

DRAFT AGENDA¹



SOUTH EAST EUROPE COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK 2024

Assessment Kick-off Meeting

Thursday, 27 April 2023

OECD Conference Centre, Paris
Room CC7



#OECDseeurope

¹ This is not an official meeting of an 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 across key policy areas that are interrelated and make up a holistic structural reform agenda needed to foster competitiveness and socio-economic development.

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

The Assessment Kick-off Meeting will launch the new Competitiveness Outlook 2024 assessment cycle. The OECD will introduce the updated methodology and the main aspects of the assessment process and introduce the finalised assessment frameworks for each of the assessed policy dimensions.

WHO WILL BE THERE?

The meeting will be attended by the Competitiveness Outlook Co-ordinators of each WB6 economy, representatives of the WB6 economies' Statistical Offices, ERP and IPA Co-ordinators, as well as representatives of the European Commission, RCC and CEFTA.

Contacts

Mr. Ali-Fuad TURGUT
Project Manager
Tel: (+33-1) 45249988
Email: Alifuad.TURGUT@oecd.org

Mr. Martin KOHTZE
Project Manager
Tel: (+33-1) 45241364
Email: Martin.KOHTZE@oecd.org

Ms. Kristina LOPATKOVA
Project Assistant
Tel: (+33-1) 45 24 80 94
Email : Kristina.LOPATKOVA@oecd.org

THURSDAY, 27 APRIL - 9:30-12:30

PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK CYCLE

OECD CONFERENCE CENTRE ROOM CC7

Objective *The objective of this session is to present the updated methodology and the key features of the assessment process as well as to introduce the finalised assessment framework for each of the 15 policy dimensions. The afternoon part of the Meeting will be dedicated to bilateral meetings with the representatives from each WB6 economy.*

MASTER OF CEREMONY **Mr. Umur Gökçe**, Economic Advisor, OECD South East Europe Division, OECD Global Relations



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

09:30-10:00 **OPENING REMARKS**

- **Ambassador László Turóczy**, Chair of OECD Friends of South East Europe, Permanent Delegation of Hungary to the OECD and UNESCO
- **Mr. Andreas Schaal**, Director, OECD Global Relations and Cooperation
- **Mr. Mathieu Bousquet**, Acting Director, European Commission Directorate General for the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR) *(virtual)*

10:00-10:45 **TOUR DE TABLE**

Representatives of each WB6 economy will be invited to reflect on how the findings and policy recommendations of the Competitiveness Outlook's 2021 edition have supported policy-making and reforms in his/her economy.

MODERATOR: **Ms. Marzena Kisielewska**, Head, OECD South East Europe Regional Programme

- **Western Balkans 6 Competitiveness Outlook Co-ordinators**

10:45-12:15 **PRESENTATION OF THE COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK METHODOLOGY, ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORKS AND 2024 CYCLE ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

In this session, the OECD will recap on the key features of the Competitiveness Outlook methodology as well as introduce participants to the 2024 assessment process and timeline. It will also present the major changes and novelties introduced under each assessed policy dimensions to better reflect the latest OECD and EU policy trends and good practices.

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

Open discussion

Participants, most notably regional organisations (RCC and CEFTA), will be invited to share how the Competitiveness Outlook assessment can contribute to their priorities and upcoming works.

12:15-12:30 CLOSING REMARKS

- **Mr. Javier Menendez Bonilla**, Team Leader, Thematic Support, an economy that works for people, green, digital and connect, DG NEAR
- **Ms. Marzena Kisielewska**, Head, OECD South East Europe Regional Programme

12:30-14:00 LUNCH – OECD GEORGE MARSHALL ROOM

BILATERAL MEETINGS

14:00-15:45

The OECD will discuss with the representatives (Competitiveness Outlook Co-ordinators and Statistical Office representative) of each WB6 economy the details of the 2024 cycle's assessment process, including the:

- *Recap of the economies' responsibilities in the process*
- *Organisation of fact-finding meetings and dimension specific-launch meetings*
- *Identification of contact points in various ministries for the self-assessment*
- *Co-operation with the Statistical Office for quantitative data collection*

14:00-14:45

Room MB S036 **BILATERAL MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALBANIA**

Room MB 1122 **BILATERAL MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF KOSOVO^{2*}**

Room MB 4122 **BILATERAL MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SERBIA**

14:45-15:00 **BREAK**

² * This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence.

15:00-15:45

**Room MB
S036**

BILATERAL MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH MACEDONIA

**Room MB
1122**

BILATERAL MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MONTENEGRO

**Room MB
4122**

BILATERAL MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

