



DRAFT AGENDA¹

WESTERN BALKANS COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK 2024

Fact-finding Meeting Bosnia and Herzegovina

27 October 2023

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Swissotel Sarajevo

SCC - Sarajevo City Centre, Vrbanja 1

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided

¹ This is not a meeting of an official OECD body

The [OECD](#) is a unique forum where governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experience, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

Since 2000, the [OECD South East Europe Regional Programme](#) has been closely collaborating with economies of the region to foster growth, investment and employment through reforms that support competitiveness and private sector development. The programme addresses regional and national needs, capacities and reform priorities while translating OECD standards and best practices into actionable advice for South East European (SEE) economies (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia).

■ WHAT IS THE COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK?

Drawing on key OECD tools and standards, the [Competitiveness Outlook](#) publication series is the most comprehensive assessment of economic performance, governance and regulation in the six Western Balkan (WB6) economies. It covers 15 key policy areas that are interrelated and make up five thematic clusters: (1) Business environment; (2) Skills system; (3) Greening; (4) Digitalisation and technology; (5) Connectivity and infrastructure.

The Competitiveness Outlook seeks to provide the region's policy makers with a multi-dimensional benchmarking tool, enabling them to compare performance against regional peers as well as OECD good practices, and to design future policies based on rich evidence and actionable policy recommendations.

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The last edition was launched at the [Leaders Meeting of the Berlin Process Western Balkans Summit](#) in July 2021 where several Heads of State and Government lauded that the OECD Competitiveness Outlook's policy recommendations serve "*as guidance and inspiration for pursuing an ambitious, inclusive and sustainable reform agenda in the Western Balkans*".

■ THE MEETING

While the meeting will provide an overview of **Bosnia and Herzegovina's assessment status for all five thematic clusters** of the Competitiveness Outlook's, it will in particular **focus on the business environment cluster**, comprised of the (1) trade; (2) investment; (3) access to finance and (4) tax policy dimensions.

The meeting aims to achieve **two main objectives**:

1) **Closing information gaps**: The discussions will focus on obtaining any remaining information necessary to enhance the understanding of the provided inputs, particularly for the business environment cluster. This will help fill any information gaps and provide a more comprehensive assessment.

2) **Identifying achievements, challenges, and policy priorities**: The meeting will facilitate discussions among participants to identify and discuss key achievements and challenges, notably related to the business environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additionally, potential policy options will be explored, allowing for an exchange of ideas and perspectives on how to address the identified challenges and further enhance competitiveness.

■ WHO WILL BE THERE?

The meeting will bring together Bosnia and Herzegovina's state-level Competitiveness Outlook Co-ordinator, **policy makers** who contributed to the government self-assessment (in particular Dimension Contact Points) and representatives of the state statistical office. Meeting participants will also include representatives of the EU Delegation and **non-government stakeholders** such as NGOs, private-sector, academia representatives.

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Objective *The objective of the meeting is two-fold: firstly, to gather necessary data and insights to bridge any existing information gaps in the selected key policy areas identified by the OECD; and secondly, to identify and discuss notable achievements, challenges, and potential policy options within these areas. By achieving these objectives, the meeting aims to enhance understanding, facilitate informed decision-making, and contribute to the overall improvement of competitiveness in the relevant policy domains.*

08:30-9:00 **REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE**

9:00-9:20 **OPENING REMARKS**

- **Ms. Brankica Pandurević**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Competitiveness Outlook co-ordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ms. Antonella Di Sandri**, Head of Operations Section for Economic Development, Natural Resources and Infrastructure, EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr. Umur Gökçe**, Economic Advisor, OECD South East Europe Division

9:20-9:35 **COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK 2024: BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVE AND PROCESS**

The fourth edition of the Competitiveness Outlook will provide Western Balkan policy-makers with a multi-dimensional benchmarking tool to compare their performance across 15 policy dimensions and enable them to design future policies based on rich evidence and actionable policy recommendations. The publication draws on inputs and feedback from both government and non-government stakeholders, which contributes to the versatility and relevance of the assessment. During this intervention, the OECD will provide a short recap of the Competitiveness Outlook methodology and familiarize stakeholders with the 2024 assessment process.

- **Mr. Martin Kohtze**, Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division

Questions and answers

9:35-10:15 **COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK 2024: DATA GAPS – BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – STATE-LEVEL FOCUS**

The OECD will present the main data gaps across all 15 policy areas covered by the 2024 *Competitiveness Outlook* assessment. Discussions will focus on the 5 policy areas that constitute the *Competitiveness Outlook's* Business Environment cluster: (1) **Investment policy and promotion**; (2) **trade policy**; (3) **access to finance** and (4) **tax policy**.

- **Mr. Ali Fuad Turgut**, Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division

Tour de table of Dimension Contact Points

The *Competitiveness Outlook* 2024 dimension contact points from Bosnia and Herzegovina will be invited to provide an update on the data collection and assessment process,

highlighting issues that they have encountered. They will be given the opportunity to ask questions, clarify any doubts and acquire insights on the data collection process.

Moderators:

- **Ms. Brankica Pandurević**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Competitiveness Outlook co-ordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr. Matija Lojpur**, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division

Tour-de-table

- **Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina representative** (TBD)
- **Competitiveness Outlook 2024 Dimension Contact Points**

10:15-10:30

COFFEE BREAK

10:30-12:00

KEY CHALLENGES & POLICY SOLUTIONS – BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – STATE-LEVEL FOCUS

The objective of this session is to **identify priority areas and explore possible policy interventions** to further improve the business environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina in general. An open discussion will contribute to the fact-finding process by providing valuable information for policy development and decision-making to enhance the overall business climate and foster competitiveness.

Moderator:

- **Mr. Umur Gökçe**, Economic Advisor, OECD South East Europe Division

Presenters:

- **Mr. Ali Fuad Turgut**, Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division
- **Mr. Martin Kohtze**, Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division
- **Mr. Matija Lojpur**, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division

Open discussion

12:00-12:15

CLOSING REMARKS

- **Ms. Brankica Pandurević**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Competitiveness Outlook co-ordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr. Umur Gökçe**, Economic Advisor, OECD South East Europe Division

12:15-13:30

NETWORKING LUNCH