FES Dialogue SOE is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Social protection policy paper - online promotion**  
Time: Sep 23, 2020 10:00 AM Budapest

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89852480445?pwd=VndVbVZjTytUc2RHbW9FOWRUcFpEdz09

Meeting ID: 898 5248 0445
Passcode: 793327

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**Policy study - online promotion**

Speaker: Gordana Matković and Paul Stubbs

**SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**

Responding to the Covid-19 Crisis

Gordana Matković and Paul Stubbs  
July 2020

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Description for invite:

Though numbers of COVID-19 cases or deaths in the Western Balkans are not yet amongst the highest when looked at in a comparative perspective, the crisis related to the pandemic has impacted negatively on already weak social protection systems in the region. The broader social impacts of the crisis are likely to be both severe and long-lasting.

In this rapid assessment, based on a review of the literature and extensive information provided by key stakeholders, we focus less on providing a full picture of social protection responses across the region and more on an informed analysis leading to reasoned recommendations. In a region where policies are not always evidence-based, there is an absence of accurate, disaggregated data on the social impacts of the pandemic. In a region that combines a narrow epidemiological focus, authoritarian, instrumentalist politics, and low trust in institutions, social protection responses may not necessarily have strengthened community resilience.

Authors Gordana Matković and Paul Stubbs, with support of The Future of the Welfare state experts wrote the policy paper “Social Protection in Western Balkan – Responding to the COVID19 Crises” as an extension to the social dimension paper that FES SOE has commissioned last year.

Due to the pandemic, we decided to take an online promotion of the policy paper on the 23rd of September from 10.00-11.30 A.M. We invite you to join us online to discuss all the challenges in social protection systems caused by COVID 19.