



Invitation to the International Online Conference “Young People, Migration and the Demographic Challenge in the Western Balkans”, 28-30 October 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

The German Federal Foreign Office, the Southeast Europe Association and the Aspen Institute Germany are delighted to jointly invite you to an international conference entitled “Young People, Migration and the Demographic Challenge in the Western Balkans”. The three-day online event will take place from 28 to 30 October 2020 and is part of the official programme of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Hosted by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and Minister of State Michael Roth, the first conference day will include Ministers from the Western Balkans, representatives from the European Commission, as well as youth representatives.

Throughout the second and third conference day, experts and stakeholders from civil society and international organisations will shed light on both the phenomenon of emigration from the Western Balkans and the challenges and opportunities this entails. The goal is to offer more insight into why people decide to leave and the effects this exodus has on countries of origin, as well as to develop recommendations for policy responses. These issues will also be discussed with an eye to the burden that the COVID-19 pandemic is placing on the region.

The conference will take place in a digital event space, designed for the purpose of our conference. Besides the panels, there will be short videos providing testimony from young people from the region about their experiences, hopes and expectations. The conference will be held in English, and interpretation will be available for the Ministers’ panel.

We invite you to take a look at our preliminary agenda:

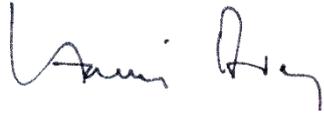
<https://www.sogde.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ProgrammMigrationConf.pdf>

Please use the following link to register as a participant no later than 26 October 2020:

<https://www.sogde.org/veranstaltung/anmeldung-registrations/>

We would be delighted to welcome you to this German Presidency of the Council of the European Union event.

On behalf of the Southeast Europe Association and the Aspen Institute Germany,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hansjörg Brey'.

Dr. Hansjörg Brey
Executive Director
Southeast Europe Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Valeska Esch'.

Valeska Esch
Deputy Executive Director
Aspen Institute Germany