



DRAFT AGENDA



OECD Eurasia Week 2020 Economies in Motion: From Strategy to Action

17-19 March Sheraton Grand Metechi Palace Tbilisi, Georgia



■ WHAT IS OECD EURASIA WEEK?

OECD Eurasia Week builds on the increasing involvement of countries in the Eurasia region in the work of the OECD and its platforms, networks and bodies, as well as on the region's growing importance to the members of the OECD. The objective is to continue to strengthen the existing relations between the Eurasia countries and the OECD and to raise the visibility of co-operation between them on a wide range of issues affecting the region's competitiveness and social progress.

■ WHERE IS OECD EURASIA WEEK?

OECD Eurasia Week 2020 will take place in **Tbilisi**, **Georgia**, the first time the event is organised in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. This reflects the growing relationship between the OECD and Georgia and the mutually beneficial relationship to all the countries in both the **OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative** and the **OECD Central Asia Initiative**.

This is the second time OECD Eurasia Week will be held outside OECD Headquarters, following OECD Eurasia Week 2017 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

OECD Eurasia Week will take place at The Sheraton Grand Metechi Palace 20 Telavi Street Tbilisi, Georgia

■ WHO WILL BE THERE?

OECD Eurasia Week will bring together high-level representatives from Eurasia countries, OECD member countries, academia, business, international partner organisations, and civil society.

Simultaneous interpretation in English, Georgian and Russian will be provided.

■ REGISTRATION

Participation in OECD Eurasia Week is by **invitation only**. For logistical and security reasons, registration is **mandatory**.

Participants and Delegations are advised to collect badges on Monday, 16 March.

To **register** and for **further queries**, please contact the OECD Secretariat at **grs.eurasia@oecd.org**

Please note that registration closes on **Friday**, **6 March 2020**.

■ OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME COUNTRIES

OECD Central Asia Initiative: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

■ BILATERAL MEETINGS

Upon registration to OECD Eurasia Week, bilateral meetings will be scheduled between the OECD Secretariat and the delegations of the Partner Countries from the region.

For further information, please contact the OECD Secretariat at grs.eurasia@oecd.org

■ ENTREPRENEURSHIP HUB AND CLUSTER LOUNGE

The OECD will organise an Entrepreneurship Hub in collaboration with Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Georgia. The hub will showcase a selection of Georgia's Start-ups and two entrepreneurs will be recognised with an Innovative and a Green Business award. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss Georgia's good practices and challenges for start-ups and local entrepreneurs.

The Cluster Lounge will showcase Georgia's film and furniture clusters. This initiative is funded by the EU4Business Initiative and the German Government, and is implemented by GIZ.

■ OECD EURASIA WEEK CONTACTS:

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For more information, please contact: grs.eurasia@oecd.org

■ MEDIA INFORMATION:

Media representatives are required to register by Wednesday, 4 March 2020 in order to gain access to the event. Access to the event is only available on Thursday, 19 March from 9.00 to 11.15 for the Keynote Address and Plenary I: SME Policy Index: Eastern Partner Countries 2020. For media queries, please contact:

Miguel Castro, Project Co-ordinator, OECD Global Relations Email: miguel.castro@oecd.org

Economies in Motion: From Strategy to Action

Monday 16 March Tuesday 17 March

Between Eurasia Delegations and OECD Secretariat

Pre-Conference Event:

Agricultural Supply Chains in Eurasia: The Case of Kazakhstan **Tetnuldi**

Bilateral Meetings

Between Eurasia Delegations and OECD Secretariat

Registration & Badge Collection

Avoid Queues
prior the Day One
No Badge, No
Access

Official Opening

Steering Committee Meetings of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme

Kavkasioni Ballroom

Networking Buffet Lunch
Restaurant 'Feast'

Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable

Peer Review: Moldova Business Linkages in Food Processing

Kavkasioni Ballroom

Thematic Session:

Skills for Tomorrow's Economy

Kaykasioni Ballroom

Opening of the Entrepreneurship Hub

Welcome Cocktail -10th Floor A Sky-high View to OECD Eurasia Week Wednesday 18 March

The Future of Caspian Co-operation

Working Breakfast for Heads of Delegations **Tetnuldi**

Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable

Peer Review: Kyrgyzstan Business Development Services

Kavkasioni Ballroom

Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable

Peer Review: Ukraine SME Strategy Implementation

Kavkasioni Ballroom

Networking Buffet Lunch
Restaurant 'Feast'

Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable

Monitoring Review: Belarus Business Development Services & High Growth Enterprises

Kavkasioni Ballroom

Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable

Monitoring Review: Mongolia Access to Finance

Kavkasioni Ballroom

Thematic Session:

Regional Development Policy
Kaykasioni Ballroom

Gala Dinner

hosted by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

Thursday 19 March

Keynote Address:

Prime Minister of Georgia & OECD Secretary-General

Economies in Motion: From Strategy to Action
Plenary I:

SME Policy Index: Eastern Partner Countries 2020
Assessing the Implementation of the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA) & Levelling the Playing Field for Businesses

Plenary II:

Legal Environment for Business
Prioritising Effective Reforms to Improve the Legal Environment

for Business in Central Asia

Kaykasioni Ballroom

Networking Buffet Lunch
Restaurant 'Feast'

Economies in Motion: From Strategy to Action

Plenary III:

Driving Economic Diversification in the Eurasia Region Mobilising Private Investment to Support Trade, Connectivity and Economic Growth

Kavkasioni Ballroom

Georgia: Today's Start-ups, Tomorrow's SMEs

Kavkasioni Ballroom

Closing of OECD Eurasia Week
Kaykasioni Ballroom

Georgian Wine and Delicacies

Entrepreneurship Hub and Cluster Lounge – Shino Mtirala

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

9.30-10.30 Tetnuldi

Pre-Conference Event: Agricultural Supply Chains in Eurasia: The Case of Kazakhstan

Agriculture plays an essential role in the economies of Eurasia. This session will discuss how the countries of Eurasia can strengthen agricultural supply chains by facilitating the development of co-operatives and increasing participation in global value chains. The session will also present an innovative modelling tool to evaluate the impact of agricultural policy reforms on economic and social outcomes. The conclusions of a recent OECD project in Kazakhstan will inform the discussion.

Moderator: tbc

Panellists: Mr Saparkhan Omarov, Minister of Agriculture, Kazakhstan (tbc); Mr Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia

Q&A period for participants

10.30-10.50

Coffee Break

11.00-13.00

Opening of OECD Eurasia Week 2020

Kavkasioni Ballroom

11.00-11.10

Welcoming Remarks by Mr Andreas Schaal, Director, OECD Global Relations and Ms Natia Turnava, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

11.10-13.00 Kavkasioni Ballroom

Steering Committees of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme

OECD Central Asia (CAI) and OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus (EESC) Initiatives

The **OECD Secretariat** will present the main outcome of the current programme of work, activities envisaged for 2020-22, including the governance of the Programme, and the renewal of the Programme's mandate (2021-2025).

Discussion will be led by Mr Petr Gandalovic, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the OECD and Chair of the OECD Eurasia Advisory Board

Remarks from:

- Mr Didier Lenoir, Ambassador of the European Union to the OECD and CAI Co-Chair (tbc); and
- Mr Zamirbek Askarov, Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan and CAI Co-Chair (tbc);
- Ms Anna Brandt, Ambassador of Sweden to the OECD and EESC Co-Chair (tbc); and
- Mr Aleksander Surdei, Ambassador of Poland to the OECD and EESC Co-Chair.

OECD's Strategic Orientations: insights by Ms Ivita Burmistre, Ambassador of Latvia to the OECD and Chair of the OECD External Relations Committee

Q&A period will be allocated for all participants from the Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia

13.00-14.15

Networking Lunch - Restaurant "Feast"



Established in 2013, the **OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable** serves as a joint platform for OECD members and Eurasia partner countries to carry out peer reviews of competitiveness reforms. The Roundtable is chaired by **Ms Ingrid Brocková**, **Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the OECD**; the **Vice-Chair** is **Mr Aleksander Surdej**, **Ambassador of Poland to the OECD**.

14.15-15.45 Kavkasioni Ballroom Peer Review: Moldova

Integrating Food Processors into Global Value Chains



Growing international trade and improved access to the EU single market have helped Moldova increase its exports of processed food products, but the export potential of local producers is still largely untapped. Building on the results of an OECD Enterprise Survey conducted in Moldova in 2019, the peer review will highlight opportunities and challenges for SMEs to integrate into global value chains and provide actionable recommendations on how to unleash the economic potential of the food-processing sector.

Opening Remarks by Mr Mathieu Bousquet, European Commission and Moldova

Overview of the key recommendation by the OECD Secretariat

Comments by **Mr Ján Oravec**, President, Entrepreneurs Association of the Slovak Republic, Peer reviewer for Moldova **Open Discussion** followed by final remarks from **Moldova**

15.45-16.15

Coffee Break

16.15-17.45 Kavkasioni Ballroom

Thematic Session

Realigning Skills for Tomorrow's Economy

The digital transformation places a premium on skills development to achieve higher productivity growth and create more and better jobs. The so-called "Fourth Industrial Revolution" is changing the way we produce, and investment in STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is increasingly seen as a way to foster innovation and economic growth. However, this investment must translate into practical knowledge and hands-on skills. For this to happen, skills development systems must be adapted to the future of work. This has implications for schooling, higher education and vocational education and training (VET), all of which must adapt in order to deliver the skills that are needed. Panellists will discuss the merits and challenges of investment in STEM education, as well as efforts to promote VET and work-based learning.

Opening Remarks: Mr Andreas Schleicher, Director, Directorate for Education and Skills and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General of the OECD

Moderator: tbc

Panellists: H.E. Mr Mikheil Chkhenkeli, Minister of Education of Georgia

Q&A period for participants

17.45-18.15

Opening of the Entrepreneurship Hub

The Entrepreneurship Hub enables selected Georgian start-ups and innovative enterprises to display their business models and products. Protagonists of the Hub are firms with demonstrated levels of innovation, leadership, and commitment to improving the quality of life in their country. The fair is an opportunity for entrepreneurs to gain visibility and network with strategic partners in Georgia and across the region, while providing an interesting basis for discussion of the practical obstacles and challenges facing entrepreneurs, like access to finance and markets or second-chance policies in case of failure.

Welcoming Remarks by Ms Natia Turnava, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

18.30-20.00

Welcome Cocktail – Restaurant '10' A Sky-high View to OECD Eurasia Week

Wednesday, 18 March 2020

8.00-9.00 Tetnuldi

Working Breakfast for Heads of Delegation

The Future of Caspian Co-operation

The 2018 agreement on the status of the Caspian Sea has opened up new opportunities to use the Sea to improve the connectivity and economic integration of the surrounding states, while strengthening environmental protection of the Sea's eco-systems. This high-level session will build on the outcomes of the first **Caspian Economic Forum in Turkmenistan** in August 2019. Heads of delegations will have an opportunity to discuss the role the Caspian Sea might play for economic development not only among littoral states but for the wider region, and how regional dialogue may help them achieve new ambitions.

Opening Remarks: Mr Batyr Bazarov, Minister of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan

Remarks: Ms Maya Tskitishvili, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of

Georgia; Other representatives (tbc)

Moderator: Mr William Tompson, Head of the Eurasia Division, OECD Global Relations

Q&A period for participants



The **OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable**, established in 2013, serves as a joint platform for OECD members and Eurasia partner countries to carry out peer reviews of competitiveness reforms.

9.15-10.45 Kavkasioni Ballroom

Peer Review: Kyrgyzstan

Supporting Firm Creation and Growth through Business Development Services

CENTRAL ASIA INVEST

Kyrgyzstan is embarking on reforms and policies to strengthen its private sector. The government has seeks to improve the quality of public and private business development services (BDS), which can play an important role in facilitating firm growth and development, whilst simultaneously tackling business informality. Public BDS entail the efficient delivery of public services to businesses, such as registration, licencing or certification, whereas private BDS include advice, consulting and training for businesses. The peer review note provides recommendations how to improve the provision of



BDS in Kyrgyzstan by: putting in place a one-stop shop for better public services; guiding firms towards existing services; and, effectively co-operating with private and development partners to help develop the market for private BDS.

Opening Remarks by the European Commission and Kyrgyzstan Overview of the key recommendation by the OECD Secretariat Comments by Ms Martyna Wieczorek, Peer reviewer for Kyrgyzstan Open Discussion followed by final remarks from Kyrgyzstan

10.45-11.00

Coffee Break

11.00-12.30 Kavkasioni Ballroom Peer Review: Ukraine SME Strategy Implementation



In 2017, Ukraine adopted an SME Development Strategy 2020 and set up an SME Development Office to assist the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture in its implementation. Over 2018-2019, the OECD supported the Ministry in setting up a monitoring system for the strategy and prepared an initial review of its implementation. The peer review note highlights main achievements to date and the challenges that have arisen in implementing the Action Plan, and provides recommendations on further strengthening the monitoring framework ahead of the upcoming evaluation and preparatory work on a new SME Development Strategy for 2021 and beyond.



Opening Remarks by Mr Peter Wagner, Head of Support Group for Ukraine, European Commission (tbc) and Ukraine

strategy in late 2018. However, SME competitiveness needs to improve if the sector is to increase its contribution to value added and employment, which remains limited. The peer review note monitors the implementation status of the 2016 OECD recommendations to develop Business Development Services in Belarus and proposes practical guidelines to

Overview of the key recommendation by the **OECD Secretariat** Comments by **Mr Janez Šušteršič**, Peer reviewer for Ukraine **Open Discussion** followed by final remarks from **Ukraine**

12.30-13.30

Networking Lunch - Restaurant "Feast"

13.30-15.00 Kavkasioni Ballroom Monitoring Review: Belarus

Business Development Services and High-growth Enterprises



In recent years, Belarus has embarked on an ambitious journey to support SME development, with notable efforts in improving the business environment and strengthening the institutional framework by adopting its first SME development

design and implement a targeted support programme for high-growth enterprises.

Opening Remarks by the European Commission and Belarus Overview of the key recommendations by the OECD Secretariat Comments by Mr Antonio Fanelli, Peer reviewer for Belarus Open Discussion followed by final remarks from Belarus

15.00-15.15

Coffee Break

15.15-16.45 Kavkasioni Ballroom Monitoring Review: Mongolia

Monitoring the Implementation of Access to Finance Reforms



Strengthening small and medium firms is a policy priority for the government of Mongolia, as it helps to diversify employment and exports and to reduce dependence on the mining sector. However, access to finance remains a major challenge for SMEs in the country. In 2016, OECD policy recommendations argued for reforms in five areas, ranging from stronger and wider credit guarantees, improved procedures in credit processing and applications to better public financial instruments for MSMEs. The monitoring note assesses the implementation status of the 2016 OECD recommendations and identifies priority areas for further reform, particularly in respect to governance and procedures in public MSME finance programmes.



European Union

Opening Remarks by the European Commission and Mongolia
Overview of the key recommendations by the OECD Secretariat
Comments by Mr Vincent Di Betta, Peer reviewer for Mongolia
Open Discussion followed by final remarks from Mongolia

16.45-17.00

Coffee Break

17.00-18.30 Kavkasioni Ballroom

Thematic Session

Regional Development Policies for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

Like those of the OECD, governments across Eurasia are struggling to deal with large and often growing inter-regional disparities in income, well-being and economic performance. Recent decades have seen the emergence of new regional development challenges. These are often linked to the uneven impact of digitalisation across regions and territories, as well as changes in the nature of work, demographic trends, urbanisation, resource scarcity and the transition to a low-carbon economy. Yet urbanisation, the digital revolution and the low-carbon transition also entail new opportunities, offering possibilities for stronger, more inclusive and more sustainable growth. In this session, experts and representatives of OECD and Eurasia countries will discuss the spatial impacts of these trends and consider how place-based policies and effective multi-level governance arrangements can help ensure that all places thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Moderator: the

Panellists: Ms Maya Tskitishvili, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia; Other representatives (tbc)

Q&A period for participants

20.00-23.00

Gala Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia Upon Invitation

Return bus transport provided from the hotel to the venue for invitees

Thursday, 19 March 2020

9.15-9.45 Kavkasioni Ballroom

OECD Eurasia Week 2020 Keynote Address

Economies in Motion: From Strategy to Action

Keynote Address by the **Prime Minister of Georgia**, Mr Giorgi Gakharia and the **OECD Secretary-General**, Mr Angel Gurría

Remarks: H.E. Dr Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive, Afghanistan (tbc) H.E. Mr Zamirbek Askarov, Vice-Prime Minister, Kyrgyzstan (tbc)

9.45-16.00

9.45-11.15

Kavkasioni Ballroom

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EU4Business

Plenary Sessions - Economies in Motion: From Strategy to Action

Plenary I: SME Policy Index: Eastern Partner Countries 2020

Assessing the Implementation of the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA) & Levelling the Playing Field for Businesses

This session will launch the SME Policy Index: Eastern Partner Countries 2020, prepared in partnership with the EBRD, the European Training Foundation and the European Commission. This third round of assessment of the Eastern Partner countries' progress in implementing the SBA principles includes new elements that allow for an evaluation of the overall business climate. Panellists will discuss ways to improve policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Moderator: Mr Joe Lynam, BBC

Panellists: Mr Andreas Schaal, Director, OECD Global Relations, Ms Natia Turnava, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;

Mr Anatol Usatîi, Minister of Economy and Infrastructure of Moldova, Mr Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Economy of Azerbaijan (tbc), Mr Aliaksandr Charviakou, Minister of Economy of Belarus

Ms Katarína Mathernová, Deputy Director- General, European Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, EC, Eastern Partner Country Ministers

11.15-11.30

11.30-13.00 Kavkasioni Ballroom





Co-funded by the European Union **Coffee Break**

Plenary II: Legal Environment for Business

Prioritising Effective Reforms to Improve the Legal Environment for Business in Central Asia

The OECD will present the initial assessment conducted for improving the business and investment environments through legal and regulatory reforms. The OECD's analysis and recommendations for Central Asia countries will serve as a basis for peer exchanges during this ministerial session. The priority reforms are based on the thorough assessment of 10 legal environment areas: legal and regulatory frameworks for investment; tax regulations; land legislation; registration procedures; contract enforcement and dispute settlement; operational environment for business; trade facilitation; expropriation regimes; exit mechanisms; and public-private dialogue.

Moderator: Mr William Tompson, Head of the Eurasia Division, OECD Global Relations

Opening remarks: Ms Thea Tsulukiani, Minister of Justice of Georgia

Panellists: Mr Batyr Bazarov, Minister of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan; Central Asia Ministers

13.00-14.30

Networking Lunch - Restaurant "Feast"

14.30-16.00 Kavkasioni Ballroom Plenary III: Driving Economic Diversification in the Eurasia Region
Mobilising Private Investment to Support Trade, Connectivity and Economic Growth

This session will discuss a wide range of issues and explore new avenues related to the changing landscape of global trade, connectivity and new investment opportunities in the region. The discussion will reflect on investment policies as key drivers for productive transformation and integration into global value chains. The session will also include insights from the latest OECD Investment Policy Reviews: Ukraine (2016), Kazakhstan (2017) and Georgia (2020 - forthcoming), based on the OECD's Policy Framework for Investment. Preliminary findings from the forthcoming OECD report Strengthening the Role of Private Finance in Infrastructure Development in Eastern Partner countries, Investment Perspectives in the Eastern Partnership and the Investment Promotion Practices in Eurasia will also be discussed. How can policy change contribute to competitiveness, economic diversification and sustainable development?

Moderator: Mr Joe Lynam, BBC

Opening Remarks: Ms Mathilde Mesnard, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs

Panellists: Eurasia & OECD Ministers

16.00-16.15

Coffee Break

16.15-17.15 Kavkasioni Ballroom

Georgia: Today's Start-ups, Tomorrow's SMEs

Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency, Enterprise Georgia and the Chamber of Commerce of Georgia will present their infrastructures and start-up projects, as well as the start-up ecosystem and their strategy under the "Go Global" concept. The session will close on-site Georgia's Start-up exhibition, having offered participants the opportunity to discuss Georgia's good practices and challenges with start-up representatives during the week.

Welcoming Remarks: tbd Moderator: Director GITA

Panellists: Director Enterprise Georgia, Director Chamber of Commerce; Start-ups/firms (tbc)

17.15-17.30 Kavkasioni Ballroom

Closing of OECD Eurasia Week

Closing Remarks: Mr Andreas Schaal, Director, OECD Global Relations and Ms Maya Tskitishvili, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia

17.30-19.30

Georgian Wine and Delicacies

The <u>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</u> (OECD) is a unique forum where governments work together to address economic, social and environmental challenges. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek solutions to common problems, identify good practices and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The <u>OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme</u> was launched in 2008 to support Eurasia economies in developing more vibrant and competitive markets – both at the national and regional level – in order to generate sustainable growth. The Programme focuses on a comprehensive approach that includes regional dialogue, peer review, definition of reform priorities and assistance in the design and implementation of policies.

The **OECD Central Asia Initiative (CAI)**: Co-chaired by the European Union and Kyrgyzstan, the CAI was launched in November 2008 and covers Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The **OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative (EESCI)**: Co-chaired by Poland and Sweden, the EESCI was launched in April 2009 and covers the countries of the EU Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

Through both Initiatives, the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme encourages Eurasia countries to align to OECD standards, identify policy barriers to competitiveness and support capacity building in the design and implementation of policies.









Funded by the European Union (Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development)

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(Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations)















