



Academia in Dialogue Forum

(Discussion Panel)

Rise of far-right and identity politics: (South-East) European experiences

In the past decade, we have witnessed a significant rise of far-right politics in almost all of Europe, including Southeast Europe, with common features of far-right movements and parties shared across Europe. Southeast Europe's far-right is inspired both by similar tendencies in the European Union as well as analogous trends in Russia, thus forming a very vivid "right-wing pro-fascist International" (Boris Buden). While the far-right in Southeast Europe is still seen as a marginal phenomenon, its ideological closeness to pervasive authoritarian patterns and ideologies in the region is very worrying. To put it directly, the far-right ideology, discourses, and policies are directed against democratic institutions and those democratic and emancipatory forces fighting for more democratic, free, and just societies. Against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and the socio-economic crisis that is already hitting the region, we will probably see an increase in socio-economic hardship and also fears in societies, thus creating favorable conditions for a rise in the popularity of radical ideologies and the far right. The negative impact on already weak democracies could again be dramatic. In this public debate, we will take a closer look at the key features of regional far-right and its position within the "far-right" International, explore possible negative dynamics for democracy in the region, but also look beyond towards possible strategies to cope with the far-right danger and to revive democracy.

Agenda

November 30, 2020

Timeline		Moderation
17h15	Meeting Room Open	
17h30	Welcome by the Director of the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation Regional Dialogue Southeast Europe (FES SOE) Office, Ralf Melzer	
17h35	Introduction to the agenda	Harun Cero, FES SOE
17h40	The Far-Right in the EU and the Western Balkans – Discussion Panel: Heidi Beirich, Global Project Against Hate and Extremism; Andras Biro-Nagy, Policy Solutions, Budapest; Ivan Vejvoda, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna	Vedran Džihic, Institute for Democratic Engagement Southeast Europe (IDESE)
18h20	5 min break	
18h25	Open Discussion: Jelena Dureinovic, University of Vienna; Andras Biro-Nagy, Policy Solutions, Budapest; Heidi Beirich, Global Project Against Hate and Extremism; Dario Cepo, University of Zagreb; Kostis Karpozilos, Contemporary Social History Archives (ASKI), Athens; Ivan Stefanovski, Eurothink - Centre for European Strategies, Skopje; Ljupco Petkovski, Eurothink - Centre for European Strategies, Skopje; Dimitar Nikolovski, Institute of Advanced Studies Kószeg; Bora Mema, Institute for Critique and Social Emancipation, Tirana, Vedran Džihic, Institute for Democratic Engagement Southeast Europe (IDESE)	Gazela Pudar-Dražko, Institute for Democratic Engagement Southeast Europe (IDESE)
18h55	Conclusion	