



7th TIRANA CONNECTIVITY FORUM

Building Better Balkans Together

7-8 October 2021

Background Note

Tirana Connectivity Forum 2021 will debate the challenges, discuss the conditions to be met, scan the actors and analyze the resources needed to increase the region's connectedness with the EU as a precondition to development and resilient growth.

TCF2021 will focus specifically on the Economic and Investment Plan and its 10 Flagship Projects, shed light on factors that support or inhibit their efficient implementation, and follow up on the 2021 Berlin Process Civil Society and Think Tank Forum recommendations about the role of specialized CSOs and Think Tanks in their good governance.

Being earmarked for 30bn financial injection in grants and loans, the Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) is a major factor of change in the region. But to contribute to the region's development, to its convergence with the EU, to the requirements of the Green Agenda, and in the increased resilience of SEE6 economies, EIP must be equipped with a delivery mechanism where transparency and accountability are key. In that regard, stronger and better collaboration with SEE6 specialized CSOs, think tanks, and other interest groups throughout the entire project cycle become a paramount condition for its successful implementation.

Since 2015, specialized SEE6 think tanks have produced different monitoring reports and have come up with concrete proposals on the implementation of Berlin Process and of Connectivity Agenda projects. They have brought their unique knowledge of the local context and their expertise in dealing with transparency, the rule of law challenges and environmental impact that directly affects the infrastructure projects in SEE6.

The Chair's Conclusions of the Sofia Summit of Western Balkans in 2020 acknowledged the necessity to embed the best EU standards into the EIP delivery mechanisms. The 2021 Berlin Civil Society and Think Tank Forum (CSTTF) doubled down on the importance of integrity compliance in infrastructure projects, and on the role that the citizens organized in CSO and think tanks must play in keeping responsible authorities accountable through transparency, monitoring, and by providing their expertise throughout the entire project cycle.

To underline the role of Fundamentals in the overall Enlargement and convergence with EU, TCF21 will kick off with a side event organized in partnership with the Dutch Embassy in Tirana in the framework of the initiative "Monitoring and Supporting Albania's reforms on its path to EU", implemented by Cooperation and Development Institute.

#TCF2021

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TCF2021 is part of the official calendar of the Slovenian Presidency of the EU and organized in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Hanns Seidel Stiftung, and is also supported by Europe House Albania.

To consult the agenda of TCF 2021, please click [here](#).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 7th Edition of Tirana Connectivity Forum will take place in a **hybrid format**, on-site at the premises of Rogner Hotel and Europe House in Tirana, and online. On-site participation is upon invitation only. The event will be livestreamed at CDI's social media channels for the wider public.

To receive further updates about the Forum and to engage actively in the event by asking questions during sessions, the interested participants are kindly requested to register [here](#).

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