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Neighbourhood and
Enlargement Negotiations

Considering regional Infrastructure investments in the context of the Economic reform programmes

First findings, state-of-play and the possible way ahead

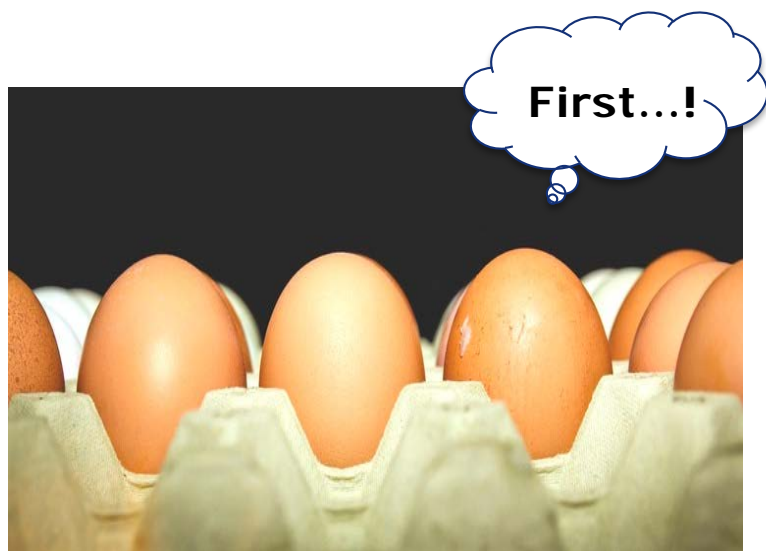
*Oliver Klabunde, DG NEAR
Pristina, 9 November 2016*



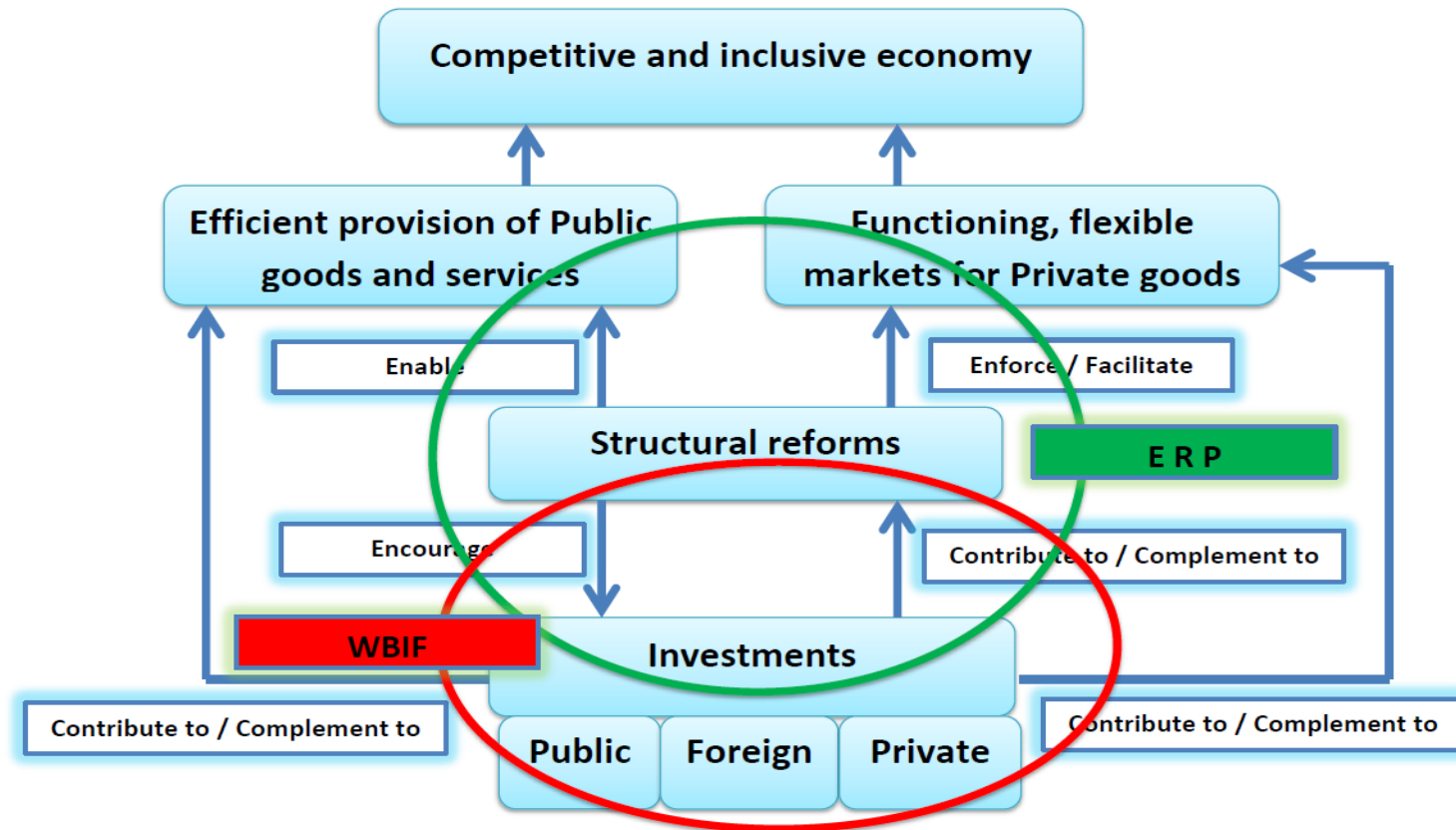
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The chicken-egg-causality-dilemma



The overlap between ERPs and WBIF



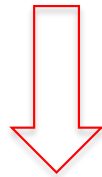


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*Infra**structure** Investments (WBIF)*

***Structural** reforms (ERPs)*



***Structural** policy ...?*



ERPs and WBIF – Rowing in the same direction? Some takeaways from a preliminary data analysis

- *One out of five ERP reform measures can be clearly characterised as an infrastructure project*
- *One out of three ERP reform measures is related to infrastructure investments*
- *One out of four ERP reform measures address obstacles in the transport, energy or telecommunication sector*
- *About 10% of all ERP reform measures address social issues, mainly education & skills*



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Country-specific policy guidance / Joint conclusions ECOFIN May 2016

- *Montenegro – Rail and energy markets*
- *Serbia – Bulgaria-Serbia gas interconnector, road works Corridor X*
- *FYR Macedonia – Selection criteria for the investments and on their impact on economic growth*
- *Albania – Energy markets*
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina – Energy sector*
- *Kosovo* – Energy security and efficiency*

Ties between WBIF, its stakeholders and the ERPs

A total of 117 reform measures are included in the six ERPs 2016-2018 of the Western Balkan countries. Out of them...

- *At least* 33 are supported by IPA and/or WBIF*
- *At least* 26 are supported by IFIs of the WBIF*

** Source: ERPs 2016-2018, depending on the respective descriptions of reform measures.*

2 Conclusions from the preliminary findings

- *WBIF plays already a significant role in the ERP process*
- *However this seems to be pure coincidence...*



Procedural measures taken/envisaged

- *Participation of DG NEAR unit A3 (ERP team) in pre-selection of eligible project applications (TA)*
- *Regular exchange of information and dialogue between WBIF secretariat and A3 (ERP team)*
- *Update on results and main findings of the ERP to be delivered to WBIF formations*
- *Involvement of WBIF secretariat in the assessment of ERPs 2017-2019*

WBIF stakeholder groups involvement so far

- *COM – fully involved*
- *Bilateral donors – to the greatest extent involved*
- *NIPACs - ???*
- *IFIs - ???*



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Back to the beginning...

*"Chickens, as a species, became chickens through a long, slow process of evolution. At some point, a chicken-like bird produced an offspring that, due to some mutation in its DNA, crossed the threshold from mere chicken likeness into chicken actuality. That is to say, a proto-chicken gave birth to a real-life official chicken. And since that real-life official chicken came out of its own egg, we can say that **the egg came first**.*

*Another way to look at the question would be to ask which came first in evolutionary history. **Once again, the egg takes precedence**. Many characteristics of the modern avian egg—namely an oblong, asymmetrical shape and a hardened shell—were in place before birds diverged from dinosaurs about 150 million years ago. "A lot of the traits that we see in bird eggs evolved prior to birds in theropod dinosaurs," says Darla Zelenitsky, of the University of Calgary..."*

<http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2013-02/fyi-which-came-first-chicken-or-egg>



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Thank you for your attention!

