

Establishing Business Friendly Environment Platform in WB6

The challenge

The six Western Balkan economies, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, continue to express their commitment towards the EU integration process and seek to undertake reforms across a variety of fields which would facilitate their alignment with the EU and international standards.

However, although there is a clear commitment from the national governments on policies harmonization and regional partnership to spur economic development, functional mechanism for the multi-stakeholder and multi-sector dialogue on policies harmonization and exchange best practices on fostering economic growth on national and local level has not been set up yet.

Goal

Establishment of an efficient mechanism for regional cooperation and knowledge exchange on implementation of reform processes for economic growth on both national and local level.

Our approach

The Sub-Project builds up on the mechanism established from 2012 through the Network for Business-Friendly Certification in South East Europe (BFC SEE) which has achieved some outstanding results in terms of improvement of business environment in

municipalities in participating countries Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Name	Sub-Project Establishing Business Friendly Environment Platform in WB6
	Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Modernisation of Municipal Services
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Countries	Six countries of the Western Balkans – WB6
Lead executing agency	Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
Duration	09/2021 – 06/2024
Project value	950.000 EUR

From its establishment, BFC SEE network managed to improve the services offered to businesses in over 60 municipalities from Western Balkans (excluding Croatia). In addition to improvement of the doing business condition on local level in participating municipalities, the Network spurred important regional initiatives for harmonizing regional investment policies such as for the example speed and transparency of obtaining building permits (e-permitting) and registration of seasonal workers (fighting grey economy). The success of the Network also lies in multi-stakeholder approach gathering of over 20 organization representing public, private and civil sector organizations.



By capitalizing on results of the existing BFC SEE Network, the Sub-Project will focus on Network's further expansions in two directions: territorially including the organizations from not yet involved countries from WB6 and functionally by going beyond the certification of municipalities and creating demand for reform processes based on the exchange of experiences in good practices.

Results

The sub-project will primarily focus on the mechanisms for involvement of the organizations from Albania and Kosovo and will propose the form of partnership to be established between the new and the organizations already contributing to BFC SEE Network. Once the structure and functionalities of Business-Friendly Environment Platform are established, the network will foster further dissemination of BFC program to municipalities from WB 6 with the standard review and its promotion, creating thus the bases for implementation of the economic reforms on local level. Furthermore, to initiate structured exchange of best practices in enabling business friendly environment in the region, the network will identify and develop solutions for doing business reforms and provide it on disposal to the governments of Western Balkans.

The sub-project target to achieve the following indicators:

Indicator 1. Agreement defining details of the Business-Friendly Environment Platform signed between partner organizations from 6 countries of Western Balkans

Indicator 2. 110 municipalities are certified or in the certification process within the regional program on business-friendly certification

Indicator 3. 3 reforms for improved business environment submitted for decision making process by WB6 countries.



Contact: Peter Wolf, Sector Fund Manager

Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – Modernisation of Municipal Services

E : Peter.Wolf@giz.de

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Project: Open Regional Funds for South-East Europe -
Modernisation of Municipal Services
GIZ Office Sarajevo
Zmaja od Bosne 7-7a/ Importanne Centar 03/IV
Tel +387 (0)33 957 500
Fax +387 (0)33 957 501
GIZ-BosnienHerzegowina@giz.de
www.giz.de/bosnia-herzegovina

As at

12/2022

Photo credits

© GIZ

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)