



DRAFT AGENDA<sup>1</sup>

# SEE Competitiveness Outlook 2021

## Publication Launch Meeting North Macedonia

**Friday, 24 September 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;
- (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 North Macedonia. To this end the meeting will bring together policymakers from North Macedonia who contributed to the assessment, OECD and international experts, as well as representatives from the European Commission.

### Contacts

Mr Martin KOHTZE  
Project Manager  
Tel: +33145241364  
Email: [Martin.KOHTZE@oecd.org](mailto:Martin.KOHTZE@oecd.org)

Mr Ali-Fuad TURGUT  
Project Manager  
Tel: +33145249988  
Email: [Alifuad.TURGUT@oecd.org](mailto:Alifuad.TURGUT@oecd.org)

\* 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.

## FRIDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 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 North Macedonia.*

**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

**Mr Fatmir Bytyqi**, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Economic Affairs, Coordination of Economic Sectors and Investments of the Republic of North Macedonia

**Mr Frek Janmaat**, Head of Operations (Economic Development, Rule of Law, Public Administration), Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia

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

*The main findings for North Macedonia 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: EDUCATION POLICY**

*This part will zoom in on the main findings of the Education Policy assessment for North Macedonia and also share OECD good practices in this area.*

**Ms Caitlyn Guthrie**, Analyst, OECD Education Policy Advice and Implementation Division

**Ms Hannah Kitchen**, Analyst, OECD Education Policy Advice and Implementation Division

*Questions and answers*

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

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

DRAFT

