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Western Balkans and Türkiye advance reforms citizens can see and feel, while exchanging their experience with Ukraine and Moldova on their reforms paths

- **EU officials and representatives from the candidate countries and potential candidates - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Türkiye and Ukraine gathered in Brussels on 20–22 October.**
- **Governments in the Western Balkans and Türkiye are turning reform plans into tangible results, making them visible, measurable, and credible. Moldova, which is preparing its Economic Reform Programme and Ukraine are also advancing in the implementation of key reforms. Both countries took part in the discussions to exchange experiences and draw insights supporting their respective reform processes.**

Governments in the Western Balkans and Türkiye are turning reform plans into action that citizens can see and feel. Over three days in Brussels, Economic Reform Programme (ERP) and Reform Agenda (RA) teams collaborated with European Commission officials to exchange best practices, learn from regional experiences, and align reforms with EU accession requirements.

“The Commission is continuously supporting our Western Balkan partners in implementing their Reform Agendas and translating them into credible, results-oriented actions,” said **Valentina Superti**, Director for the Western Balkans in the Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) at the European Commission. **“This event is another demonstration of how close cooperation and continuous dialogue turn the reform process into tangible progress towards shared European goals.”**

“With stronger costing, monitoring, and impact assessments, reforms are becoming real investments in jobs, growth, and better services,” said **Jana Repanšek**, CEF director. “This gathering showed that EU integration process delivers tangible results, not just paperwork. When ministries collaborate with each other and the Commission, reforms gain credibility, budgets are respected, and citizens experience real benefits.”

Turning Plans into Action: Reforms Citizens Notice

The conference combined reflection with hands-on results that citizens can see. On the first day, the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) joined teams from 9 EU enlargement partners to review lessons from the past year, focusing on strengthening macro-fiscal frameworks and making reforms more effective. The second day continued with execution: under the Reform and Growth Facility (RGF), Western Balkan partners tackled reporting and monitoring challenges, working with the Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) to improve reporting on reform steps, set up auditing controls, budget reforms efficiently, and improve communication with the European Commission.

Ukraine and Moldova Join the Knowledge Exchange

Supported by a CEF project funded by Slovenia, Ukrainian and Moldovan officials observed FISR2 activities and using the experience of the Western Balkans and Türkiye as to improve their fiscal and economic planning. Supported by the EU, Ukraine is implementing Ukraine Facility focused on infrastructure, energy sector and key industries, while Moldova is implementing key socio-economic



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and fundamental reforms under the Growth Plan which will help to accelerate growth and convergence with the EU. Both countries are translating reforms into visible benefits—better public services, new jobs, and measurable progress toward their EU accession.

Building a Lasting Reform Legacy

As the region moves forward, the conference also highlighted the impact of the EU-funded FISR2 project. Over three years, **institutions strengthened their capacity to cost, monitor, and report on reforms. Nearly half of major reforms now carry evidence of economic or employment impact, laying a strong foundation for continued progress.** CEF's follow-up initiative, EUReady, is aiming at further building capacities in structural reforms, investments, and public finance, supporting economic convergence and effective EU dialogue.

Background information

[About the FISR2 project](#)

The “Structural Reforms Better Integrated Within Fiscal Frameworks” (FISR2) is a multi-beneficiary capacity development project funded by the EU and implemented by CEF from 2022 to 2026. FISR2 supports beneficiaries from the Western Balkans and Türkiye in designing and implementing priority structural reforms that enhance growth, competitiveness, socio-economic convergence, and EU accession, while maintaining fiscal sustainability. The project strengthens Reform Agenda (RA) under Reform and Growth Facility for Western Balkans and Economic Reform Programme (ERP) teams by improving budgetary and strategic planning, enabling impact assessment and monitoring of reforms, fostering coordination across government, and promoting knowledge exchange and effective knowledge management.

[About CEF](#)

The Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF) is an international organization based in Ljubljana, Slovenia, serving ministries of finance, central banks, tax administrations, and other public institutions from Southeast and Eastern Europe. Established in 2001, the CEF has become a globally recognized knowledge hub supporting institutional capacity development in public financial management, central banking, and economic governance. It goes beyond training delivery by acting as a trusted learning partner helping countries align reforms with EU priorities such as fiscal stability, enlargement, green transition, and digitalization. Through peer learning, collaboration, and practical knowledge transfer, the CEF empowers public officials to connect, learn, and act — transforming reforms into measurable institutional improvements.

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