



Universiteit
Leiden

Co-organised by Europa Institute (Leiden University) &
T.M.C. Asser Instituut

ASSER INSTITUTE
Centre for International & European Law

1965 60 YEARS 2025

WORKSHOP:

A Legal Assessment of EU integration in the Western Balkans

31 October 2025

The Hague

9.00-9:30	Registration & Welcome
9:30-10:30	Keynote Lecture Balancing on a Tightrope: Pre-accession Policy and Pursuit of EU Values <i>Prof. Adam Łazowski, Professor at the Westminster Law School and European Neighbourhood C</i>
10.30-10.45	<i>Coffee/Tea</i>
10:45-12:15	Panel 1: From Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAAs) to the Growth Plan: Is the Overall Legal and Policy Framework on Enlargement Fit for Purpose? Between Promise and Progress: Rethinking the SAA in the Western Balkans' Journey <i>Dr Aida Gugu Bushati, School of Magistrates of Albania</i> Towards Measurable Rule of Law: A Critical Assessment of the EU Enlargement Methodology <i>Blerta Begisholli (PhD Candidate) EUI</i> Cranking the Engine: The New Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Struggle to Restart Accession Conditionality <i>Theo Tsomidis (PhD candidate) Leiden University</i> The Transformation of the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue From a CFSP Instrument to a Legal Conditionality Criterion <i>Dr Dren Doli, Ambassador of The Republic of Kosovo to the Kingdom of the Netherlands</i> <i>Dr Zamira Xhaferri, University of Amsterdam</i> <i>Francesco Cortese, Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo to the Kingdom of the Netherlands</i>
12:15 -13:30	<i>Lunch & Coffee/Tea</i>
13.30- 15:00	Panel 2: Rule of Law Reforms. A view from the Western Balkan Countries Rethinking 'Fundamentals' of (EU) Integration in the Western Balkans Through the Bottom-Up Approach

PROGRAMME



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Dr Leposava Ognjanoska Stavrovska, International Balkan University, North Macedonia

Strengthening the Rule of Law in Preparation for EU Integration: The Case of Anti-Corruption Measures in Albania

Edlira Osmani, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Albania

Emily van Rheenen, Centre for International Legal Cooperation, The Netherlands

Homegrown or Brussels-born? Rethinking Rule of Law Reforms and Legal Pluralism in Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU Integration Path

Meris Musanovic, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Constitutional protection of Social Rights of Minorities in the Western Balkans: Between EU Conditionality and Domestic Reform

Dr Heliona Bellani, Prof. Ass. Dr. Bojana Hajdini, Epoka University, Albania

15:00-15:30 *Coffee/Tea*

15.30-17.00 **Panel 3: Regional Initiatives and Other Reforms**

Benefits and Pitfalls of the Open Balkan Initiative

Prof. Julija Brsakoska Bazerkoska, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University

Free Movement of Goods in the Western Balkans: Fragmented Regional Initiatives Towards EU Integration

Dr Fjoralba Caka, University of Tirana Western Balkans

States and their Preparation for Future Civil Judicial Cooperation in the EU: a Cartography of the Region Concerning Reforms in this Field

Dr Carlos Santalo Goris, Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Luxembourg

Critical Raw Materials in Wider Europe

Dr Nedim Hovic, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Oslo
Benjamin Nurkic (PhD Candidate) University of Tuzla

17.00-18.00 **Closing Reception**

18:30-21.00 **Presenters Closing Dinner**

Restaurant *Dok28*

 [Dr. Lelykade 28b, 2583 CM Den Haag](#)

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