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| EVENT NAME | **Workshop on Migration and Human Capital in Serbia and in the Western Balkans** |
| LOCATION | **Online, hosted in Zoom** |
| DATE | **9 July 2020, 10:00 – 13:00** |
| REGISTRATION | [**https://wiiw.ac.at/e-479.html**](https://wiiw.ac.at/e-479.html) |
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**CONCEPT**

Western Balkan countries are characterised by declining population driven by low birth rates, ageing of the population and ongoing migration. Emigration from the region has persistently continued since the 1990s. The trends, stages and nature of migration outflows have been affected by one or more of push and pull factors: e.g. poverty, high unemployment, low wages, skills mismatch, ethnic conflicts as well as general political and economic instability in the countries. Over time migration has evolved from irregular low to medium-skilled labour migration towards regular family unification, international students, and more recently to high-skilled migration. Since the beginning of 2000s, the level of education of migrant workers has been increasing consistently, as more graduates started to emigrate.

The online workshop will address the issue of skilled migration. It aims to shed light on the triangular relationships between human capital formation, labour markets and migration and determine the role of malfunctioning of education systems and labour markets on migration. The workshop is part of the ETF Study “Migration dynamics from human capital perspective in the six Western Balkan countries”, which is carried out jointly with the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw). Due to the availability and comparability of good quality data sources, Serbia has been chosen as the first country of analysis in this study. The other Western Balkan countries’ studies will follow. The draft country report of Serbia will be shared with the participants a few days before the workshop.

**Objective:** The objective of the workshop is to present and discuss the preliminary results of the pilot country study for Serbia in a small group of participants from academia, public institutions, civil society and researchers in Serbia, as well as the project teams of ETF and wiiw, including national experts from Western Balkan countries.

Key topics of discussion include the causes and effects of migration flows from Serbia and the Western Balkans: What are the main drivers of migration? What is the educational/skill composition of migrants? What is the prevailing type of migration – circular or permanent? What role do the policies of the destination countries play in migration decisions? What are the characteristics of the labour market and educational structures that affect migration flows? Which policies can improve the triangular relationship between migration, education and labour markets?

**Outcome:** The outcome of the workshop is to check and validate the preliminary findings of the pilot country study for Serbia. The feedback received from the participants will feed in finalising the study which is work in progress. The final version of the country report will be disseminated widely, as will the other country reports that will follow afterwards.

**Workshop on Migration and Human Capital in Serbia and in the Western Balkans, 9 July 2020 (Thursday), 10:00 – 13:00**

**AGENDA**

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| 09:45 – 10:00 | The host open to allow participants checking technicalities (ie. video, sound) |
| 10:00 – 10:10 | Welcome and introduction   * Mr Xavier Matheu de Cortada, ETF, Head of Policy Unit * Ms Bojana Stanić, State Secretary, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Social and Veteran Affairs (Serbia) (tbc) |
| 10:10 – 10:40  10:40 – 11:40 | **Chairperson:** Michael Landesmann, wiiw Project Coordinator  **Serbian country study: Understanding the interaction between migration, human capital and labour market,** Mihail Arandarenko, University of Belgrade  **Panel discussion**  Discussants: Professor Danica Šantić, Professor Slobodan Cvejić, Dragana Marjanovic (EBRD office in Belgrade)   * Questions and discussion |
| 11:40 – 11:50 | Coffee Break |
| 11:50 – 12:20  12:20 – 12:50 | **A cohort approach to estimate net-migration flows,** Sandra Leitner, wiiw   * Discussant: Professor Gorana Krstic (University of Belgrade)   Questions and discussion  **Basic relationships between human capital, migration and labour markets: an econometric investigation,** Isilda Mara, wiiw   * Discussant: Professor Will Bartlett (London School of Economics)   Questions and discussion |
| 12:50 – 13:00 | Conclusions and next steps, Ummuhan Bardak, ETF |

**Organisational details**

This online workshop will be held in English, and it will be hosted as a zoom meeting. One day before the event, registered participants will receive a *join link* by mail. Please access it already at 9.45 in order to test your technical compatibility, video and audio settings. Should you have any question or need further information, please contact Ms Janyrova (janyrova@wiiw.ac.at).