



What are the ranking trends?

- The **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, in 10th place in the *Doing Business* rankings, is the highest ranked economy in the Europe and Central Asia region, followed by **Latvia** (at 14), **Georgia** (16), and **Lithuania** (21).
- The region's lowest ranked economies are **Tajikistan** (128) and **Uzbekistan** (87).
- Other large economies in the region and their rankings are the **Russian Federation** (40), **Turkey** (69), and **Ukraine** (80).
- The region's economies perform well in the *Doing Business* areas of Protecting Minority Investors (with an average rank of 45) and Registering Property (47), but underperform on Dealing with Construction Permits (87) and Getting Electricity (87).

What are the reform trends?

- A total of 57 reforms, making it easier to do business, were implemented by 24 of the region's 25 economies in the past year. The region accounted for 20 percent of the 283 reforms implemented worldwide.
- Four economies in Europe and Central Asia are among this year's top 10 global improvers: **Kazakhstan** (with 7 reforms), **Georgia** (5), **Belarus** (4) and **Serbia** (3). Examples of reforms in these economies include:
 - **Kazakhstan** made Dealing with Construction Permits easier by introducing a single window for documentation evaluation and streamlining procedures.
 - **Georgia** made Trading Across Borders easier by improving its electronic document processing system.
 - **Belarus** streamlined the process of Getting Electricity by establishing a one-stop shop at the utility that fulfills all connection-related services.
- The region's economies implemented the most reforms worldwide in the areas of Paying Taxes (13 reforms), Getting Electricity (8) and Protecting Minority Investors (7).

New inclusions in *Doing Business 2017*

- This year's report covers 190 economies, with the inclusion of Somalia.
- For the first time, *Doing Business 2017* includes a gender dimension in three indicators: Starting a Business, Registering Property and Enforcing Contracts. The Europe and Central Asia region, alongside OECD high-income economies, has the fewest barriers against women in the areas measured by the report. For example, in every economy in the region, the process for opening a business is the same for men as it is for women.
- The Paying Taxes indicator has been expanded to cover post-filing processes, such as tax audits and VAT refund. Economies in Europe and Central Asia perform well in these areas but there are exceptions. For example, in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** compliance time for VAT refunds is high, as is audit compliance time in **Turkey**.
- The report includes an annex with a pilot indicator set on public procurement regulations. The 'selling to the government' procurement process is studied in 78 economies and is not included in the overall rankings. The indicator set analyzes five main areas: accessibility and transparency, bid security, payment delays, incentives for small and medium-size enterprises and complaint mechanisms.

Rankings Data for Europe and Central Asia

Economy	Rank (1–190)		Distance to frontier score (0–100)		# of Reforms	
	DB2016	DB2017	DB2016	DB2017	DB2016	DB2017
Albania	90	58	61.30	68.90	2	3
Armenia	43	38	72.16	73.63	3	2
Azerbaijan	61	65	67.84	67.99	3	3
Belarus	50	37	70.89	74.13	2	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	79	81	63.07	63.87	0	2
Bulgaria	37	39	73.08	73.51	0	1
Croatia	39	43	72.78	72.99	1	1
Cyprus	41	45	72.48	72.65	5	2
Georgia	23	16	77.72	80.20	2	5
Kazakhstan	51	35	70.45	75.09	7	7
Kosovo	64	60	67.15	68.79	1	2
Kyrgyz Republic	73	75	65.09	65.17	2	1
Latvia	17	14	79.14	80.61	3	2
Lithuania	21	21	78.60	78.84	3	1
Macedonia, FYR	16	10	79.19	81.74	2	3
Moldova	47	44	71.64	72.75	2	3
Montenegro	48	51	71.47	72.08	2	1
Romania	35	36	74.12	74.26	3	0
Russian Federation	36	40	73.20	73.19	5	1
San Marino	77	79	63.55	64.11	1	2
Serbia	54	47	69.58	72.29	2	3
Tajikistan	130	128	53.98	55.34	2	1
Turkey	63	69	67.30	67.19	1	2
Ukraine	81	80	62.77	63.90	1	2
Uzbekistan	82	87	62.68	63.03	3	3

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Note: The rankings are based on the average of each economy's distance to frontier scores for the 10 topics included in this year's aggregate ranking. This measure shows how close each economy is to global best practices in business regulation. A higher score indicates a more efficient business environment and stronger legal institutions.