

Side Event at COP29:

Transition in the Western Balkans Empowering SMEs for a Net Zero Economy

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the key drivers of sustainable economic growth in the Western Balkans, constituting 99% of all businesses and employing 75% of the workforce in the region. However, these businesses often face unique challenges in aligning with global climate goals. The side event will explore how SMEs can overcome obstacles to decarbonize their models and adapt to environmental requirements, working in an international public-private-NGO-partnership.

Government of Montenegro and Helvetas

Date: November 21, 2024 | **Time:** 15.00 – 16.30 Baku / 12.00 - 13.30 CET

Location: Room SIDE EVENT 3, Baku Stadium, Baku, Azerbaijan

SPEAKERS

H.E. Damjan Ćulafić, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development, Montenegro

H.E. Mattias Frumerie, Head of Delegation, Climate Ambassador, Sweden

Dr. Teodora Obradovikj Grncarovska, State Counsellor on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia

Ms. Dragana Radulović, Head of Climate Change Mitigation Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia

Ms. Milena Rmuš, Secretary of Coordinating Board for Energy Efficiency and Environment Protection, Chamber of Economy, Montenegro

Ms. Elene Tkhlasidze, Deputy Program Manager, RECONOMY, Helvetas Georgia

Facilitation:

Mr. Matthias Herr, Director Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Helvetas Switzerland