



EUROPEAN
ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

Tackling foreign economic footprint in the Western Balkans

When: 21 February 2018, 10:30 – 12:00 (followed by a light lunch)

Where: European Endowment for Democracy, Rue de la Loi 34, Brussels (9th floor)

Co-organised by the [Center for International Private Enterprise](#)
& [European Endowment for Democracy](#)

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| 10:00-10:30 | Registration and welcome coffee |
| 10:30-10:35 | Welcoming remarks Jerzy Pomianowski, Executive Director, EED |
| 10:35 – 10:40 | Introductory remarks Martina Hrvolova, Program Officer, CIPE, United States |
| 10:40 – 12:00 | Closing Governance Gaps to Promote Economies Resilient to External Threats in the Western Balkans |

Moderator: Martina Hrvolova, Program Officer, CIPE, United States

Speakers:

[Ruslan Stefanov](#), Director of Bulgarian Center for Study of Democracy

[Milica Kovacevic](#), President of Montenegrin Center for Democratic Transition

[Nemanja Stiplija](#), Founder of European Western Balkans



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Background note

Over the past few months, CIPE and their Balkan partners have analysed economic tools used by Russia to assert its role and undermine democracy in Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. They have pioneered a comprehensive methodology to analyse foreign economic footprint and identify governance gaps in the Balkans that create opportunities for the inflow of authoritarian capital (such as loopholes in anti-corruption policies in public and private institutions, non-transparent procurement practices, and a lack of strong competition policies).

In a follow-up, CIPE and its partners plan to address the identified governance gaps, thus limiting the influence of authoritarian capital, and boost the resiliency of economies in the Balkans by working with the local private sector, CSOs, media, and governments on improving the respective laws and practice.

Their Balkan partners plan to complete their national assessments and a regional synthesis by January at which point they intend to hold a series of roundtables in each of the target countries. Additionally, CIPE will fly some of its local partners to Brussels to share their insights with the EU decision-makers ([Ruslan Stefanov](#), Director of Bulgarian Center for Study of Democracy, [Milica Kovacevic](#), President of Montenegrin Center for Democratic Transition, [Nemanja Stiplija](#), Founder of European Western Balkans/media outlet).

To this end on 21 February in cooperation with EED, CIPE is organising a public event on the Russia(ns') economic footprint in the Balkans (the project findings) in Brussels.