



Labour Migration in Albania

How to make the most of it?

Agenda¹

16 September 2022

9:00-11:30

Rogner Hotel

Blv Dëshmorët e Kombit 9,
1010 Tirana, Albania

Hybrid meeting - Zoom registration: <https://bit.ly/3uPnttc>



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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 practices and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

Since 2000, the [OECD South East Europe Regional Programme](#) has been closely collaborating with economies of the region to foster growth, investment and employment through reforms that support competitiveness and private sector development. The programme addresses regional and national needs, capacities and reform priorities while translating OECD standards and best practices into actionable advice for South East European (SEE) economies (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo* Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia).

■ WHAT IS THE MEETING ABOUT?

The Western Balkan Six (WB6) economies all have a long history of emigration. In 2020, more than one in five citizens born in the region lived abroad, mainly in a handful of OECD countries. This trend is set to continue, as more than one-third of WB6 citizens surveyed in 2021 considered emigrating.

High levels of labour emigration can pose a severe development challenge for the Western Balkans. However, the region's large and growing diaspora also provides opportunities, which remain largely untapped.

The [High-Level Conference on South East Europe: Human Capital Flight – Shaping The Future Together](#) was organised on 17 May 2022 at the OECD in Paris and brought together more than 250 participants, including high-level representatives of SEE economies. It provided the occasion to discuss how the SEE governments can manage labour migration and offer better prospects for their citizens and businesses. The high-level stakeholders reflected on current challenges and shared insights and best practices on reversing the human capital flight and overcoming technological challenges in SEE through talent transformation.

The new OECD report [Labour Migration in The Western Balkans: Mapping Patterns, Addressing Challenges and Reaping Benefits](#), prepared between spring 2021 and January 2022, was launched at the High-Level Conference. The report provides analytical insights on WB6 economies' labour migration, with economy-specific policy recommendations to address its root causes and reap benefits of migration and the diaspora. This report, conducted under the auspices of the OECD SEE Regional Programme, was prepared in co-operation with the OECD International Migration Division and co-funded by the Austria (ADA) and Switzerland (SDC).

A series of meetings in the Western Balkan Six economies will open up the chance for deepening the discussions that took place during the High-Level Conference and explore ways to continue and strengthen the work on labour migration and skills. In particular, this meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss key findings of the report and pathways to support Albania in better capitalising on its diasporas for its own development.

■ WHO WILL BE THERE?

The meeting will bring together policy-makers from Albania, OECD and international experts, representatives from Austria, Switzerland, and the European Union, as well as representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Diaspora Associations and other non-governmental and international organisations present in Albania.

*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

16 September 2022

Rogner Hotel, Tirana, and on Zoom

08:30-09:00 **REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE**

09:00-09:20 **OPENING REMARKS**

- **Ms Anita Richter**, Acting Head, OECD South East Europe Division
- **Ms Olta Manjani**, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy, Albania
- **Mr Patrik Meier**, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in Albania
- **Ms Simone Ungersböck**, Head of the Austrian Development Agency's Cooperation Office in Albania

09:20-09:40 **PRESENTATION OF THE OECD REPORT**

Labour Migration in the Western Balkans: Mapping Patterns, Addressing Challenges and Reaping Benefits

This session will present the report's main findings for Albania. It will also explore policy approaches for maximising the benefits from migration while mitigating its negative consequences.

- **Ms Elma Aga**, Policy Analyst, OECD South East Europe Division
- **Ms Lisa Andersson**, Labour Market Economist/Policy Analyst, OECD International Migration Division

Questions and answers

09:40-11:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION – Maximising the benefits from migration for Albania**

This panel will discuss how Albania can improve its policies to reduce the strength of potential push factors behind labour emigration and maximise the development benefits from migration and the diaspora.

MODERATOR:

- **Mr Martin Kohtze**, Policy Analyst/Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division

PANELISTS:

- **Mr Burim Bilali**, Project Specialist, Project Sector, National Agency for Diaspora, Albania
- **Ms Soana Jaupllari**, Executive Director, Albanian Diaspora Business Chamber, Albania
- **Ms Megi Mereme Llubani**, Diaspora Entrepreneur, Albania

Questions and answers

11:00-11:30 **NETWORKING COFFEE**

Contacts

Ms Anita Richter

Acting Head of OECD South East Europe Division

Tel: +(33-1) 45 24 75 89

Email: Anita.RICHTER@oecd.org

Mr Martin Kohtze

Policy Analyst/ Project Manager

Tel: +(33-1) 45 24 13 64

Email: Martin.KOHTZE@oecd.org

