



**UNCTAD UNECE**

**Regional Policy Dialogue on the role of Competition Policy  
in supporting MSMEs economic recovery in the post COVID19 crisis**

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY OF SERBIA  
(PKS)**

2021, March 25<sup>th</sup>

# Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia



- General representative of the business community in Serbia covering the whole economy in terms of economic structure (18 business associations) and territory (regional chambers of commerce);
- Representing and protecting the interest of business community through a cooperation with the Government;
- Promoting internationalization of Serbia's economy, especially the regional cooperation (representative offices abroad);
- Supporting the business community through digitalization and dual education system;
- Establishing an organizational infrastructure for circular economy.

# Sustainability of MSME sector

- Access to finance through the guarantee schemes agreed between the Government and commercial banks (strengthening the capacity of MSMEs);
- Higher participation of MSMEs in supply and value chain led by large companies, as well as access to the infrastructural projects run by the Government;
- Addressing the problem of negative demographic trend, strengthening the labor market;
- Regional cooperation through the „Four Freedoms“ initiative, creating regional supply chains;
- Preparing local companies for climate neutral economy (reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>).

# The impact of covid-19 on trade and structural transformation in Serbia - survey



- PKS helped the UNECE to get a representative statistical sample for doing survey and analysis (726 companies: size, region, activity).
- Key findings reflect the actual situation in Serbia highly influenced by the pandemic:
  - Acknowledgment of effective economic support measures implemented by the Government;
  - Regional cooperation in order to preserve supply chains from critical disruption had been praised (green corridors);
  - Limited access to finance and lack of work force are recognized as the main threats for the MSMEs.
- Proposed measures for stronger and more resilient MSMEs:
  - Emergency measures (liquidity support, credits and reprograms);
  - Improving the efficiency of public administration;
  - Capacity building of border control through the digitalization, new staff and equipment;
  - Regional cooperation (Synchronize working hours across customs offices and extend).

# Future activities of the PKS

- Establishing the Regional Center for Economic Analysis (within Chamber Investment Forum - CIF);
- Introducing PMI index for Serbia`s economy (in cooperation with IFO Institute);
- Projects with international organizations on improving the business environment in Serbia (SME sector, trade barriers);
- Developing data sets with purpose in the field of internalization support;
- Cross border projects funded by the European Union and other creditors and donors.

# Useful links

- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia [www.pks.rs](http://www.pks.rs)
- Analytical Center PKS [pks.rs/strana/analytics-and-research](http://pks.rs/strana/analytics-and-research)
- Government of the Republic of Serbia [www.srbija.gov.rs](http://www.srbija.gov.rs)
- Information related to the pandemic [www.srbija.gov.rs/#covid-19](http://www.srbija.gov.rs/#covid-19)

Thank you!