

Invitation

Unequal Romania.

Regional disparities in Romania - How do they look like and how to overcome them?

online event, June 23rd, 2021, 11.00 am

Link for event registration <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingRef=1234567890>

Since joining the EU in 2007, Romania has seen impressive economic growth and has managed to enter the circle of so-called high-income countries. A closer look reveals that the benefits of the post-socialist transition and European integration are distributed quite unevenly and that there is strong polarisation between different geographical areas. Although regional disparities are increasing, there is no substantial public debate on how to tackle these territorial inequalities.

Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) Romania and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) invite you to a debate on the growing regional disparities in Romania. During the debate we will launch the report "**Unequal Romania. Socio-economic disparities 2020**", carried out by FES and FEPS together with the Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development (ILS) Dortmund. The report performs a cluster analysis, which shows that in terms of living conditions, economic indicators and social welfare, Romania can be divided into four distinct regions - what the authors call "The Four Romanias". The results of this report underline the need to overhaul the economic and social policies on the national as well as on the EU level. We are aiming to discuss with our guests the solutions which are needed at national and European level for overcoming regional disparities and rethinking the development model so that it offers equal opportunities and high living standards to all citizens.

The event will take place in Romanian and English, with simultaneous translation.

Agenda:

- 11.00 Welcoming Remarks. **Laszlo Andor**, FEPS Secretary General and former Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- 11.05 Presentation of the report "Unequal Romania. Socio-economic disparities 2020 "
Cristina Raț, Bastian Heider, author
- 11.20 "How do we reduce regional development inequalities? National solutions and European best practices "
Victor Negrescu, Member of the European Parliament and former Minister Delegate for European Affairs (2017-2018)
- 11.30 „European cohesion policy - how can we combat regional disparities in Romania?"]
Corina Cretu, Member of the European Parliament European and former Commissioner for Regional Policy (2014-2019)
- 11.40 Discussions
- 12.30 Closure of debate. **Juliane Schulte**, Representative of FES Romania