

2nd Ministerial Panel - Talent Transformation in South East Europe: Develop today's Human for Tomorrow's Capital



Second Ministerial Panel Talent Transformation Develop Today's Human for Tomorrow's Capital

14:00 PM – 15:30 PM (CET)



CHAIR

Désirée SCHWEITZER

Vice Minister and Director General
for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance
Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Austria

PANELLISTS



Goran ĐUROVIĆ
Minister
of Economic Development
& Tourism
Montenegro



Dragan STEFANOVIĆ
State Secretary
Ministry of Economy
Serbia



Velislava PETROVA
Deputy Minister
of Foreign Affairs
Bulgaria



Delina IBRAHIMAJ
Minister
of Finance & Economy
Albania



Cornel FERUȚĂ
Secretary of State
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Romania

OECD Global Relations **South East Europe**

Background

The world of work is rapidly changing and pressuring all the economies to keep up. New technological developments, such as automation, artificial intelligence and digitalisation, are having a profound impact on labour markets. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated these trends, putting to the forefront questions about the skills needed for future jobs, insecurity of jobs and the type of public support needed for those left out.

Panellists debated how the economies in South East Europe could prepare their societies for a digital future and ensure a skilled labour force in view of the technological developments that would allow the region to stay ahead of the wave.

Key takeaways

- **Governments across South East Europe has a crucial role in helping their citizens and businesses reap the benefits of digitalisation** – especially when the digital transformation has accelerated with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Policies need to be forward thinking and to ensure that regulations and legislations adapt to the changing technological environment (e.g. remote working).
- **Having an integrated policy framework and a whole-of-government approach is vital when designing digital transformation strategies and policies.** This is to ensure coherence and create complementarities, whilst minimising fragmentation in responsibilities and spending.
- **South East European governments are making efforts to reform their education system**, aiming to develop students' digital competencies, as well as to encourage greater use of ICT in teaching. Development of digital skills is however not only essential for students, but also for employees and unemployed in order to keep their skills relevant for the market and to facilitate their inclusion into the labour market respectively.

- **Small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) could benefit from the public support to keep up with, and adapt to, the latest technological developments.** The establishment of publicly supported centres focusing on cutting-edge areas, such as artificial intelligence and fourth industrial revolution, can help companies adapt those technologies and retain their competitiveness.
- **Co-operation between the public and private sectors is essential to ensure a successful digital transformation.** There are many benefits for both sides of learning from each other's perspectives, and of creating synergies in embracing opportunities offered by the digital transformation.
- **Stronger involvement of governments in leading the digital transformation should not come at the cost of erosion of trust.** Social dialogue need to be at the core of policy-making to effectively address challenges arising from technological trends and get the buy-in from all parts of the society.