



PROGRAMME

# OECD EURASIA WEEK 2017

OPENNESS FOR SHARED PROSPERITY

**23-25 October 2017**

Rixos Almaty Hotel  
Almaty, Kazakhstan

 **@OECD Eurasia**

[www.oecd.org/eurasia](http://www.oecd.org/eurasia)



## ■ WHAT IS OECD EURASIA WEEK?

[OECD Eurasia Week](#) builds on the increasing involvement of countries in the Eurasia region in the work of the OECD and in several OECD platforms, networks and bodies, as well as on the region's growing importance to the members of the OECD. The objective is to create an opportunity to further strengthen relations between the countries of the Eurasia region and the OECD, and to raise the visibility of co-operation between them on a broad spectrum of issues relevant to the region's competitiveness and social progress.

## ■ WHERE WAS EURASIA WEEK?

OECD Eurasia Week 2017 was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan**, the first time the event has been organised in a Eurasia country. This location reflects the growing relationship between the OECD and Kazakhstan, which co-chaired the OECD Central Asia Initiative from 2013 through 2016, and is now engaged in an OECD Country Programme involving numerous projects, adherence to OECD instruments and enhanced participation in OECD bodies. OECD Eurasia Week took place at the **Rixos Almaty Hotel**, 506/99, Seifullina Avenue, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

## ■ WHO WAS THERE?

OECD Eurasia Week brought together high-level representatives from Eurasia countries, OECD member countries, academia, business, international partner organisations, and civil society.

## ■ BILATERAL MEETINGS

Upon registration to [OECD Eurasia Week](#), **bilateral meetings between the OECD and Eurasia Partner Countries** were scheduled on **Monday, 23 October**. For further information, please send an email to [Gabriela.Miranda@oecd.org](mailto:Gabriela.Miranda@oecd.org) and [Orla.Halliday@oecd.org](mailto:Orla.Halliday@oecd.org).

Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian was provided during Eurasia Week.

## ■ OECD EURASIA WEEK CONTACTS:

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# OECD EURASIA WEEK

23-25 OCTOBER 2017

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

## OPENNESS FOR SHARED PROSPERITY

**MONDAY**  
23 October

**OECD BILATERAL MEETINGS & REGISTRATION**

**AFTERNOON**

**OECD BILATERAL MEETINGS & REGISTRATION**

**PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT \***  
*Rixos Centre*

**WELCOME COCKTAIL**  
*Rixos Centre*

**TUESDAY**  
24 October

**OFFICIAL OPENING**

*Ballroom 2*

**MINISTERIAL PANEL**

*Ballroom 2*

**OFFICIAL PHOTO**

**REGIONAL DIALOGUE LUNCH**  
Central Asia

*Ballroom 1*

**REGIONAL DIALOGUE LUNCH**  
Eastern Partnership

*Brasserie*

**STEERING COMMITTEES**  
of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme  
*(for governments and POs only)*

*Ballroom 2*

**EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM OPENING PANEL**

*Ballroom 2*

**EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM SPEED NETWORKING SESSION**  
for Businesses and Governments

*Lotus and La Lezar areas*

**CULTURAL EVENT**  
*(hosted by Kazakhstan, by invitation only)*

**WEDNESDAY**  
25 October

**EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE (EASTERN PARTNERSHIP)**

Monitoring of **Armenia** – Supporting SME Competitiveness

*Ballroom 2*

**THEMATIC SESSION**

Investment Promotion and Business Linkages in Eastern Europe & South Caucasus

*Ballroom 2*

**EURASIA NETWORKING LUNCH**

*Lotus area*

**EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE (CENTRAL ASIA)**

Peer Review of **Uzbekistan** – Boosting SME Internationalisation through Better Export Promotion Policies

Monitoring of **Tajikistan** – Enhancing Access to Finance for SMEs and Increasing Export in Agriculture

*Ballroom 2*

**THE OECD KAZAKHSTAN COUNTRY PROGRAMME**

*Ballroom 2*

**EURASIA WEEK CLOSING**

*Ballroom 2*

**THURSDAY**  
26 October

**OECD GREEN ACTION PROGRAMME MEETING**

**BY SEPARATE INVITATION**

**EU CENTRAL ASIA INVEST NETWORKING MEETING**

**FRIDAY**  
27 October

**OECD GREEN ACTION PROGRAMME MEETING**

**BY SEPARATE INVITATION**

# MONDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2017, 9.00-18.00

## REGISTRATION AND WELCOME EVENTS

9.00 – 16.00

*Lobby*

### REGISTRATION AND BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH THE OECD

Country delegations with confirmed appointments met with representatives of the OECD Secretariat.

All participants were invited to register and collect their badges and PokenSpark devices at either of the two registration tables in the Lobby. OECD officials and Poken staff were on hand to answer questions and assist with orientation.

10.30 – 12.30

### CITY TOUR OF ALMATY

14.00 – 15.30

### CITY TOUR OF ALMATY

Participants who were not in bilateral meetings had the option to take either of the two scheduled bus tours.

16.00 – 18.00

*Rixos Centre*

### PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT HOSTED BY EBRD\*

The pre-conference event explored the drivers of inclusive and sustainable growth in transition economies. Moreover, it focused on the critical role of the private sector in promoting equitable access to training and skills, including gender equality, in partnership with policy makers and other stakeholders.

18.00 – 21.00

*Rixos Centre*

### WELCOME COCKTAIL

Participants were invited to an informal cocktail to welcome participants to Eurasia Week, co-organised by the OECD and Kazakhstan and hosted by the city of Almaty.

# TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2017, 8.00-12.15

8.00 – 9.00

## REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

Lobby

9.00 – 10.15

## OECD EURASIA WEEK OPENING ADDRESS

Ballroom 2

### REMARKS by

- **H.E. Mr. Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General, OECD
- **H.E. Mr. Bakytzhan Sagintayev**, Prime Minister, Kazakhstan
- **H.E. Mr. Dimitry Kumsishvili**, First Vice Prime Minister, Georgia
- **H.E. Mr. Azim Ibrohim**, Deputy Prime Minister, Tajikistan
- **H.E. Mr. Nodir Otajonov**, Deputy Prime Minister, Uzbekistan

10.15 – 11.45

## MINISTERIAL PANEL: *Openness for Shared Prosperity*

Ballroom 2

Most Eurasia countries have begun to recover from the series of external shocks that hit the region in 2014-15, and many grew more strongly than expected last year. Nevertheless, the recovery is in its early stages and faces strong headwinds. Ensuring a return to strong, sustained growth following the end of the commodity boom will require further reforms. In particular, policymakers in Eurasia are devoting increased attention to improving framework conditions for business to enhance competitiveness, stimulate investment, entrepreneurship and innovation, and, ultimately, support the growth and diversification of their economies. *This session considered the challenges faced by Eurasia countries when harnessing economic openness and competitiveness.*

### PANELISTS:

- **H.E. Mr. Timur Suleimenov**, Minister of National Economy, Kazakhstan
- **H.E. Ms. Lilia Palii**, Secretary General of the Government, Moldova
- **H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mustafa Mastoor**, Minister of Economy, Afghanistan
- **Ms. Dana Meager**, Deputy Minister of Finance, Slovak Republic
- **Dr. István Mikola**, Minister of State for Security Policy and International Co-operation, Hungary
- **Mr. Luc Devigne**, Deputy Managing Director, European External Action Service

The session was moderated by **Mr. William Tompson**, Head of the Eurasia Division, OECD.

12.00 – 12.15

## OFFICIAL PHOTO

# TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2017, 12.30-15.15

12.30 – 14.00 REGIONAL DIALOGUE LUNCHES (parallel sessions, by invitation only)



Co-funded by the EU

## Central Asia Regional Dialogue Lunch – Ballroom 1

Central Asian countries face common challenges to enhancing competitiveness and diversifying economies. This session provided an opportunity to discuss policy reforms to achieve these goals and presented the forthcoming OECD publication on Central Asia, focusing on SMEs, human capital and VET, access to finance, and internationalisation of firms.

Central Asian governments discussed their countries' experiences. Interventions included those of: **H.E. Mr. Erbolat Dossaev**, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan; **H.E. Mr. Azim Ibrohim**, Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan; **H.E. Mr. Nodir Otajonov**, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan; **Mr. Daniyar Imanaliev**, Deputy Minister of Economy of Kyrgyzstan and Co-Chair of the OECD Central Asia Initiative; **Mr. Damdinsuren Davaasuren**, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia; **H.E. Mr. Traian Larentiu Hristea**, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan; **Mr. Naoyuki Yoshino**, Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank Institute and **Mr. Andris Pelšs**, Under-Secretary of State - Political Director of Foreign Affairs of Latvia.



EU4Business

## Eastern Europe & South Caucasus Regional Dialogue (EESC) Lunch – Brasserie area

Many EESC countries have expressed interest in good international policy practices to support their economic reform plans. The lunch provided an opportunity to have a moderated discussion focusing on the question of how to steer the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus region back on a growth trajectory.

After opening remarks of **H.E. Mr. Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General of the OECD, the six EESC partner countries addressed the theme. Interventions included those of: **H.E. Mr. Dimitry Kumsishvili**, First Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, **H.E. Ms. Lilia Paliu**, Secretary General of the Government of Moldova and **Mr. Hovhannes Azizyan**, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments of Armenia.

Moreover, representatives from partner organisations (including EBRD, EU, ETF, ITC and UNECE) were given the opportunity to provide their comments and suggest specific policy solutions. All participants were encouraged to engage in the open discussion.

The session was moderated by **Mr. Dominique Menu**, BNP Paribas Representative in Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

## 14.00 – 15.15 MEETING OF THE OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEES

Ballroom 2

*(For government representatives of Eurasia, OECD Countries and partner organisations)*

The **OECD Secretariat** presented the main outcomes, activities envisaged for 2018-19, and the updated governance of the Programme.

The Central Asia Initiative Steering Committee Co-chairs are:

- **H.E. Mr. Rupert Schlegelmilch**, Ambassador of the European Union to the OECD
- **Mr. Daniyar Imanaliev**, Deputy Minister of Economy of Kyrgyzstan

The Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative Steering Committee Co-chairs are:

- **H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic**, Ambassador of Sweden to the OECD
- **H.E. Mr. Aleksander Surdej**, Ambassador of Poland to the OECD

The Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable Chair and Vice-chair are:

- **H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic**, Ambassador of Sweden to the OECD, Chair
- **Mr. Juraj Tomáš**, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Slovak Republic to the OECD, Vice-chair

**H.E. Mr. Ulrich Lehner** is Chair of the OECD External Relations Committee and Ambassador of Switzerland to the OECD. He presented the OECD Strategic Orientations.

# TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2017, 15.15-19.00

15.15 - 15.30 *Coffee*

15.30 – 16.35

*Ballroom 2*

## OECD EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM

### ***OPENING PANEL: Improving Competition in Eurasia to Foster Productivity and Economic Growth***

Competition is one of the main drivers of competitiveness. Competition encourages firms to be more efficient, creates a wider choice for consumers and helps reduce prices and improve quality. Competitive markets ultimately affect the very fabric of business behaviour, private-led innovation and economic growth. *This interactive panel looked at how competition can stimulate productivity and contribute to wider economic growth in Eurasia.*

#### **SPEAKERS**

- **Mr. Frédéric Jenny**, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee and professor of Economics at ESSEC Business School in Paris.
- **H.E. Mr. Zhenis Kassymbek**, Minister of Investments and Development, Kazakhstan
- **H.E. Mr. Petr Gandalovic**, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the OECD
- **Mr. Yuriy Terentyev**, Chairman of the Anti-Monopoly Committee, Ukraine
- **Dr. Wolfgang Heckenberger**, Senior Advisor on Competition and Head of Siemens Competition Group, Siemens AG

The session was moderated by **Ms. Natalia Khanjenkova**, Managing Director for Central Asia and Russia, EBRD.

16.45 – 18.45

*Lotus &*

*La Lezar areas*

## OECD EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM

### ***BUSINESS SPEED-NETWORKING (Networking with Eurasia governments upon request)***

Business speed-networking provided an opportunity for **senior business executives** to meet **high-level policy-makers from Eurasia countries** and **other senior business executives** of businesses **active or interested in the region**. These meetings aim to facilitate quick exchanges of information and sharing of business needs, potentially leading to new business relationships.

*Pre-scheduled meetings with policy-makers lasted 15 minutes, encouraging focused discussions. Due to high demand, priority for pre-scheduled meetings were given on a first-come, first-served basis upon registration to Eurasia Week.*

16.45 – 19.00

## **PARALLEL SESSION : COMPETITION AUTHORITIES FROM EURASIA COUNTRIES \***

20.00 - 22.00

## **CULTURAL EVENT AND DINNER** *By invitation only*

Hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan

Venue: Abay Restaurant, Kok Tobe Hill



# WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2017, 9.00-12.00



The **OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable** was established in 2013 as a joint platform between OECD members and Eurasia partner countries to carry out peer reviews on competitiveness reform implementation. The Roundtable was chaired by **H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OECD.**

9.00 – 10.30  
Ballroom 2

## OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE MONITORING REVIEW OF ARMENIA *Supporting SME Competitiveness in Armenia*



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- Opening remarks by the **Chair**
- Welcoming remarks by **Mr. Petros Sourmelis**, Head of Unit, DG Trade, European Commission
- Opening Statement by **Mr. Hovhannes Azizyan**, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments, Armenia
- Discussion of key recommendations on connecting Armenian agribusinesses to global value chains:
  - **OECD Secretariat** and **Mr. Armen Harutyunyan**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Armenia
  - **Prof. Richard Pomfret**, Professor of Economics, University of Adelaide (*lead reviewer*)
  - *Open discussion*
- Discussion of key recommendations on linking multinational enterprises to Armenian SMEs:
  - **OECD Secretariat** and **Mr. Hovhannes Azizyan**, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments, Armenia
  - **Mr. Declan Murphy**, Director, Strategy Partners Ireland (*lead reviewer*)
  - *Open discussion*
- Final remarks by the **Government of Armenia**

10.30 - 10.45 *Coffee*

10.45 – 12.00  
Ballroom 2

## EASTERN EUROPE AND SOUTH CAUCASUS THEMATIC PANEL *Investment promotion and business linkages in Eastern Europe & South Caucasus (EESC)*



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Foreign investment directly contributes to the host country's national income and can play a major role in expanding its productive capacity, driving technology diffusion and improving access to international markets for local firms. It can also foster inclusive growth and sustainable development through spill-over effects on job creation, human capital and infrastructure development, technological innovation, and industrial upgrading. *This session looked at ways to promote investment in Eurasia, focussing on policies to attract investment that can help foster inclusive growth for the local economy.*

### SPEAKERS

- **Ms. Mathilde Mesnard**, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
- **Ms. Yulia Kovaliv**, Head of Office of the National Investment Council of Ukraine
- **Mr. Aleksandre Papiashvili**, Senior Investor Advisor, Enterprise Georgia
- **Mr. Declan Murphy**, Director, Strategy Partners Ireland

**MODERATOR: H.E. Mr. Aleksander Surdej**, Ambassador of Poland to the OECD



# WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2017, 12.15-17.00

12.15 – 13.30 EURASIA NETWORKING LUNCH

*Lotus area*

13.30 – 15.00 OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE  
PEER REVIEW OF UZBEKISTAN

*Ballroom 2*

*Boosting SME Internationalisation through Better Export Promotion Policies*



Co-funded by the  
European Union

- Opening remarks by the **Chair**
- Welcoming remarks by **Ms. Anja Nagel**, Head of Sector Global Initiatives, DG DEVCO, EU Commission
- Opening Statement by **H.E. Mr. Nodir Otajonov**, Deputy Prime Minister, Uzbekistan
- Overview of key recommendations:
  - **OECD Secretariat** and **Mr. Mubin Mirzaev**, First Deputy Minister of Economy, Uzbekistan
  - **Mr. Wilhelm Berg**, Senior Export Promotion Expert, Germany (*reviewer*)
  - **Prof. Richard Pomfret**, Professor of Economics, University of Adelaide (*reviewer*)
- Open discussion followed by final remarks from the **Government of Uzbekistan**

15.00 - 15.15 *Coffee*

15.15 – 16.45 OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE  
MONITORING REVIEW OF TAJIKISTAN

*Ballroom 2*

*Enhancing Access to Finance for SMEs and Increasing Export in Agriculture*



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European Union

- Welcoming remarks by **Mr. Maciej Madalinski**, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Tajikistan
- Opening Statement by **Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda**, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
- Discussion of key recommendations on enhancing access to finance for SMEs:
  - **OECD Secretariat** and **Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda**, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
  - **Ms. Diana Russu**, SMEs and Migration Expert, Moldova (*reviewer*)
  - **Ms. Aleksandra Lange**, Labour Migration Expert, Poland (*reviewer*)
  - Open discussion and final remarks by **Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda**, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
- Discussion of key recommendations on increasing export in agriculture:
  - **OECD Secretariat** and **Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda**, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
  - **Mr. Philippe Yvergnaux**, Export Promotion expert, Business France (*reviewer*)
  - **Mr. Narmuhan Sarybaev**, CEO of Agrarian Credit Corporation, Kazakhstan (*reviewer*)
  - Open discussion and final remarks by **Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda**, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
- Closing remarks by **Mr. Johannes Stenbaek-Madsen**, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan
- Final remarks by the **Chair**

16.45 - 17.00 *Coffee*

## WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2017, 17.00-18.30

17.00 – 18.15

### THE OECD KAZAKHSTAN COUNTRY PROGRAMME

Ballroom 2

Kazakhstan is one of the three countries to benefit from an OECD Country Programme, a whole-of-country and whole-of-OECD policy dialogue platform involving analytical reviews, capacity-building projects, adherence to OECD legal instruments and enhanced participation in OECD Committees and other OECD bodies. Launched in January 2015, the Programme supports Kazakhstan's long-term reform agenda on critical issues, including civil service reform, public sector integrity, the rule of law, social policy, and diversified and sustainable economic growth. *Policy-makers from Kazakhstan discussed the impact of the Programme, describing how engagement with the OECD has affected policy processes and how OECD work has been reflected in national strategic development plans and documents, as well as the possible regional spill overs which could be envisaged.*

#### SPEAKERS

- **Mr. William Tompson**, Head of the Eurasia Division, OECD
- **H.E. Mr. Timur Suleimenov**, Minister of National Economy, Kazakhstan
- **H.E. Mr. Zhenis Kassymbek**, Minister of Investments and Development, Kazakhstan
- **H.E. Ms. Tamara Duisenova**, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, Kazakhstan
- **H.E. Mr. Kanat Bozumbayev**, Minister of Energy, Kazakhstan
- **H.E. Mr. Erlan Sagadiyev**, Minister of Education and Science, Kazakhstan

The session was moderated by **Mr. Karim Dahou**, Senior Counsellor, Global Relations, OECD

18.15 – 18.30

### CLOSING OF EURASIA WEEK

Ballroom 2

- **Ms. Mathilde Mesnard**, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
- **H.E. Mr. Timur Suleimenov**, Minister of National Economy, Kazakhstan
- **Ms. Kumi Kitamori**, Head of Division, Green Growth & Global Relations, OECD Environment Directorate

## THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2017, 8.30-17.30

Parallel Sessions by invitation only

8.30 – 17.30

### EU CENTRAL ASIA INVEST NETWORKING EVENT \*

09.30 – 17.30

### OECD GREEN ACTION PROGRAMME MEETING\*

## FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2017, 9.00-18.30

9.00 – 18.30

### OECD GREEN ACTION PROGRAMME MEETING \*

## SIDE EVENTS

### **Monday, 23 October**

#### **Pre-Conference Event hosted by EBRD (16.00 - 18.00)**

##### ***Drivers of Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Eurasia: The Role of Private Sector***

Nine out of ten jobs are created by the private sector worldwide, making it a major force for economic growth and prosperity. However, misalignment of demand for, and supply of, talent and skills leaves large groups unable to compete for jobs. Skills mismatches have a particularly negative impact on women's access to gainful employment opportunities.

The event consisted of two interlinked sessions. The first session explored the drivers of inclusive and sustainable growth in transition economies. The second focused on the critical role of the private sector in promoting equitable access to training and skills, including gender equality, in partnership with policy and other stakeholders.

### **Tuesday, 24 October**

#### **Parallel session organised by the OECD Competition Division (16.45 - 19.00) – by invitation only**

##### ***Competition Advocacy – Be Heard and Seen***

This session was chaired by **Mr. Frédéric Jenny**, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee and Professor of Economics at ESSEC Business School in Paris. The discussion focused on OECD Recommendations and tools that can be utilised by competition agencies in Eurasia. Topics included: the fight against hard core cartels and bid rigging in public procurement; OECD competition assessments and the Competition Assessment Toolkit (CAT).

### **Thursday, 26 October 2017**

#### **EU Central Asia Invest Networking Meeting (8.30 – 17.30) – by invitation only**

The EU Central Asia Invest (CAI) Networking Meeting provided an opportunity for CAI stakeholders and their related business intermediary organisations (BIOs) to exchange knowledge and share experiences and approaches to strengthen the role played by the latter in Central Asia. For more information, please write to: [CAEUNetworking@oecd.org](mailto:CAEUNetworking@oecd.org).

#### **OECD GREEN Action Programme Meeting (9.30-17.30) – by invitation only**

The 2017 Annual meeting of the GREEN Action Programme Task Force brought together Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA) and OECD countries as well as partner organisations, NGOs and representatives of private sector. The meeting focused on the improvement of environmental policies in the transition economies of EECCA.

### **Friday, 27 October 2017**

The **OECD Green Action Programme Meeting** continued on Friday from **9.00 to 18.30**.

The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD) is a unique forum where governments work together to address economic, social and environmental challenges. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek solutions to common problems, identify good practices and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The **OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme** was launched in 2008 to support Eurasia economies in developing more vibrant and competitive markets – both at the national and regional level – in order to generate sustainable growth. The Programme focuses on a comprehensive approach that includes regional dialogue, peer review, definition of reform priorities and assistance in the design and implementation of policies.

The **OECD Central Asia Initiative (CAI)**: Co-chaired by the European Union and the Kyrgyz Republic, the CAI was launched in November 2008 and covers Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The **OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative (EESC)**: Co-chaired by Poland and Sweden, the EESC was launched in April 2009 and covers the countries of the EU Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

Through both Initiatives, the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme encourages Eurasia countries to align to OECD standards, identify policy barriers to competitiveness and support capacity building in the design and implementation of policies to improve competitiveness.

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Ministry of Economic Development