

## Western Balkans: Jobs, People, and Opportunities – What's the Future?

### AGENDA

**Date and time: 9 November 2021, 14:30 – 17:00**

**Location & attendance: By invitation only; virtual (Zoom; connection details reiterated at the bottom of page 2).**

Moderator: Tim Judah (*The Economist*)

14:30 – 14:35 Welcome and introductory remarks: Florian Meyerhöfer, Head of Division, European Affairs & Studies; Tim Judah

### **14:35 – 15:25: PART I - Social and private sector investments in the region**

14:35 – 14:50: Edo Omic, Economist, CEB: Brief intro & focus on education

- ***Social Infrastructure in the Western Balkans: How education sector investments contribute to the region's economic resilience, enhancing human capital and counteracting the effects of brain drain***

14:50 – 15:05: Zsoka Koczán, Senior Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

- ***Changing economic models in the Western Balkans***

15:05 – 15:15: Respondent time

- Enrica Chiozza, Coordinator – Private sector competitiveness, WBIF/European Commission

15:15 – 15:25: Q&A from the audience

15:25 – 15:30: Break

### **15:30 – 16:25: PART II - Migration/'brain drain' from the region and the policy response(s)**

15:30 – 15:45: Michael Landesmann, Senior Research Associate, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

- ***Recent migration patterns; push and pull factors for the region's young, with a focus on 'brain drain'***

15:45 – 16:00: Siniša Marčić, Expert on Human Capital Development, Regional Cooperation Council

- ***Human capital development and fighting the brain drain: Recent progress with the Common Regional Market Action Plan.***

16:00 – 16:10: Respondent time

- Peter Grk, Western Balkans Coordinator at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Secretary-General of Bled Strategic Forum

16:10 – 16:25: Q&A from the audience (Part II, Part I presentations)

**16:25 – 16:55: Part III: What's the Future? (roundtable discussion)**

- Comments/remarks from all participants on the presentations and/or ongoing and future initiatives of relevance for the region, with a focus on 'going forward'

16:55 – 17:00: Closure (Tim Judah)