

## **Online Event**

### **“Berlin Process in 2021: The case of Albania”**

**Wednesday | 27 January 2021 | 11.00 – 12.30**

**Venue: ZOOM**

The year 2020 marked the 7th cycle of events and activities organized under the Berlin Process (BP) label. Its multi-layered dynamic, which nowadays combines many connectivity dimensions - infrastructure, economic, political/institutional, and people to people (P2P) has evolved over time to provide the normative-driven Enlargement with the much-needed bottom-up and impact-oriented dimension. Moreover, such a large scope makes necessary the involvement of many different stakeholder groups, beyond the traditional governmental ones.

The last high-level event in the framework of the BP – the November 2020 Leaders’ Summit co-hosted by Bulgaria and North Macedonia took place during the 2nd wave of COVID-19 pandemic. The unprecedented sanitary crisis is likely to entail long lasting economic consequences in regions economy and social framework. Adding to the deglobalization, this requires a re-conceptualize of ways of doing business, of government practices, or individual and societal priorities etc. Resilience has become an as much relevant criteria as cost or efficiency. The threats facing Supply and GVC links now – political, security and logistical – are much greater. Security - not only geopolitical, but also internal stability and good governance - will be key conditions for re-shoring.

In that respect, the Sofia Summit set a basis towards a more decisive and ambitious plan for the SEE6 future, based on the concepts of resilience, sustainability, digitalization, and regionalization. New policies and measures, together with a substantial financial envelope were presented.

In this framework, Cooperation and Development Institute is organizing the online event “Berlin Process in 2021 - Albania”. This event marks the first of several events that CDI will organize during 2021 that will be dedicated to the preparation of the 2021 Berlin Summit of the Berlin Process, which symbolically marks the completion of the first cycle of the Berlin Process.

The focus of this event is to present the progress of Berlin Process connectivity projects with focus in Albania. In addition, CDI will enlarge the scope of discussion by focusing also on the novelties of Common Regional Markets - CRM and of the Economic and Investment Plan as presented to Sofia Summit. CDI aims to lay the ground and provide the methodological tools for a systemic and region-wide assessment of Berlin Process contribution and impact in SEE6 in view of 2021 Berlin Summit.

The event is organized in the framework of the project “Preparing and Supporting Albania in the EU Accession Process”, being implemented by CDI and supported by the Dutch Embassy in Tirana. Participants will be from different stakeholders including experts, public officials, academics, representatives of the media, think tanks from Albania and the EU, CSOs, etc.

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## AGENDA

11:00 – 11:10

#### Welcoming Remarks

H.E. Ms. **Guusje Korthals Altes**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Albania

H.E. **Peter Zingraf**, German Ambassador to Albania

11:10 – 11:40

#### CSO Monitoring the Berlin Process - Connectivity Agenda in Albania

**Ornela Liperi**, Editor-in-Chief, Monitor Media Magazine

#### Takeaways from 2020 Sofia Summit of Western Balkans

**Inva Nela**, Cooperation & Development Institute

#### Novelties and priorities of the regional economic agenda

**Florensa Haxhi**, Director General, Development Programs and Cooperation Unit, at the Prime Minister’s Office, Government of Albania

Moderation by **Ardian Hackaj**, Director of Research, Cooperation & Development Institute, Tirana

11:40 – 11:50

#### The road back to Berlin: lessons learnt

**Peter Grk**, Secretary-General of Bled Strategic Forum and Western Balkans Coordinator at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

11:50 – 12:30

#### Discussions and Closure

\*This event will be held in English language only.