

CONFERENCE

“Reflecting on Reform Agenda achievements and exploring future opportunities”

Wednesday, 11 February 2026, from 09:00hrs – 13:00hrs | Rogner - Antigonea 1, Tirana

With all negotiation clusters opened by now, Albania aims to conclude technical negotiations by 2027 and be an EU member by 2030. This dynamic has gained new momentum with the entry into force of the Reform and Growth Facility (RGF) in 2024. As a performance-based instrument built on strict conditionality, the RGF aims to accelerate Albania’s socio-economic convergence with the EU by supporting targeted investments and fast-tracking priority reforms.

Effective implementation and oversight of the RGF hinge on broad-based societal engagement. The Facility’s long-term impact will be shaped by the sustained commitment of central government institutions, private sector, civil society, and development partners. Recognizing the need for an inclusive and evidence-driven process, the Swiss Embassy and the Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI) launched in early 2025 the initiative “Enhancing Stakeholders’ Engagement and Ownership in the Implementation of the Reform and Growth Facility.”

After its first year of implementation, the initiative has contributed to greater transparency, accountability, and a more intense evidence-based dialogue among key actors. A key milestone was the launch of the Reform Tracker in April 2025 - the first Growth Plan Scoreboard in the Western Balkans - which has quickly become the primary public tool for informing about and monitoring Albania’s progress on reforms and investments.

This conference will bring together Albania’s key Growth Plan stakeholders, Parliament representatives, public officials from central and local government, private sector representatives, experts and civil society from Albania and the EU. The discussion will take stock of the Reform Agenda achievements and implementation challenges to date, while exploring its local development dimension and key questions related to the new EU budget cycle and overall Albania’s preparation for EU Membership.

*This is a hybrid event. The languages of the Conference are Albanian and English.
Simultaneous translation is available.*

Scan the QR Code to access the Reform Tracker



Agenda

- 09:00 – 09:30 *Registration of participants and welcome coffee*
- 09:30 – 09:45 Opening remarks
- Krisela Hackaj, Executive Director, Cooperation and Development Institute
 - H.E. Ruth Huber, Ambassador of Switzerland to Albania
 - Ritva Heikkinen, Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Albania
- 09:45 – 11:00 **SESSION I. “Owning the Reform Agenda: National, Local and EU Perspectives on Implementation progress”**
State of Affairs of Reform Agenda in Albania from a multi-stakeholder perspective
- Blerta Rama, Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation
 - Lorela Simoni, Head of RGF National Coordinator Office, State Agency of Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination
 - Milva Ekonomi, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Employment, and Finance
 - Diana Leka, Head of Secretariat of Investment Council in Albania
 - Juliana Hoxha, Co-Chair of the EU–Albania Joint Consultative Committee
 - Oleg Roibu, EESC Rapporteur of “*Civil Society’s Role in Supporting Reform under the Growth Plans for the WBs and Moldova, as well as in Ukraine’s Reform Path*” Opinion requested by Cyprus EU Presidency - online
- Open discussion (25 min)
- 11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee Break*
- 11:30 – 12:55 **SESSION II. “Preparing the Next Steps: Albania’s Path to the Next EU budget cycle”**
The local government dimension of the Reform Agenda: current situation and preparations for EU Membership by 2030
- Ervin Demo, Minister of State for Local Government
 - Adrian Kamenica, Director General in the Prime Minister’s Office - Department of Policy and EU Integration
 - Endrit Yzeiraj, Deputy Minister of Finance
 - Gilles Kittel, Team Leader, Instrument for Pre-Accession, Enlargement Negotiations and EUSAIR, DG Regio, European Commission - online
 - Jorge Núñez Ferrer, Director for Cohesion and EU Budget, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) – online
 - Adelina Farrici, Executive Director, National Association of Municipalities
- Open discussion (25 min)
- 12:55 – 13:00 Key takeaways
- 13:00 Lunch

