

*\*Simultaneous interpretation will be provided through entire activity*

## PROGRAM

### **National Convention on European Integration 2021-2023**

#### **Working Group V (Trade and Economy Issues)**

**Topic: Regional cooperation initiatives in Western Balkans - achievements, limitations and their commitment to EU integration**

*Thursday, 16th of March 2023, 14:00 – 15:35*

*Europe House Tirana*

**13:45 - 14:00 Registration of Participants**

**14:00 – 14:10 Welcoming of the activity**

**Mona Xhexhaj**, Executive Director, Academy of European Integration and Negotiations

**14:10 – 14:30 Common Regional Market – its objectives and results in deepening the regional economic integration**

**Odeta Barbullushi**, Advisor to Prime Minister of Albania

- *Main objectives and principles of CRM*
- *Results achieved in four dimensions of CRM: trade, investment, mobility, digitalization*
- *How CRM is accelerating the EU integration process of the region*
- *Future plans and overcoming of the challenges*

**14:30 – 14:50 Regional Cooperation in the Western Balkan: An Overloaded or Overlapping Agenda**

**Gentjan Skara**, Head of Department of Law, Bedër University College

- *Analytic comparison of regional cooperation initiatives (CEFTA 2006, RCC, Berlin Process, Open Balkan)*
- *Main advantages or disadvantages of each initiative*
- *How they are committed to EU integration of the region?*

**14:50 – 15:00 Open discussion with participants**

**15:00 – 15:25 Regional cooperation not as a duplication of EU integration – Visegrad Cooperation experience as a success story?**

**Tomáš Strážay**, Director of the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPA)

- *Main objectives, fields and principles of Visegrad Cooperation*
- *The structure of Visegrad cooperation – actors involved and their role*
- *How it is interlinked with EU membership and EU structures for V4 countries*
- *What can WB region learn from this cooperation? – Transferring the Experiences of Visegrad Cooperation to the Western Balkans*
- *The involvement of V4 in the Berlin Process*

**15:25 – 15:35 Open discussion with participants**

**Cocktail**

Details for ZOOM meeting:

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88582412349?pwd=eGREekRsRy9WcmowK0ovamxudFJjUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 885 8241 2349

**Passcode:** NCEI-AL

**Password of WIFI at Europe House:** europehouse2022