

DRAFT AGENDA<sup>†</sup>



# SME Policy Index 2022: Western Balkans and Turkey Publication Launch Meeting

**Thursday, 15 September 2022**

**10:00 – 12:00**

Zoom meeting – Registration: <https://bit.ly/3IUTCW5>

(**Working Language: English** – Simultaneous interpretation will be provided)



**#OECDseeurope**

<sup>†</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 countries 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 SME POLICY INDEX?

The SME Policy Index is a benchmarking tool for emerging economies to monitor and evaluate progress in policies that support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The tool is structured around the ten principles of the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA), which are translated into 12 dimensions, providing a wide-range of pro-enterprise measures to guide the design and implementation of SME policies. Developed in 2006, by the OECD in partnership with the European Commission (EC), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the European Training Foundation (ETF), it has been applied to several regions, among which the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) in 2006, 2009, 2012 (which included Turkey for the

first time), 2016 and 2019.

The main objective of the SME Policy Index is to provide governments with a framework to assess policies targeting SME development. The Index identifies strengths and weaknesses in policy design and implementation, allows for comparison across countries and measures convergence towards EU SME policy standards. It aims to support governments in setting targets for SME policy developments and strategic priorities to further improve the business environment. It additionally engages governments in policy dialogue and exchange of experiences, within the region and with OECD and EU member countries.

#### THE MEETING

The objective of this meeting will be to present the SME Policy Index 2022 assessment findings for Albania and to discuss policy recommendations and the ways forward for SME sector development in 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.

**PUBLICATION LAUNCH MEETING – ALBANIA**  
**THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2022, 10:00 – 12:00**  
**ZOOM MEETING**

**Objective** *Following the release of the SME Policy Index 2022: Western Balkans and Turkey in July by the EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Várhelyi and the OECD Deputy Secretary General Knudsen, the objective of this meeting is to present and discuss the assessment findings and policy recommendations for Albania.*

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

**10:00-10:20 OPENING REMARKS**

Moderator: Ms. Anita Richter, Acting Head of OECD South East Europe Division  
**Mr. Andreas Schaal**, Director, OECD Global Relations and Cooperation  
**Mr. Andrew Williams**, Head of Albania Unit, DG NEAR, European Commission  
**Ms. Delina Ibrahimaj**, Minister of Economy and Finance of Albania

**10:20-11:00 PRESENTATION OF ASSESSMENT KEY FINDINGS – PART I**

*The SME Policy Index 2022 main findings and recommendations for further improvement will be presented. The session will also zoom in on several areas most relevant for future progress in SME policy making, and provide the related OECD and EU good practices.*

**Ms. Marijana Petrović**, SME Policy Index Project Manager  
**Ms. Jovana Pavlović Djukić**, SME Policy Index Project Manager  
**Mr. Matija Lojpur**, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division  
*Questions and answers*

**11:00-11:10 COFFEE BREAK**

**11:10-11:45 PRESENTATION OF ASSESSMENT KEY FINDINGS – PART II**

**Ms. Clémence Girin**, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division  
**Ms. Zofia Polakiewicz**, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division  
*Questions and answers*

**11:45-12:00 CLOSING REMARKS**

**Ms. Elira Demiraj**, General Director, Directorate of Economic Development and Employment, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania  
**Ms. Anita Richter**, Acting Head of OECD South East Europe Division

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