

TIRANA CONNECTIVITY FORUM 2022

Securely Connected

Date: 26-28 September 2022 / **Venue:** Durres & Tirana / **Format:** On-site

BACKGROUND

Being surrounded by EU member states, today the Western Balkan region is an integral part of the EU connectivity networks. Initially qualified as an extension of the EU transport and energy networks, the December 2021 [EU Trans-European Transport Network draft regulation](#) has paved the way for a harmonized planning of transport infrastructure between EU and the Balkans peninsula. The 2020 [Economic and Investment plan](#) provides the platform for integrated policy-making amongst Brussels and South East Europe 6 (SEE6) countries at the service of the well-defined path to growth, institutional reforms and convergence of the region with the EU.

The current war in Ukraine has underlined the security implications of connectivity. SEE6 is in the crossroads of the main European corridors of transport that connect Black Sea with the Adriatic, and of energy that bring the Azeri gas to the South of Europe. In this volatile environment, the technical and market pre-conditions of connectivity investments must also include the security and geopolitical needs of Europe.

But secure infrastructure requires secure institutions; institutions that are protected and resilient from incompetency, capture and corruption. To that effect, the engaged ground-breaking reforms should improve the democratic legitimacy of the SEE6 institutions in charge, the legitimacy of their deliverables and very importantly, the legitimacy of their internal processes and good governance mechanisms. In that effort, the role of SEE6 civil society is systemic, and its contribution to the good governance of the connectivity policies and of structures in charge is irreplaceable.

STRUCTURE OF TCF 2022

TCF 2022 will be composed of three main blocks:

1. *Secure and Resilient Infrastructure*, focused on the criticality of the new Western Balkans transport corridor, with focus on waterborne and rail components as reliable, competitive and sustainable transport vectors;
2. *Secure and Well Governed Institutions*, focused on the contribution of civil society actors in keeping the institutions healthy and well governed, and improving the efficiency of policy-making;
3. *Secure and Future-proof Enlargement*, will bring SEE6 youth at the center of Enlargement dynamics not only as a beneficiary of EU funds but also as shaper of EU policies & programs.

TCF2022 partners are Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Hanns Seidel Stiftung, Regional Cooperation Council, Tirana European Youth Capital and Heinrich Boel Stiftung. Its eighth edition is part of the official calendar of activities of the [Czech Presidency](#) of the Council of the European Union and the [European Year of Youth \(EYY\)](#).