



AGENDA<sup>1</sup>

# SEE Competitiveness Outlook 2024

## Fact-finding Meeting

**12 October 2023**

Sirius Hotel, Pristina

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided

<sup>1</sup> 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.

#### 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

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 not only *"as guidance and inspiration for pursuing an ambitious, inclusive and sustainable reform agenda in the Western Balkans"* but also *"provide a necessary and useful evidence base for the post-COVID-19 recovery of the region."*

#### THE MEETING

While the meeting will provide an overview of the **assessment status for all five thematic clusters** of the Competitiveness Outlook, it will in particular **zoom in on the greening cluster**, comprised of relevant indicators of the (1) environment; (2) energy; (3) transport; and (4) agriculture 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 green 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, particularly within the greening cluster. 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 the National Competitiveness Outlook Co-ordinator, **policy makers** who contributed to the government self-assessment (in particular Dimension Contact Points) and representatives of the Statistical Office. Meeting participants will also include representatives of the European Commission and **non-government stakeholders** such as NGOs, private-sector, academia representatives.

#### Contacts

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**12 OCTOBER 2023**

**FACT-FINDING MEETING**

**SIRIUS HOTEL PRISTINA**

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

**08:30-09:00** **REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE**

**09:00-09:30** **OPENING REMARKS**

- **Mr. Zef Dedaj**, Acting General Director, KIESA
- **Mr. Johannes Madsen Stenbaek**, Head of Co-operation, European Union Office
- **Mr. Umur Gökçe**, Economic Advisor, OECD South East Europe Division

**09:30-09:50** **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. The OECD will also highlight the data gaps across the 15 policy areas of the 2024 *Competitiveness Outlook*, with a focus on four policy areas that make up the greening cluster: (1) Environment policy; (2) energy policy; (3) transport policy; and (4) agriculture policy.

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

*Questions and answers*

**09:50-10:30** **COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK 2024: TOUR-DE-TABLE OF DIMENSION CONTACT POINTS**

Each Dimension Contact Point as well as the National Statistical Office will be invited to provide an update on the data collection and highlight 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.

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Zef Dedaj**, Acting General Director, KIESA

***Tour-de-table***

- **Mr. Avni Kastrati**, Director of the Department of Social Statistics, KAS
- **Competitiveness Outlook 2024 Dimension Contact Points**

**10:30-10:45**      **COFFEE BREAK**

**10:45-12:15**      **COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK 2024: KEY CHALLENGES & POLICY SOLUTIONS – GREENING**

The OECD will present its initial understanding of the key progress and policy challenges hampering greening outcomes in the economy, with special emphasis on the four policy areas, which make up the 2024 Competitiveness Outlook's Greening cluster: (1) **Environment policy**; (2) **energy policy**; (3) **transport policy**; and (4) **agriculture policy**.

One of the objectives of this session is to **identify priority areas for improvement and explore possible policy interventions**. The session will give participants an opportunity to highlight most in-demand strategies to boost greening policies. The roundtable will also serve a benchmarking purpose for the stakeholders to spotlight policy initiatives and programmes with the most tangible impact. Open discussions will contribute to the fact-finding process by providing valuable information for policy development and decision-making to enhance greening for a more sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

**Moderator:**

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

**Presenters:**

- **Ms. Clémence Girin**, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division
- **Mr. Ali-Fuad Turgut**, Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division

***Open discussion***

**12:15-12:30**      **CLOSING REMARKS**

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

**12:30-13:30**      **LUNCH**