



DRAFT AGENDA<sup>1</sup>

# SEE Competitiveness Outlook 2021

## Publication Launch Meeting Albania

**Monday, 18 October 2021**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Zoom meeting

(**Working Language: English** – No simultaneous interpretation will be provided)



**#OECDseeurope**

<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.

The [OECD South East Europe \(SEE\) regional programme](#) supports economies in the region in the design and implementation of reforms in favour of stronger growth, higher investment and full employment. The programme started in 2000 as the OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe to later extend the scope of its activities and become the OECD South East Europe regional programme. Since inception, the programme has involved partners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo\*, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia. The Programme's work is structured around three main areas of expertise:

(1) Business environment and competitiveness; (2) SMEs and private sector development; and (3) Business integrity and fair market conditions

**WHAT IS THE COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK?** The [Competitiveness Outlook](#) is a key benchmarking tool for the six Western Balkan governments (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and

Serbia) that supports their domestic policy cycles throughout their design, implementation and monitoring stages. While a number of other indices and benchmarking reports assess the business environment in those Western Balkan economies, the Competitiveness Outlook's participatory assessment process takes into account the views of different stakeholders (government representatives, academic community, NGOs, the private sector) to create a balanced assessment on future reform. The Competitiveness Outlook focuses on 16 policy areas and evaluates crucial issues affecting economic competitiveness to identify a sustainable economic reform agenda and provide policy makers with actionable policy recommendations.

## THE MEETING

The objective of this meeting will be to present and discuss the key assessment findings for Albania. To this end the meeting will bring together policymakers from Albania who contributed to the assessment, OECD and international experts, as well as representatives from the European Commission.

### Contacts

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\* 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.

## COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK 2021 LAUNCH MEETING – ALBANIA MONDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2021 10:00 – 12:00 ZOOM MEETING

**Objective:** *Following the release of the [OECD SEE Competitiveness Outlook 2021](#) in July, the objective of this meeting will be to present and discuss the assessment findings and recommendations for Albania.*

**09:30-10:00**      **SIGN-IN TO THE MEETING**

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

Moderator: Ms Anita Richter, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division

**Mr Karim Dahou**, Senior Counsellor, OECD Global Relations Secretariat

**Ms Delina Ibrahimaj**, Minister of Finance and Economy of Albania

**Mr Luigi Soreca**, Head of EU Delegation to Albania

**10:30-11:10**      **PRESENTATION OF ASSESSMENT KEY FINDINGS**

*The main findings for Albania will be presented for each of the 16 policy dimensions.*

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

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

*Questions and answers*

**11:10-11:50**      **FOCUS TOPIC: TAX POLICY**

*This section will zoom in on the main findings of the tax policy assessment for Albania and also share OECD good practices in this area.*

**Mr Bert Brys**, Head of Country Tax Policy Unit, OECD Tax Policy and Statistics Division

*Questions and answers*

**11:50-12:00**      **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Ms Arjana Dyrmishi**, Director of the Directorate of Economic Development Policies at the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania

**Ms Anita Richter**, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division

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