

**WEBINAR ON ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATIONS IN THE
WESTERN BALKANS:
PUBLIC- BUSINESS SECTOR COOPERATION**

[ZOOM LINK](#)

16 DECEMBER, 2025

Background

In line with the EU's political priorities of speed, coherence, and simplification, the ReSPA regional peer exchange will provide a timely platform to explore how these principles are being translated into tangible reforms across the Western Balkans. Anchored in the EU's "*Simpler and Faster Europe*" agenda—which sets out ambitious simplification targets, including a 25% reduction in regulatory burden and 11 flagship initiatives to cut red tape—the event will delve into experiences that demonstrate how simplifying policies and engaging citizens and businesses can foster competitiveness, innovation, and trust in public institutions. Drawing on EU member state efforts in implementation and enforcement, and recognizing that shared responsibility is critical for success, the exchange will highlight effective tools, practices, and lessons that can help ensure simplification measures are not only adopted but sustained through robust enforcement and collaborative governance.

In 2024, the European Commission approved the Reform Agendas for WB administrations as an important milestone for the overall implementation of the Growth Plan. These documents strongly featured the intersection of digitalization and the simplification of public services and procedures. However, the 2024 SIGMA Public Administration in the Western Balkans report noted "*limited efforts to systematically plan and seek simplification opportunities during policymaking*", while also expressing concerns that digitalization reforms' delays, especially with regard to interoperability, would significantly hamper the ability of WB administrations to progress with administrative simplifications.

Administrative burden is one of the key obstacles to increasing public sector efficiency, which directly affects access to public services, economic growth, the application of innovative practices and technologies, adherence to integrity principles, and transparency in the public sector. One of the key objectives of the administrative simplification policies is to reduce bureaucratic complexity.

The event would promote EU and OECD/SIGMA recommendations on a quality policymaking approach regarding administrative simplifications, which would set the overall framework for the exchange between representatives of public administrations and business associations. In addition, the event would present good practices, such as the E-papir programme (2023-25) in Serbia and the Policy on Administrative Burden Reduction (2022-27) in Kosovo*. The second perspective would be provided by the representative of the WB business support associations. The Chamber of Economy of Montenegro is a member of the Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum (WB6 CIF) and has recently presented a survey on the business climate, which also addresses access to public services. This would be complemented by the fact that the EU Chambers' umbrella (WB chambers of economy are affiliated to this network) published in Eurochambres' 2024 list of proposals for cutting the administrative burden.

Objectives

- Explore EU-level strategies on simplification, enforcement, and implementation and discuss relevant OECD/SIGMA recommendations
- Increase awareness among WB administrations on policy options focused on administrative burden reduction and intersection with digitalization

Profiles of the participants

Representatives of public bodies responsible for public administration reforms, public finance management, administrative justice, tax authorities, public procurement, municipal governments, as well as representatives of WB chambers of commerce and the business community. The working language of the event is English, and no interpretation will be available.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence

AGENDA

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86751259459?pwd=ujpEf8uPbT3Wj1L3L4ztcPpekGmaAU.1>

10.00 – 10.15	Welcome and opening remarks Maja Handjiska Trendafilova, Director of the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA)
10.15 – 10.45	Controlling the creation of new administrative burdens during policymaking: Key challenges and opportunities Bagrat Tunyan, Senior Advisor, Professional Team Lead for Strategic Planning, Policy Development, SIGMA Programme, OECD
10.45 – 11.30	Administrative simplification in practice: What can public administration do for the business sector? Ninoslav Kekić, Assistant Director, Public Policy Secretariat, Serbia Kushtrim Canolli, Coordinator for Administrative Burden Reduction Process, Strategic Planning Office, Kosovo* What business sector needs from the public sector?" Slavica Pavlovic, Director of Associations Department, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro.