

JAR-A E-SEMINARS

RULE OF LAW IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: BETWEEN REFORM NARRATIVES, POWER POLITICS, AND EU ENLARGEMENT REALITY



THURSDAY

19th March

2026

4:00 pm

CET time

Despite formal commitments to EU accession, rule of law reforms in the Western Balkans often diverge from official narratives. This lecture examines when reforms strengthen institutions and when they mainly serve political stabilization. Using country examples, it assesses the EU's leverage, its limits, and the gap between legal alignment and real implementation, questioning whether enlargement remains transformative or risks becoming an illusion..

Speaker: Georg Stawa

Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice

Convenor: Gar Yein Ng



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