



HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH EAST EUROPE: LAUNCH OF THE WESTERN BALKANS COMPETITIVENESS OUTLOOK 2024

OECD HEADQUARTERS, PARIS

SAVE THE DATE - Announcement

The OECD South East Europe Regional Programme (SEERP) will hold its **High-Level Conference on South East Europe on 26 June 2024**. This meeting will convene Ministers in charge of economic affairs and other high-level policy-makers from South East Europe, OECD and EU member countries, the European Commission, as well as representatives from international and regional partner organisations. The conference will be held at the **OECD Headquarters in Paris in a hybrid format to allow participation of the broad SEE/OECD community**.

At the High Level Conference, the OECD will launch the fourth edition of its flagship publication, [Western Balkans Competitiveness Outlook 2024](#), alongside the related Digital Data Hub that will, for the first time, present the results in an interactive way complementing the report. The Competitiveness Outlook offers one of the most comprehensive assessments of economic reforms in the Western Balkans, covering 15 policy areas key to competitiveness and economic convergence. As a benchmarking tool and with its wealth of OECD standards and best practices, the publication provides guidance to steer structural reforms, supporting the region's economic reform agenda, EU integration efforts, as well as regional economic integration. The fourth assessment cycle was launched in April 2023, while the OECD's initial regional findings were shared at the [Competitiveness Outlook 2024 Regional Preliminary Findings Meeting](#) in December 2023, following a series of fact-finding meetings organised across the region.

Drawing on the findings from the publication, the Conference will aim to delve into policies that will accelerate the Western Balkans' socio-economic convergence towards the OECD and EU. It will explore ways to advance the region's sustainable economic growth by examining five policy clusters that make up the Competitiveness Outlook 2024: *business environment, skills, connectivity and infrastructure, greening, and digitalisation*.