



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government
Ministria e Zhvillimit Rajonal
Ministarstvo za Regionalni Razvoj
Ministry of Regional Development

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

24-25 MARCH 2022
PRISTINA " Emerald Hotel"



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Ministry of Regional Development in the Republic of Kosovo is organizing an international conference entitled: “Challenges and perspectives of regional development in the Western Balkans”.

The conference is the first of this format, where the main goal is to strengthen communication, increase cooperation between the countries of the region (Western Balkans), through the sharing of information, experiences and ideas in policies/legislation, as well as practices in this field. Familiarisation with the organizational structure of the regions and implementation mechanisms, implemented and ongoing programs for regional development.

At the same time, the possibility of recognizing and adapting programs implemented in this field in other countries, specifically in the Western Europe, as an opportunity to expand the opportunities and potential for approximation with European policies, and access to funds in these areas. The conference aims to become a joint regional initiative, where countries set the agenda for events and issues for regular annual discussions.

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

PURPOSE

The International Conference on Regional Development aims to identify key challenges, coordinate joint efforts and expand the economic development opportunities of the countries of the region.

PARTICIPANTS

This conference is expected to be attended by - countries of the region:

- Albania;
- North Macedonia;
- Turkey;
- Montenegro;
- Poland;
- Germany;
- Slovenia;
- Croatia;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Serbia and
- Bulgaria;

These countries have advanced experience in the field of regional development and access to EU funds in this field. To this conference will be invited: EU Office in Kosovo and other organizations contributing to regional development.

CONTENTS

The Ministry of Regional Development, for the implementation of the Work Plan for 2022, has foreseen organization of the International Conference on Regional Development, an activity with the participation of countries in the region and some EU countries.

The conference will bring together policy-makers, decision-makers, contributing organizations and donors from the countries of the region in a joint roundtable, in a discussion of issues affecting areas of regional economic development, as well as finding opportunities to increase communication and future cooperation. The participants in this conference will have the opportunity to get to know each other and exchange experiences of their countries in terms of regional development, as well as to discuss topics of interest for Regional Socio-Economic Development.

Representatives from the invited countries, from the perspective and context will present the practices of organizing and functioning of the regional development process. The International Conference on Regional Development will be attended and presented by representatives of central and local government, and representatives of local and international organizations.

This Conference will also focus on the adaptation of new regional experiences and their application in developing a consensus between stakeholders dealing with regional economic development in Kosovo and its neighbouring countries, as well as the exchange of experiences with EU member countries, such as: Germany, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia and Poland.

The regional development advancement process continues to remain one of the issues of special interest for the countries of the region, as an opportunity for cooperation in economic development and approximation in

the European Union integration processes. According to objectives of the new and modern legislation for regional development, Kosovo and the region is going through an important phase of the organization of regional economic development, which needs further advancements to achieve the set goals.

KEY ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST

- In the framework of the International Conference on Regional Development, areas for cooperation will be identified and an agenda for cooperation in joint programs and projects will be established.
- The conference will establish a facilitation mechanism for sharing programs and projects implemented in the respective countries that have achieved results, reducing the time for sharing experiences and practices as well as multiplying the effects of donor funding.
- Another dimension is relating the exchange of experiences, capacities and co-development of joint programs and projects to increase opportunities in the structural and cohesive funds of the European Union.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES AT THE CONFERENCE

In the framework of this conference will be presented topics related to experiences in the field of regional development, and representation will be organized at two levels:

- Political level – where relevant Ministers covering the field of regional development from the participating states will be invited to participate. The same will hold a speech.
- Institutional level – where delegated persons/representatives will hold presentations that should be mainly related to the following topics:

Development of policies for a balanced regional development: *strategic and planning documents of regional development in order to intervene in certain areas to achieve balanced regional development;*

Development of regional development programs: *programs that determine the priority directions of regional development within the development regions;*

Utilisation of EU funds for regional development: *access to EU structural and cohesive funds of EU;*

Criteria for balanced regional development: *defined criteria for measuring regional disparities and regional performance;*

Organization and operation of Regional Development Agencies: *regional development structures by participating countries;*

Introducing the institutional process coordination and development policies coordination: *coordinating hierarchy of regional development in WB countries and EU countries.*

In the framework of this conference topics related to experiences in the field of regional development of participating countries will be presented.

The conference provides for the Ministers of the participating States to deliver a keynote address on the opening day and you are kindly requested to designate representatives, institutional delegates, who will contribute to the Conference with their presentations according to the respective field mentioned above.

Please confirm your willingness to participate as well as send us contact details for other representatives in the following e-mail: **Vjendita.Avidiu.Musliu@rks-gov.net**; or in the contact number: +383(38) 200 64 516 or e-mail: **melis.shamli@rks-gov.net** or in the contact number: +383(38) 200 64 551.

Due to Anti-Covid measures the number of participants is limited to four (4) persons per participating country.

For any additional information do not hesitate to contact us!

Thank you!