



Human Capital for Inclusive Growth in North Macedonia

Agenda¹

27 September 2022

10:00-16:15

Skopje Marriott Hotel

Macedonia Square 7

1000 Skopje, North Macedonia



#OECDseeurope



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) and Türkiye.

■ WHAT IS THIS CONFERENCE ABOUT?

The “**Human Capital for Inclusive Growth in North Macedonia**” conference aims to provide a high-quality exchange platform to policy and decision-makers, private sector representatives and experts to discuss how North Macedonia can build on its human capital – the skills, experience and talents of its citizens and its SMEs – to foster sustainable and inclusive growth of its economy.

Drawing on the key findings from the OECD South East Europe Division’s latest publications, the conference is structured around two sessions. During the morning session, the OECD South East Europe Division will present and discuss the key findings and policy recommendations for North Macedonia of its report [Labour Migration in the Western Balkans: Mapping Patterns, Addressing Challenges and Reaping Benefits](#). This report was launched at the [OECD High Level Conference on Human Capital Flight – Shaping the Future Together](#) (17 May, Paris) and benefitted from the support of Austria (ADA) and Switzerland (SDC).

*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.

Following the presentation of the report, a distinguished panel will focus on how the benefits from labour migration and the diaspora can be maximised for North Macedonia’s own socio-economic development.

During the afternoon session, the OECD South East Europe Division will present the findings of its flagship publication [SME Policy Index: Western Balkans and Turkey 2022](#) for North Macedonia. The regional publication was launched by the OECD Deputy Secretary General Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen and the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi at the Dubrovnik Forum (8 July, Croatia). This publication contains detailed analyses on the progress and challenges in implementing the Small Business Act (SBA) for Europe and the discussions will aim to help policy makers in North Macedonia design and implement policies to strengthen enterprise skills and boost SME growth and resilience.

Following the presentation, a panel discussion on North Macedonia’s potential to build on its entrepreneurial capital to boost enterprise growth and competitiveness will take place.

■ WHO WILL BE THERE?

The meeting will bring together policy-makers from North Macedonia, 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 North Macedonia.

Contacts

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Labour Migration in North Macedonia

How to make the most of it?

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

9:30-10:00

REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

10:00-10:05

WELCOME

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

10:05-10:30

OPENING REMARKS

- **Mr Fatmir Bytyqi**, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Economic Affairs, Coordination of Economic Sectors and Investments, North Macedonia
- **Ms Véronique Hulmann**, Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland in North Macedonia
- **Mr Georg Woutsas**, Ambassador, Embassy of Austria in North Macedonia

10:30-11:00

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 North Macedonia. It will also explore policy approaches for maximising the benefits from migration while mitigating its negative consequences.

- **Mr Martin Kohtze**, Policy Analyst/Project Manager, OECD South East Europe Division
- **Ms Lisa Andersson**, Labour Market Economist/Policy Analyst, OECD International Migration Division

Questions and answers

11:00-12:50

PANEL DISCUSSION – Maximising the benefits from migration for North Macedonia

This panel will discuss how North Macedonia 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 Lucien Aegerter**, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in North Macedonia

PANELISTS:

- **Mr Jeton Shaqiri**, Minister of Education and Science, North Macedonia
- **Mr Viktor Mizo**, Managing Director of Kostal North Macedonia and President of the Association of Foreign Companies with Technologically Advanced Production of the Foreign Investors Council
- **Ms Nena Mancev**, Head of Education and Leadership Programs, Macedonia2025
- **Ms Sofija Daceva**, a young woman who studied abroad and started her own business in North Macedonia

12:50-13:00

CONCLUDING REMARKS

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

13:00 – 14:00

LUNCH BREAK

SME Policy Index 2022: Publication launch meeting for North Macedonia

Hybrid meeting - Zoom registration: <https://bit.ly/3o7gmZ2>

14:00-14:20

OPENING REMARKS

- **Ms Anita Richter**, Acting Head, OECD South East Europe Division
- **Ms Razmena Cekic Durovic**, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy of North Macedonia
- **Mr Steffen Hudolin**, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to North Macedonia

14:20-14:50

PRESENTATION OF ASSESSMENT KEY FINDINGS

SME Policy Index 2022

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 South East Europe team

Questions and answers

14:50-16:10

PANEL DISCUSSION – How can North Macedonia build on its entrepreneurial capital to boost enterprise growth and competitiveness?

The panel will discuss how North Macedonia can build on its human capital assets to identify unique opportunities for sustainable development and inclusive growth. The session will also focus on how Smart Specialisation will affect the business community in the future and how North Macedonia can leverage its impact to create a knowledge-based economy.

MODERATOR:

- **Ms Elizabeta Todorova**, Head of Unit, Department for Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Economy

PANELISTS:

- **Ms Jasmina Majstoroska**, Head of the Smart Specialisation working group
- **Ms Elin McCallum**, Senior Expert on SME Entrepreneurial Learning and Enterprise Skills
- **Mr Radmil Polenakovikj**, President of National Center for Development of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Learning
- **Ms Monika Matusiak**, Senior Policy Officer, European Commission, Joint Research Centre

16:10-16:15

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **Mr Jumni Ademi**, State Advisor for Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Economy, North Macedonia, SBA Co-ordinator
- **Ms Anita Richter**, Acting Head, OECD South East Europe Division

