



ONLINE WEBINAR VIA WEBEX

Democracy in the neighbourhood and EU enlargement: **Horizon Europe research insights**

26 February 2026
9:30–12:30



Opening Remarks

Maria Pilar Aguar Fernandez, Director, People: Health and Society, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

Panel 1 | Western Balkans (09:30–11:00)

Key challenges and opportunities in accession, democratic resilience, rights protection, and the EU's response to external influence

- Moderated by Anne Haglund-Morrissey, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- Speakers: Sonja Grimm (EMBRACE), Anamarija Velinovska (GEO-POWER.EU), Morten Bøås (RE-ENGAGE), Florian Bieber (REUNIR)

Panel 2 | Eastern Partnership (Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia) & Türkiye (11:00–12:30)

Democratic backsliding and resilience, illiberal laws, authoritarian influence, rule of law challenges, and future EU–candidate relations.

- Moderated by Alberto Domini, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- Speakers: Karina Shyrokykh (EMBRACE), Maryna Rabinovych (REDEMOS), Magdalena Góra (SHAPEDEM-EU), Funda Tekin (INVIGORATE)

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