

THE COST OF PERSONAL TRANSITION

16 February 2024, 10.00 am
Sofia Event Center



DEAR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Three pivotal transformations are currently reshaping the world – **green, digital and demographic**. Intertwined, they will significantly shape the future of humanity. Anticipating and adapting to these changes will become a competitive advantage for our countries, economies and societies.

We live in turbulent times. Information overload, proliferation of fake news and the growing populist voices are drowning out the reasoned discourse of science, institutions, and international organizations. In Bulgaria, we are fatigued from the pitfalls of the transition and there is a the risk of approaching upcoming transformations with skepticism. Overwhelmed with strategic documents, we often lose sight of the underlying significance of proposed measures. Fragmentary forecasts, deadlines, and reports of lost European funds fill our ears, yet the impact on our family budgets remains unclear. Focused on the uncertainties of our present income, we worry about the educational and occupational prospects for future generations. The struggle for survival today hinders our ability to look into the future.

Therefore, we – the Friedrich Ebert Foundation – Bulgaria, the Institute for Social Integration and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies, **cordially invite you to a thought-provocative and honest discussion about the cost of personal transition**. Our aim is to place **the individual** at the heart of this conversation and provide answers to many pressing questions.

Can the Green Transition, digitalization, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) offer solutions to the demographic crisis? What will the landscape of the future labor market and professions look like? Will advancements such as increased worker efficiency, clean technologies, and the digitization of education and healthcare alleviate or exacerbate inequalities? How can Bulgaria leverage its current challenges to emerge proudly on the EU map? And will this entice the younger generation to stay?

If you share our quest for answers to these vital questions, we invite you to join the **Discussion on "The Cost of Personal Transition – Green, Digital, Demographic" on February 16 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Sofia Event Center (100 "Cherni Vrah" Blvd., "Paradise" Mall, fl. 3)**. Admission is free for all those boldly envisioning the future!

We eagerly anticipate your participation!

Programme

FEPS
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Social
Integration

АЕП

9:30 Registration

10:00 Opening speeches

Moderator: **Katya Koleva**, President, Institute for Social Integration

- **Sergei Stanishev**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group
- **Petar Vitanov**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group
- **László Andor**, Secretary General, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (2010–2014)
- **Yonnc Polet**, Deputy Secretary General, Party of European Socialists (PES)
- **Andriana Sukova**, (Acting) Director-General, DG EMPL, European Commission
- **Jacques Paparo**, Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Bulgaria
- **Dimitar Ganev**, Research Center TREND

11:00 **PANEL I: The Digital revolution and AI – is a future without inequalities possible?**

12:30 Moderator: **Kristina Eskenazi**, Member of the Management Board, AI Cluster Bulgaria

- **Dobroslav Dimitrov**, Chairman, Bulgarian Association of Software Companies (BASSCOM), Bulgarian Employers' Association Innovative Technologies (BRAIT)
- **Natalia Miteva**, Deputy Minister of Education and Science
- **Prof. Miglena Temelkova, PhD**, Rector, University of Telecommunications and Post
- **Ivo Hristov**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group
- **Elena Yoncheva**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group
- **Detelina Stamenova**, Psychotherapist

12:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

13:00 **PANEL II: The Just Green Transition – a solution to the economic and demographic challenges?**

14:30 Moderator: **Slavtcho Neykov**, Chairman, Institute of Energy Management

- **Atanas Pekanov**, economist, Deputy Prime Minister (2021–2023), Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)
- **Tsvetelina Penkova**, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group
- **Assoc. Prof. Teodora Peneva**, Economic Research Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- **Stoyo Tetevenski**, Activist, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
- **Apostol Dyankov**, Climate & Energy Program Manager, WWF Bulgaria