

AGENDA

MEETING XXIII INVESTMENT COUNCIL (IC)

INNOVATION CHALLENGES IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Date: 23 March 2021 time: 15⁰⁰ - 16³⁰

Video Conference

15:00 – 15:10	Welcome and Approval of the Agenda <i>Ms Anila Denaj, IC Chair/Minister of Finance and Economy</i>
15:10 – 15:20	Presentation “Innovation Challenges in the Entrepreneurship” <i>Secretariat of Investment Council</i>
15:20 – 15:30	Presentation “On the Digitalisation of SMEs in Albania” <i>EBRD/IDRA Experts</i>
15:30 – 16:25	Focused Discussion by IC Members <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ <i>A clear vision, sustainable commitment to innovation and the challenge of ecosystem governance - Public Institutions/Universities/Business;</i>✓ <i>Challenges of Albanian Companies¹ - from “users” to “producers” of innovation (start-ups and consolidated companies in the market)</i>✓ <i>Weak interaction and poor access of SMEs to various projects or financial instruments with a focus on innovation²</i>
16:25 – 16:30	Closing of the Meeting <i>Ms Anila Denaj, IC Chair/Minister of Finance and Economy</i>

¹ *Mentality, insecurity, lack of professionals and high costs - how to assist Albanian companies using the skills of the workforce and the facilities provided by the Albanian legislation, etc.*

² *Improve information sharing regarding the available funds for financing innovation (AIDA, ARDA, AKKSHI, etc.) and increasing capacities for preparing winning projects to absorb European Union funds in the frame of the financial instruments at disposal for innovation; consolidation of cooperation between central/local government and commercial banks to increase the financing of innovative projects.*