UN DESA regional workshop

BRI and SDGs in Serbia

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Serbia: country context

• Landlocked in SEE, EU candidate
• Upper-middle income country, 7 mln population
• Mild growth in recent period and diverging vs neighborhood
• Key issues: poor productivity, low employment...
• ...lagging behind in infrastructure, institutions, education
SDG institutional framework

- Inter-ministerial work group formed in December 2015, with objectives of nationalization and monitoring the achievement of SDGs
- Voluntary national report delivered in 2018
- A link between SDGs and EU accession talks
- Strategic planning documents cover almost all groups of SDGs – approx. 60% of SDGs and targets are covered by strategies or action plans:
  - Poverty, health, education, employment and growth related goals well covered by documents
  - Environment and climate change related goals poorly covered by strategic documents
BRI in Serbia

• Completed and ongoing BRI related projects at ~EUR 2.3 bn...

• ...o/w most in infrastructure, somewhat less in energy, mining and manufacturing

• Within infrastructure, most ongoing & planned projects related to roads and railways
  • Belgrade – Budapest
  • Belgrade – Montenegro
  • Belgrade bypass
  • Belgrade subway
How can BRI contribute to SDGs?

• Evaluation of development effects of construction of BRI – projects missing

• Preliminary analysis shows highest positive potential in growth and employment – related goals (8, 9) – depending on intensity of use of local factors...

• ...while energy, mining might have some adverse effects on environment and climate change – related goals...

• ...however a more stringent analysis needed for a precise impact assessment