AIM Conference 2026

Programme

20–21 October 2026 · One&Only Portonovi, Montenegro · Draft, subject to change · aimconference2026.org/agenda

19 OCTOBER 2026

Arrival & Welcome

10:00 – 16:00

PANEL

Pre-Conference Consultations and Bilateral Meetings

Includes a combination of group consultations and bilateral meetings with key stakeholders.

16:00 – 20:00

BREAK

Registration

Early-arriving participants are invited to complete registration and receive practical information ahead of the official opening day. This provides an opportunity to get oriented, meet the organising team, and prepare for the sessions ahead.

20 OCTOBER 2026

Strategic Alignment & Project Showcases

From Vision → to Pipeline

07:30 – 09:00 BREAK

Registration

09:00 – 10:00 PLENARY

Opening Ceremony & Welcome Remarks

The conference opens with high-level addresses setting the strategic context for Montenegro's investment landscape and EU accession trajectory.

Milojko Spajić
Prime Minister · Government of Montenegro · Montenegro — Montenegro Vision Update and progress achieved

Gert Jan Koopman
Director-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood · European Commission — State of Play on EU Accession and link to investment

10:00 – 10:30 BREAK

Coffee Break & Networking

10:30 – 11:30 PANEL

Reform Momentum: Why Now Is the Time to Invest in Montenegro

A strategic opening session examining Montenegro’s progress towards EU membership and how the broader reform agenda is strengthening the country’s investment climate and creating new opportunities for investors. The discussion will explore how the accession process is driving regulatory alignment, strengthening institutions, enhancing competitiveness and creating a more predictable investment environment, while accelerating Montenegro’s sustainable economic transformation. A live reform dashboard will provide a visual backdrop to the discussion.

Milojko Spajić
Prime Minister · Government of Montenegro · Montenegro

Gert Jan Koopman
Director-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood · European Commission

Dr Tanja Bošković
Moderator · Regional Programme Manager · GIZ

11:35 – 12:45

PANEL

Powering Resilience: Investing in Renewable Energy

This session will showcase a pipeline of flagship renewable energy projects and explore opportunities for private investment in Montenegro's energy transition. The discussion will focus on investment readiness, financing and PPP models, and the role of renewable energy in strengthening energy security, sustainability and regional resilience.

Admir Šahmanović
Minister of Energy and Mining · Government of Montenegro · Montenegro

Louis Blanchard
CEO · Qair · France

Bruno Bensasson
CEO · Akuo · France

Jovanka Atanacković
Director · CWP Europe · Serbia

Peter Fredell
CEO · VIMAB Group · Sweden

Paolo Sammartino
COO · Renexia · Italy

Nemanja Laković
CEO · Pljevlja Coal Mine (Rudnik uglja Pljevlja) · Montenegro

Grzegorz Zieliński
Managing Director, South-Eastern Europe · EBRD

Biljana Braithwaite
Moderator · Founding Partner, Sustineri Partners; Chair, Women on Boards Adria (WOBA) · UK / Montenegro

12:45 – 14:00

NETWORKING

Networking Lunch

14:00 – 15:10

PANEL

From Farm to Market: Investing in Montenegro's Agri-Food Future

This session will showcase investment opportunities across Montenegro's agri-food value chain, from primary production and processing to distribution and export. The discussion will focus on investment-ready projects, stronger value-chain integration and scalable business models that can increase productivity, strengthen food security and expand Montenegro's access to regional and European markets.

Vladimir Joković
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management · Government of Montenegro · Montenegro

Đorđije Goranović
CEO · MI Goranović d.o.o. · Montenegro

Nikola Tripković
Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Plantaže AD Podgorica, and Chairman of the Management Board, Development Bank of Montenegro AD Podgorica · Montenegro

Marija Markoč
Executive Director · House of Olives · Montenegro

Teklu Tesfaye
Senior Agriculture Specialist · World Bank · USA

Jens Schulz
Managing Director · CIC Invest · Germany

Bogdan Podlesnik
Advisor to the Management Board and ESG Coordinator · NLB Banka · Montenegro

Vanja Kljajević
Moderator · Principal Manager, SME Finance and Development · EBRD · Montenegro

15:15 – 16:25

PANEL

Digital Frontiers: Investing in Montenegro’s AI & Digital Future

This session will explore Montenegro’s potential as an emerging hub for digital infrastructure, AI and technology-driven investment. It will showcase flagship opportunities spanning data centres, smart platforms and emerging technology ecosystems, while examining the investment, infrastructure and financing needed to accelerate innovation, attract technology companies and strengthen Montenegro’s digital competitiveness.

Savica Vujičić
Director General, Directorate for Innovation and Smart Specialisation, Ministry of Education · Science and Innovation · Montenegro

Mohamed Nasr
Executive Director of International Digital Infrastructure · 4iG · Hungary

Sasha Savić
CEO and President · SS&A / E2S · Switzerland

Žan Dapčevič
Founding Partner · IBEX Equity Partners · Slovenia

Simon Furlan
Director, Wholesale unit · Telekom Slovenije · Slovenia

Tomislav Nesovanovic
Managing Director, Stereau - Balkan Region · Saur Group · France

Lazar Mijić
Head of Sub-Region Eastern & South East Europe, Grid Technologies Substations · Siemens Energy · Germany

Valentina Radulović
Moderator · CEO · Science and Technology Park of Montenegro · Montenegro

16:30 – 17:40

PANEL

Gateway to Europe: Investing in Montenegro’s Green Logistics Future

This session will explore Montenegro’s potential as a strategic logistics gateway connecting the Adriatic with Southeast and Central Europe. Building on the Port of Bar and the country’s sea, rail, road and air connections, the discussion will showcase investment opportunities in modern logistics infrastructure, sustainable transport and integrated supply chains, and examine how Montenegro can strengthen its position as a competitive, low-carbon regional hub.

Božidar Savović
State Secretary · Ministry of Transport · Montenegro

József Váradi
CEO · Wizz Air · Hungary

Ivic Vodopija
Regional Managing Director Europe · Maersk · Denmark

Željko Čabarkapa
Managing Director, Eastern and Southeast Europe · Ballast Nedam · Netherlands

Vukadin Stojanović
CEO · Air Montenegro · Montenegro

Aleksandar Le Comte-Bogavac
Partner · Guild Capital Partners · United Kingdom/Italy

21 OCTOBER 2026

Execution, Capital & Innovation

From Pipeline → to Deals

08:00 – 09:30

BY INVITATION

Consultation on Financing Growth and Investment in the Western Balkans (by invitation only)

This consultation will bring together leading venture capital and private equity firms active across the Western Balkans, alongside representatives of the European Commission, development finance institutions, governments, and other key stakeholders, to discuss potential new financing vehicles, including a regional Fund of Funds. The initiative aims to mobilize institutional capital to support venture capital investment in high-growth technology-enabled companies across a broad range of sectors, strengthening the region's innovation ecosystem, improving access to growth financing, and accelerating the scale-up of promising businesses.

09:30 – 10:45

PANEL

Financing Growth: Mobilising Capital for the Next Generation of Investment

This session examines the financing solutions required to deliver Montenegro's flagship investment projects, spanning blended finance, PPP structures, concessional lending and private capital mobilisation. The discussion focuses on de-risking mechanisms, credit enhancement tools, and practical financing models that can accelerate project bankability and unlock large-scale investment.

Jelena Davidović
Acting Director General, Directorate for Financial System and Policy Coordination · Ministry of Finance · Montenegro

Davor Kunc
Head of EIB Representation to Montenegro · European Investment Bank

Ekaterina Solovova
Associate Director, Head of Montenegro · EBRD

Liang Wang
Country Manager for Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina · The World Bank

Davor Sakač
Managing Director · TS Ventures Fund · Serbia

Anja Nagel
Team Leader – Private Sector Development and EFSD+ Guarantees, DG ENEST · European Commission

Arnaud Dauphin
Director of AFD Western Balkans Regional Office · Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Hoa-Binh Adjemian
Moderator · Head of Unit, Private Sector Engagement, DG ENEST · European Commission

10:45 – 11:00

BREAK

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:15

PANEL

Technology for Smarter Investment: Digital Solutions Driving Productivity and Competitiveness

As investment increasingly depends not only on capital but also on technology, this session will explore how innovative technology companies can enhance the productivity, efficiency and sustainability of investments across key sectors. Bringing together leading European technology providers, investors and industry leaders, the discussion will showcase digital solutions for agribusiness, transport and logistics, renewable energy, manufacturing and smart infrastructure, highlighting how technologies such as AI, IoT, automation, robotics and advanced analytics can accelerate business growth, improve operational performance and strengthen the competitiveness of investment projects throughout Southeast Europe.

Martin Della Chiesa
CEO · Skaleet · France

Sophie Wei
Managing Director · Swiss Central Clinic & Swiss BioScience · Switzerland

Branko Mitrović
Chairman of the Board, Montenegrin Foreign Investors Council (MFIC); CEO · One Montenegro · Montenegro

Marina Marković
Managing Director · Axians / Vinci · France

Tihomir Dragaš
Senior Vendor Manager, Deutsche Telekom; Chairman of the Board of Directors, Air Montenegro · Germany / Montenegro

Miloš Odalović
Chief Business Officer and Co-Founder · Codeus · Montenegro

Karno Tenovuo
CEO · Awake.AI · Finland

Jean-François Lengellé
Moderator · CEO · BT2i · France

12:15 – 13:15

NETWORKING

Networking Lunch Break

13:15 – 14:45

COMPETITION

SME & Startup Competition — Grand Finale

Eight pre-selected finalists deliver concise five-minute pitches, followed by jury and audience questions, with winners announced and prizes awarded for first, second and third place.

- Finalists to be confirmed

14:45 – 15:00

BREAK

Group Photograph — AIM 2026 Cohort

15:00 – 15:30

PLENARY

From Commitments to Delivery: Closing Plenary & Key Announcements

The conference concludes with key announcements on agreements reached, investment commitments and partnerships advanced during AIM 2026, together with the next steps for translating commitments into delivery.

Milica Šundić
Master of Ceremony · Montenegro

THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE

Parallel activities

ALL DAY

MoU Signings

Formal signing ceremonies for Memoranda of Understanding between public and private stakeholders will take place throughout the conference.

ALL DAY

Deal Rooms — Closed Sessions

Pre-matched bilateral meetings between Flagship Investment Project sponsors and investors, as well as SMEs with venture capital firms and corporate partners.

- FIPs Sponsors & Investors
- SMEs & VCs / Corporate Partners