

FOREWORD

Foreword

The OECD is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Throughout its history, the OECD has assisted countries in reforming and improving their policies to promote economic growth and development. It has fostered more open societies and the rule of law and has helped build the institutions necessary for the good functioning of market-based economies. This experience has been particularly valuable to countries undergoing political and economic transitions.

This publication, *Development in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus*, provides detailed country reviews of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. It explores current economic performance and the challenges of economic development and competitiveness. Despite differences in economic structures and policy reforms, all these countries face similar challenges arising from the transition from a centralised to a market economy in a climate of rapid political and societal change.

The transition process in the five countries which were subject to a detailed review has proven to be difficult for several reasons: managing the political change, overcoming existing conflicts and overcoming the loss of competitiveness. In order to manage the transition process efficiently, the study puts forward four key recommendations:

- promoting “green energy” and higher quality food as part of product and market differentiation;
- rehabilitating infrastructure and better connecting national and regional markets;
- addressing the skill gap and promoting regional mobility;
- promoting Greenfield investments and facilitating access to finance.

We hope that this study provides a useful contribution to the policy debate and delivers practical guidance for private sector development in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The OECD stands ready to accompany these countries as they consolidate the important progress made in the last few years.

Angel Gurría
OECD Secretary-General
May 2011



From:

Development in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264113039-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

Gurría, Angel (2011), "Foreword", in OECD, *Development in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264113039-1-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.