



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 13 October 2025

MEDIA INVITATION: Reforms in Focus at Brussels Conference

Governments and EU officials meet to turn reform plans into action

- On 20–22 October, Brussels will bring together EU officials and representatives from the candidate countries and potential candidates - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Türkiye and Ukraine to drive forward accession reforms programme
- Discussions will focus on making reforms more credible by ensuring they are costed, budgeted, monitored and backed with impact data
- Journalists are invited to opening sessions of the conference on Day 1 and 2 to speak with national teams and European Commission officials about how reforms are moving from paper to practice

The Center of Excellence in Finance (CEF) will host the high-level conference “**Economic Reform Programme and Reform Agenda Teams — Working towards EU Accession**”, on 20–22 October in Brussels at the Slovenian Permanent Representation to the EU and the Thon Hotel.

The conference will bring together Economic Reform Programme (ERP) and Reform Agenda (RA) coordination teams from the **Western Balkans** and **Türkiye**, alongside key **European Commission** representatives. Joining them will be the coordination teams of the **Ukraine Plan** under the **Ukraine Facility and the Reform and Growth Facility for Moldova**, representing the EU’s most recent candidate countries.

The event comes at a time when reforms across the region are becoming increasingly practical and measurable. Ministries are embedding reform costs into national budgets and medium-term fiscal plans, reducing the risk that reforms remain unfunded. More governments are systematically tracking progress and conducting economic and social impact assessments, making reform agendas more credible and transparent.

Country examples

The difference is visible in practice. In **Türkiye**, 5 of 6 top reforms in the 2025–2027 ERP already have earmarked budget funding. **Montenegro** has included reforms such as 5G rollout, childcare facilities, and energy efficiency directly in its official growth forecasts. **Serbia and North Macedonia** have produced quantified impact assessments for key reforms affecting jobs and revenues. **Kosovo** has introduced macroeconomic modelling to make reform assessments more reliable, while **Bosnia and Herzegovina** has included cost and benefit estimates for 9 reforms in its ERP.

“At a time when Europe faces climate urgency, digital disruption, and geopolitical conflict, the **CEF strengthens institutions by equipping them to deliver real reforms**,” says **Jana Repanšek**, CEF director. “This conference is about showing how reform ambition can be matched with budgetary realism and measurable impact, while providing a platform in Brussels for governments, the European Commission, and experts to align reform agenda implementation with EU accession priorities.”

The conference is organised by the CEF with the support of the EU-funded project FISR2. Over the past three years, FISR2 has delivered 121 training sessions, equipping institutions to put reforms on firmer



Funded by
the European Union



fiscal and analytical ground. As a result, 35 institutions have been trained to cost and budget reforms, already reaching 83% of the 2026 target, while 59 institutions have been strengthened in monitoring and reporting reforms, exceeding the target by 40%. Today, nearly half of all reforms are backed by economic or employment impact assessments, and the Regional Network of Experts has grown to more than 100 members.

Media Information & Accreditation

Journalists are invited to attend the conference. **Media accreditation is required.** For accreditation, interview requests, or programme details, please contact the CEF press officer.

Press contact:

Tina Drolc | tdrolc-consultant@cef-see.org | www.cef-see.org

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.