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Platforma za teoriju i praksu
društvenih dobara

EUROPEAN
ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

How to be an anticapitalist in the 21st century?

The workshop will introduce the concept of economic democracy and provide its background in the political economy of economic democracy. We will discuss the role that employee ownership and workplace democracy play on the issues of economic inequality, workplace conditions, environmental sustainability and local responsibility, national economic interest, and on the revival of political democracy. I will introduce the best practice around the world and identify the best arguments for promoting democratic economic models in public discourse and politics.

The emphasis will be on the Slovenian experience – how the public perceives the issue, what are the common counterarguments, how to break the stereotypes. There are currently three models that the Institute for Economic Democracy (Slovenia) is pushing through new legislation and pilot restructuring of existing enterprises. If economic democracy is to become a real policy behind the progressive politics in Serbia, it will be crucial to find a way to communicate with stakeholders that NGOs otherwise seldom collaborate with. The rhetoric should, however, not undermine the substance behind the models, which should guarantee broad-based, financially accessible, sustainable, and democratic employee-ownership schemes.

Tej Gonza is a Director at the Institute for Economic Democracy. He is an economist, who tries to bridge the theory on economic democracy with the practical implementation. Tej is a PhD student studying the effects of institutional structure of contemporary and historical democratic firms. He is currently employed as a Researcher by the University of Ljubljana.