



BALKAN ECONOMIC FORUM

FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

18 October 2024
Zagreb, Croatia



ABOUT US

Driven by the history we share, the socio-economic challenges that we face and the dreams that we have for both ourselves and families, the Balkan Economic Forum was launched as an independent, non-profit, inclusive organisation. The Balkan Economic Forum seeks to create and execute new methods and creative solutions to the Balkan nations' present economic issues in order to promote economic growth, regional collaboration, peace, and security. The Balkan Economic Forum brings together business executives, international leaders, government officials, academics, students, and financial institutions with the goal of creating discourse in response to the goals listed above.



THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE CONFERENCE

As we ring in the third decade of 21st century, the Balkans region needs a new development consensus, committed to reducing inequality, implementing stronger counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies, and spurring production and export diversification – including a major digital transformation. The consensus should accelerate a de-politicised regional integration, push the international environmental agenda forward and renew the region's commitment to democracy.

The European Commission welcomed the commitment expressed at the summit in Sofia by the Western Balkan leaders (November 2020) to further strengthen regional cooperation as a way to advance on their European path. The region's positive response to the Economic and Investment Plan, its commitment to enhanced connectivity and endorsement of key initiatives such as the establishment of a Common Regional Market, the launch of a Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and further support to Roma integration will help accelerate the post-pandemic recovery by spurring on sustainable economic growth.

The event will be organised to support development and implementation of innovative strategies and creative solutions to the current economic challenges facing the Balkan countries to stimulate economic growth which, in turn, strengthens regional cooperation, peace and security.

While there are no shortcuts to development, it is comforting to know that there are many paths that can lead to economic success. As long as the Balkan economies have a genuine commitment to growth and inclusion, are willing to learn from other countries' successes, and adjust the lessons learned to their own economic and political realities, there will be many roads to prosperity.



WHY ATTEND?

- ▶ Be part of a key initial Balkan regional development event and feed into concrete policy recommendations for impactful actions
- ▶ Support a public debate focused on creating exit strategies for the key development challenges in the Balkans
- ▶ Connect with prominent experts in the field may share a new vision towards Balkans brighter socio-economic development
- ▶ Network with relevant stakeholders in the different fields and create prospective opportunities for initiating regional development collaboration



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VENUE OF THE EVENT

The event will be organised in the premises of the **Esplanade Zagreb Hotel** (www.esplanade.hr) and will also be broadcasted live online via live-streaming.



FEE

Participation is free of charge, but prior registration is required.



LANGUAGE

English is the working language of the event, and all speakers will make their presentations in English. There will be no translation services available throughout the session.



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