



DRAFT AGENDA<sup>1</sup>

# SEE Competitiveness Outlook 2024

## Fact-finding Meeting Montenegro

**6 July 2023**  
**Podgorica, Montenegro**  
Hilton Hotel

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.

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 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 fact-finding meeting will focus on **key policy areas identified for Montenegro by the OECD** through an initial review of qualitative and quantitative questionnaires. 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 chosen key policy areas. 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 within the selected policy areas. 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 be attended by the National Competitiveness Outlook co-ordinator, representatives of the Statistical Office, Dimension contact points for the following dimensions: **trade** policy, **investment** policy and promotion, **access to finance**, **tax** policy and **state-owned enterprises**, as well as relevant government representatives and additional contributors to the questionnaires, European Commission and non-government such as NGOs, private-sector, academia representatives.

##### Contacts

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**6 JULY 2023**  
**FACT-FINDING MEETING**  
**HILTON HOTEL**

**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.*

**MORNING SESSION**

**09:30-10:15**    **REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE**

**10:15-10:30**    **OPENING REMARKS**

- **Ms. Jovana Krunić**, Acting Director General of the Directorate for International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Montenegro
- **Mr. Umur Gökçe**, Economic Advisor, OECD South East Europe Division

**10:30-10:45**    **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*

**10:45-12:15**    **COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK 2024: DATA GAPS – BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN MONTENEGRO**

Drawing on the preliminary inputs collected in the 2024 Competitiveness Outlook assessment, the OECD will provide an overview of the policy landscape affecting the business environment in Montenegro, by shedding light on the main policy developments that occurred since the last *Competitiveness Outlook* assessment in 2021. The OECD will then highlight the data gaps across the five policy areas, which make up the 2024 *Competitiveness Outlook* Business Environment cluster: (1) **Investment policy and promotion**; (2) **trade policy**; (3) **access to finance**; (4) **tax policy**; and (5) **state-owned enterprises**.

The session will aim to **collect additional insights from governmental stakeholders on the ongoing and planned policy initiatives** with a view to have an accurate understanding of the policies relevant to business environment. The session will contribute to the fact-finding

process by providing a zoom-in on government priorities and recent achievements in the context of improving the business environment in Montenegro.

**Moderator:**

- **Ms. Jovana Krunić**, Acting Director General of the Directorate for International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Montenegro

**Presenters:**

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

***Open discussion***

12:15-13:45 NETWORKING LUNCH

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

13:45-15:15 KEY CHALLENGES & POLICY SOLUTIONS – BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN MONTENEGRO

The OECD will present its initial understanding of the key policy challenges hampering Montenegro's business environment, with special emphasis on the five policy areas, which make up the 2024 Competitiveness Outlook's Business Environment cluster (1) **Investment policy and promotion**; (2) **trade policy**; (3) **access to finance**; (4) **tax policy**; and (5) **state-owned enterprises**.

One of the objectives of this session is to **identify priority areas for improvement and explore possible policy interventions from the angle of non-governmental stakeholders**. The session will give non-governmental stakeholders an opportunity to highlight most in-demand strategies to boost competitiveness in Montenegro. The roundtable will also serve a benchmarking purpose for the stakeholders to spotlight government initiatives and programmes with the most tangible impact for the private sector. Open discussions 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. Martin Kohtze**, Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division
- **Mr. Ali-Fuad Turgut**, Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division

***Open discussion***

15:15-15:30 CLOSING REMARKS OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION

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