

DRAFT AGENDA<sup>†</sup>



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

**Thursday, 8 September 2022  
10:00 – 12:45 (hybrid meeting)**

**Envoy Conference,  
Gospodar Jevremova 47, Belgrade, Serbia**

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

**(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 and discuss the key SME Policy Index 2022 assessment findings for Serbia. To this end the meeting will bring together policymakers from Serbia who contributed to the assessment, OECD and international experts, as well as representatives from the European Commission.

#### Contacts

Ms Jovana PAVLOVIC DJUKIC  
Project Manager  
Tel: +33145241343  
Email: [Jovana.PAVLOVICDJUKIC@oecd.org](mailto:Jovana.PAVLOVICDJUKIC@oecd.org)

Ms Marijana PETROVIC  
Project Manager  
Tel: +33185556488  
Email: [Marijana.PETROVIC@oecd.org](mailto:Marijana.PETROVIC@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.

**PUBLICATION LAUNCH MEETING – SERBIA**  
**THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2022, 10:00 – 12:45**  
**HYBRID 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 Serbia.*

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

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

Moderator: Ms. Marijana Petrović, SME Policy Index Project Manager

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

**Ms. Anđelka Atanasković**, Minister of Economy of Serbia

**Ms. Andrea Hochhuber**, Head of European Integration, Economy and Trade, Delegation of the European Union to Serbia

**10:20-11:10 PRESENTATION OF ASSESSMENT KEY FINDINGS**

*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.*

**Presentation by the OECD SEE Division**

*Questions and answers*

**11:10-11:30 COFFEE BREAK**

**11:30-12:40 ZOOM-IN PANEL: SMEs CRISIS MANAGEMENT**

*SMEs in Serbia have faced various shocks in the last couple of years, which have impeded their access to finance and put a number of them in a financial distress. The objective of this panel will be to discuss effective preventive measures and early warning mechanisms that can help SMEs in the times of crisis. The panellists will also share good practices from the OECD and EU countries, shed light on the existing government support and provide private sector views on the matter.*

Moderator: Ms. Jovana Pavlović Djukić, SME Policy Index Project Manager

**Ms. Katarina Obradović Jovanović**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Economy of Serbia, SBA Co-ordinator for Serbia

**Mr. Bojan Stanić**, Assistant Director, Strategic Analysis and Data, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

**Mr. Christophe André**, Senior Economist, Economics Department, OECD

**Mr. Krassin Dimitrov**, Senior Expert on Bankruptcy and Second Chance

*Questions and answers*

12:40-12:45 CLOSING REMARKS

**Ms. Katarina Obradović Jovanović**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Economy of Serbia, SBA Co-ordinator for Serbia

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

12:45-14:00 LUNCH

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