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

Friday, 2 September 2022
10:00 – 12:00
Zoom meeting – Registration: https://bit.ly/3Ob4S1s
(**Working Language: English** – Simultaneous interpretation will be provided)

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OECD Global Relations
South East Europe

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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 and discuss the key SME Policy Index 2022 assessment findings for Bosnia and Herzegovina. To this end the meeting will bring together policymakers from Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

FRIDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2022, 10:00 – 12:00

ZOOM MEETING

Objective	*Following the release of the SME Policy Index 2022: Western Balkans and Turkey in July, the objective of this meeting will be to present and discuss the assessment findings and recommendations for Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

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. Karim Dahou, Deputy Director, OECD Global Relations and Cooperation

Ms. Brankica Pandurević, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Vassilis Maragos, Head of Unit for Bosnia and Herzegovina, DG NEAR, European Commission

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. Jovana Pavlović Djukić, SME Policy Index Project Manager

Ms. Marijana Petrović, SME Policy Index Project Manager

Mr. Matija Lojpur, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division

Ms. Clémence Girin, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division

11:00-11:10 COFFEE BREAK

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

Ms. Zoé Ryan, 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. Brankica Pandurević, Assistant Minister, Sector for Economic Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, SBA co-ordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Adis Fajić, Expert Advisor, Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Craft, SBA Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entity co-ordinator

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Mr. Rajko Lajić, Assistant of Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Economy and Entrepreneurship of Republika Srpska, SBA Republika Srpska entity co-ordinator

Ms. Anita Richter, Acting Head of OECD South East Europe Division