchs, European Centre (Austria)

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