



ROUND-TABLE

“Economic and Social Convergence: Current achievements & future challenges of reform processes in Albania”

Date: Friday, December 13 | 11:00 – 13:00

Venue: Tirana Times Library

The Multi-annual Action Plan on Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP REA) was endorsed at the Trieste Summit in 2017 and focuses on trade, investment, mobility and digital market. Competitiveness, employment, digital area and youth cooperation are very high as well in the Enlargement Strategy 2018, where more specifically the Flagship Initiative 3 provides for “Supporting socio-economic development agenda focuses on fostering progress in implementation of REA, adapting the existing frameworks to boost investment in the region, and supporting education and social reforms”. Furthermore, Albania's smart specialization process is currently aiming at the preparation of the Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) by 2021, aiming to boost growth and jobs, by prioritizing domains, areas and economic activities where regions in Albania have a competitive advantage or have the potential to generate knowledge-driven growth and to bring about the economic transformation needed to tackle the major and most urgent challenges for the society. Coordination between different institutions and an inclusive approach by mobilizing civil society and ensuring its meaningful contribution in the engaged reforms in these processes, are of crucial importance to the advancement of the regional cooperation agenda and to the achievement of the sustainable economic and social development in the country.

The project “Applying Sector Approach to Civil Society Contribution in EU Integration of Albania - CONNECT” is the newest initiative lead by Cooperation and Development Institute focusing on the EU integration process and on the need to increase the involvement of CSOs and youngsters in policy dialogue, as well as increase the general awareness on how to actively and meaningfully contribute to the European Integration process.

To this end, Cooperation and Development Institute is organizing the Round Table “Economic and social convergence: Current achievements & future challenges of reform processes in Albania”. This roundtable aims to inform and trigger a discussion with relevant country stakeholders on the state of implementation of REA MAP with a focus on mobility and digital pillar, on the mapping of economic, innovative and scientific potential in the country, on the relevant public policies that have a particular focus on innovation, mobility of youth and academics and employability.

Participants of this Roundtable will come from civil society and youth organizations, Academia, Media Public Administration, etc.

CONNECT project is implemented in partnership with:



AGENDA

“Economic and Social Convergence: Current achievements & future challenges of reform processes in Albania”

11:00 – 11:20

Welcoming Remarks

Krisela Hackaj, Executive Director, Cooperation and Development Institute

Stine Klapper, Head of Tirana Office- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

11:20 – 12.20

Employability, Innovation and Skills: Spotlight on Social and Economic Development

Panel members:

Linda Pustina, Director of the Directorate of Integration, Coordination, Arrangements and Assistance, Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

Florensa Haxhi, Director General, Development Programs and Cooperation Unit, at the Prime Minister’s Office

Diana Leka, Head of Secretariat, Albanian Investment Council

Arben Shkodra, Secretary General, Albanian Manufacturer Union

Dafina Peci, Executive Director, National Youth Congress

Moderation: *Ornela Liperi, Editor in Chief of Monitor Magazine*

12:20 – 12:50

Open Discussion

12:50 – 13:00

Wrap up Closure

13:00

Light Lunch

*Coffee will be served before and during the Round-Table.