

Platform Revolution: Shaping the Future of Work in the EU and Western Balkans

Location: Av. des Arts 46, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Date: 22–23 October 2025

Programme outline

Day 1: Mapping Realities: Understanding Platform Work in the Western Balkans and V4

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM **Registration and welcome coffee**

12:30 PM – 12:40 PM **Opening remarks**

Martin Vokálek, Executive Director, EUROPEUM

László Andor, Secretary General, Foundation for European Progressive Studies

12:40 PM - 1:10 PM **Keynote Speech : The Platform Revolution - Shaping the Future of Work in the EU and Western Balkans**

Introducing the Platform Revolution project, an eight-country project mapping platform work in the V4 and Western Balkans and examining the social effects of platform work in both regions. The keynote will present the project's objectives and findings, focusing on improving fairness in platform work regulation and addressing shared challenges.

Silke Maes, Project Lead Researcher, EUROPEUM

1:10 PM - 2:40 PM **Panel Discussion: Mapping platform work: Similar drivers, different outcomes? Comparing the platform work landscape in the WB and V4**

The panel will explore and compare the defining features and driving factors of platform work in both regions. It will examine the scale and types of platform work, the profiles of platform workers, and the key drivers shaping its

development. The discussion will also consider the extent to which platform work is a topic of conversation – how it is framed, whether it is seen as an opportunity, and the controversies surrounding it. The discussion will adopt a comparative lens to understand how platform work is evolving across both regions, highlighting both common challenges and region-specific dynamics.

Ana Milinković, European Policy Center (RS)

Darko Antik, Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women

Ivana Božović, Institute Alternativa

Sonila Muskaj, Cooperation and Development Institute

Alexandra Tomášová, Slovak Foreign Policy Association

Tibor Meszmann, Central European Labour Studies Institute, commissioned by Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy

Marietta Gierón, Kosciuszko Institute

2:40 PM - 3:10 PM

Coffee break

3:10 PM - 4:25 PM

Panel Discussion: Barriers to regulation: A case study on the Platform Work Directive

This panel will examine the various barriers to regulating platform work in both regions, including social, legal, administrative, and political challenges. It will also delve into practical obstacles that both regions may face in implementing the Platform Work Directive, with a specific focus on the presumption of employment.

Tibor Meszmann, Central European Labour Studies Institute, commissioned by Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy

Marietta Gierón, Kosciuszko Institute

Ilda Durri, European Social Observatory

Lucie Susova, European Trade Union Confederation

Michael Freytag, World Employment Confederation

4:25 PM - 4:55 PM

Keynote Speech: Instruments describing the geography of digital work in Serbia and South-East Europe (gender, incomes, and occupations)

The Gigmetar project: data on platform work in the Western Balkans

Branka Andjelković, Principal Investigator, Gigmetar

4:55 PM – 5:10 PM **Wrap-up day one**

5:10 PM - 7:00 PM **Networking drinks nearby**

Day 2: Making it Work: Policy Pathways for Inclusive Work

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM **Welcome coffee**

9:15 AM - 9:45 AM **Keynote Speech: Sustainable platform work in the EU**

Justin Nogarede, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Future of Work

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM **Panel Discussion: From precarious working conditions to long-term sustainability: The shared future of platform work**

The panel will examine the precarious nature of platform work. It will also discuss its consequences for working conditions, state finances, and social dumping. What policies are needed for fair future labour market integration? How can we harvest the opportunities presented by platform work (e.g. telemigration)? And how can EU policies and regional initiatives help?

Marietta Gierón, Kosciuszko Institute

Mirna Jusić, Institute of Sociological Studies Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Monty Aal, Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Filip Stojanoski, NTeams

Elizabeth Kuiper, European Policy Center (BE)

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM **Coffee break**

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Fireside chat: WB enlargement and social agenda

This fireside chat creates space to engage with EU-level actors on how social and labour issues can be more firmly embedded in the Western Balkans enlargement agenda. It will explore how these dimensions can complement the economic and institutional focus of enlargement discussions, supporting more inclusive and sustainable integration. Using platform work as an entry point, the conversation will draw on current challenges and lessons from the region to highlight how social and labour market policies can support the Western Balkans' integration efforts.

Krisela Hackaj, Cooperation and Development Institute

Dragana Jaćimović, Institute Alternativa

Mirna Jusić, Institute of Sociological Studies Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

11:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Respondent panel: Reactions to policy recommendations

This short roundtable, will give participants the chance to reflect on the presented recommendations to foster fair platform work in the V4 and Western Balkans.

12:15 AM – 1:00 PM

Closing remarks and informal networking