



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE



FEDN
Free Enterprise & Democracy Network



Anti-establishment protests break out in Rome. Photo by Daily Mail

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FEDN Member News

Ruslan Stefanov spoke with CIPE for an [interview](#) to discuss the regional importance of democratic think tanks, including the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) in Bulgaria. CSD was one of the first think tanks to be established in Bulgaria after 1989. In the interview, Ruslan offers advice to new think tanks and highlights useful work methodologies. Ruslan also edited a report from the Center for the Study of Democracy and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's Media Program on

publication traces the challenges that the Balkan media have encountered during the pandemic, finding that the pandemic has deepened pre-existing governance gaps, democratic deficits, and freedom of speech violations.

Robin Sitoula and the [Samridhi Foundation](#) produced several papers on federalism to inform national and state governments on priority agendas for a smooth transition toward federalism. Work continues on nurturing like-minded think tanks across the seven new states of Nepal with the goal of establishing at least one pro-market institute in each state.

Rastko Pekovic and the NGO [Digital Serbia](#) completed joint research with Startup Genome revolving around the digital ecosystem in Serbia. They plan on formulating a strategy for further development of the local ecosystem through networking, investment, and sharing.

CIPE News

- CIPE program officer Ryan Musser interviewed Wisborn Malaya, the Secretary-General of the Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations (ZCIEA) on CIPE's [Democracy That Delivers](#) podcast series. In the podcast, the participants discuss some recent CIPE and ZCIEA initiatives for legal and policy reforms that empower informal economy associations.
- CIPE's Asia team launched the final article from Dr. Akbar Zaidi, an expert on Pakistan's economy, as part of the Asia's Path Forward series. In the article, titled "[Further Burdened: Women and the Pandemic in Pakistan](#)", Dr. Zaidi discusses how women face acute challenges and despite social protections being available, their barrier to access remains difficult to surmount.
- CIPE Egypt Program Director Randa Al Zoghbi was a panelist at the Civil Society 20 (C20 Summit) for a session titled "[Enabling Digital and Financial Inclusion for Post COVID-19 Economic Resiliency.](#)" Al Zoghbi highlighted the importance of preparedness measures and the cashless economy initiative and civil society's role in equitable economic recovery at the national and international levels. The session also highlighted the links between democratic institutions and a thriving private sector.

Good Reads & Resources



Luis Arce waving to supporters in Bolivia. Photo by Paula Tyler Hicks/New York Times

- CIPE Program Officer John Fei explores existing assumptions and lessons learned about the role of market transition during democratization in his recent blog post, titled [“Economic Transitions and Political Transitions: What’s the Big Deal?”](#) The blog describes transitions in Bolivia, Tunisia, and Ukraine and makes some key points about the role of small- to medium-enterprises and the business community during times of transition.
- Yezid Sayigh, a senior fellow at The Carnegie Endowment Middle East Center, released a brief titled [Egypt’s Military as the Spearhead of State Capitalism](#), an essay in the report [“Owners of the Republic: An Anatomy of Egypt’s Military Economy”](#) exploring the Egyptian military’s role in the economy, the costs incurred on growth, security, and efficiency, and how this arrangement corrodes democracy.
- The creators of the Sustainable Development Goals Index responded to academic and practitioner criticism of the index in [Foreign Policy](#), arguing that the four critiques in the initial criticism stem from misunderstanding the index. The index creators suggest that a closer examination of their data offers a sufficient response to the critiques. To read the initial criticism, click [here](#).
- In a *Brookings Institute* podcast, Marvin Kalb and David Dollar discuss “Recalibrating America’s role in the world under a Biden presidency.” The podcast centers around how a Biden administration will interact with the international order, navigate extreme polarization, and how the current moment compares to previous times in history. To read the transcript and listen to the podcast, click [here](#).