



Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
Private Sector Development Division

WESTERN BALKANS REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS INITIATIVE WORKSHOP

DRAFT AGENDA

2-3 June 2010

Organised by
OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe

Location
OECD Headquarters
2 Rue André Pascal, Paris
June 2 meeting room CC 16
June 3 meeting room 'Salle D, Chateau'

Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI)

The Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI) is a three-year, EUR 3.8 million project supported by the European Union to strengthen the medium-term competitiveness of the Western Balkans by increasing productivity and output through improving the development of human capital and increasing innovation among manufacturing and service-sector firms.

The project comprises three pillars:

1. human capital development,
2. innovation, and
3. sector-specific policy reform.

The first pillar will focus on strengthening policies and programmes to support human capital development, for instance through the transfer of know-how in skills gap measurement. The innovation pillar aims to strengthen policies and institutions that foster innovation, with a focus on technology absorption by domestic manufacturing firms and enhanced co-operation between governments, research institutions and industry. The third pillar will apply lessons learned from the first two in selected economic sectors where Western Balkan economies have comparative advantage.

One of the features of the RCI is that it will be based on a series of pilot projects. Each Western Balkan economy will have an opportunity to implement one pilot project in either the human capital or innovation pillar, but not both. The purpose of each pilot project is to transfer knowledge and capacity to officials in public administrations and agencies. The pilot projects will involve the OECD project implementation team, the partner government and may include a range of other participants ranging from the private sector, universities, research institutions and regional development agencies.

Each Western Balkan economy will be offered the opportunity to propose itself for a potential pilot project. The allocation of pilot projects will be made by a project steering committee comprising the OECD, European Commission and Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).

Workshop Objectives and Outputs

The objective of the Paris workshop is to add greater detail and specification regarding the types of pilot projects that the OECD could and should offer under both the human capital and innovation pillars.

A discussion among technical experts from the region and from the OECD area is expected to help in defining the full spectrum of services that would be relevant to offer under each of the pillars of the RCI. For instance, under the innovation pillar, the OECD might offer training and policy guidance in the creation of industrial extension services. But it might also, for example, offer services relating to policy guidance on university-industry linkages, or business angel networks, and a number of other relevant types of programme. In the human capital domain, the transfer of know-how to governments in the use of skills gaps analysis could be one service offering. But one country has already requested that the project also provide advice on the design and operation of programmes to encourage older unemployed workers into self-employment.

The OECD project implementation team will use the results of the Paris workshop to produce a “menu of services” which will be presented to senior Western Balkan government officials at the next meeting of the South East Europe Investment Committee on 14 June 2010.

WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE

INNOVATION WORKSHOP

09:30 – 09:45

INTRODUCTION

MR. ALISTAIR NOLAN, HEAD OF INVESTMENT COMPACT FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPE, OECD

MR. MILAN KONOPEK, POLICY ANALYST, OECD

PRESENTATIONS BY EXPERTS – SESSION 1

09:45 – 10:00

MR. DJURO KUTLACA, MIHAJLO PUPIN INSTITUTE, SERBIA

10:00 – 10:45

GROUP DISCUSSION

10:45 – 11:00

MR. SLAVO RADOSEVIC, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, UK

11:00 – 11:45

GROUP DISCUSSION

11:45 – 12:00

COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 12:15

MR. ELVIR CAUSEVIC, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL RESOURCES, SARAJEVO SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

12:15 – 13:00

GROUP DISCUSSION

13:00 – 14:30

LUNCH

PRESENTATIONS BY EXPERTS – SESSION 2

14:45 – 15:00

MR. STEPHEN ROPER, WARWICK BUSINESS SCHOOL, THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, UK

15:00 – 15:45

GROUP DISCUSSION

15:45 – 16:00

MS. SONJA ANDONOVA, GTZ OFFICE IN MACEDONIA, MACEDONIA

16:00 – 16:45

GROUP DISCUSSION

16:45 – 17:00

CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL REMARKS BY OECD INVESTMENT COMPACT

THURSDAY, 3 JUNE

HUMAN CAPITAL WORKSHOP

09:30 – 09:45

INTRODUCTION

MR. ALISTAIR NOLAN, HEAD OF INVESTMENT COMPACT FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPE, OECD

MR. MILAN KONOPEK, POLICY ANALYST, OECD

PRESENTATIONS BY EXPERTS – SESSION 1

09:45 – 10:00

PRESENTATION BY MS. SANJA CRNKOVIC-POZAIC, BIT CROATIA, CROATIA

10:00 - 10:45

GROUP DISCUSSION

10:45 – 11:00

PRESENTATION BY MR. MIHAIL ARANDARENKO, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE, SERBIA

11:00 – 11:45

GROUP DISCUSSION

11:45 – 12:00

COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 12:15

PRESENTATION BY DR. VASSILIS MONASTIRIOTIS, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, UK

12:15 – 13:00

GROUP DISCUSSION

13:00 – 14:30

LUNCH

PRESENTATIONS BY EXPERTS – SESSION 2

14:45 – 15:00

PRESENTATION BY MR. BOZIDAR SISEVIC, EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OF MONTENEGRO, MONTENEGRO

15:00 – 15:45

GROUP DISCUSSION

15:45 – 16:00

PRESENTATION BY MR. TIHOMIR ZILJAK, PUBLIC OPEN UNIVERSITY ZAGREB, CROATIA

16:00 – 16:45

GROUP DISCUSSION

16:45 – 17:00

CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL REMARKS BY OECD INVESTMENT COMPACT