

Key Writing Principles

Examples and possible revisions: Writing Webinar, December 2020

Suggested revisions are only one possible way to strengthen these examples. I'm using them to illustrate the writing principles we've discussed. Generally, there is nothing grammatically wrong with the examples; nor there is no one "right answer" for how to revise. The full context of a document would determine what to revise.

Avoiding or reducing the passive voice; making explicit who or what is performing the action

Globally, the lack of infrastructure **is still identified as** the main impediment to connectivity.

Globally, the lack of infrastructure **remains** the main impediment to connectivity.

The training methodology **was appreciated** due to its participatory nature.

Attendees appreciated that the training methodology is participatory.

Innovation **is seen as** one of Southeast Asia's most prized natural resources. **The region's capacity for innovation**—which continues to generate new products, ideas, services and revenues—continuously places its inventors at the forefront of emerging technology.

Innovation **is** one of Southeast Asia's most prized natural resources. **Inventors' capacity for innovation**—which continues to generate new products, ideas, services and revenues—continuously places the region at the forefront of emerging technology.

To ensure that this **is done with minimal disruption**, the **tariff reduction should be done** transparently, and gradual for sectors where employment is high.

To **minimize** disruption, **governments should reduce tariffs** transparently, and only gradually for sectors where employment is high.

The key step in **the opening up of the sector was taken** in March last year, with **unbundling** of the vertically integrated state-owned electricity utility, into separate generation, distribution and transmission entities.

The key step **in opening up the sector came** in March last year, with unbundling of the vertically integrated state-owned electricity utility into separate generation, distribution, and transmission entities.

Environmental services **have been recognized as** an emerging constraint.

Out of 12 areas in which efficiency is assessed, BiH is scored worst in market efficiency, labour market efficiency and state institutions, while it is best rated in the area of macroeconomic stability.

Compared to the last ERP, access to finance is no longer considered a binding constraint and the regulatory environment has improved.

In the conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting of May 2018, no recommendations were given for the field of energy.

Major progress has been achieved in improving the business and macroeconomic environment and Serbia remains committed to its further enhancement.

Access to finance has been improved through the diminishment of interest rates and support in collateral provisioning.

Despite the continuous improvement of business regulations, there is a need to improve law enforcement conditions, simplify existing legislation and reduce unnecessary costs.

Second, longer term economic transformation requires diversification and commercialization of agricultural markets, while ensuring resilience for the vulnerable.

These programs aim to increase employability, but have seldom led to higher employment.

Avoiding abstraction; moving the action from nouns to verbs

A successful implementation often requires productive collaboration across the European Union and national governments.

To **implement** the program successfully, we need to **collaborate** productively across the European Union and national governments.

They are a source of employment for majority of the population thereby alleviating poverty by promoting social and economic development.

For most of the country's people, they help create jobs, alleviate poverty, and promote social and economic development.

Demands for key services such as reliable energy and digital connectivity have grown significantly, though the pandemic has put projects in some other sectors on hold.

The pandemic has increased demand for key services such as reliable energy and digital connectivity, but it has put projects in some other sectors on hold.

Referencing feedback they have received from their members, this increase in sales is as a result of the direct benefits the members are getting from using quality verified solar lights.

Sales are increasing, as **members benefit** from using quality verified solar lights.

The education sector in Peru has experienced significant increases in enrollment rates, but there are important inequities in access.

Peru's education sector **has greatly increased enrollment**, but access remains **unequal**.

That nearly half of the country's young people are jobless is daunting.

Nearly half of the country's young people are jobless, a daunting challenge.

This measure has a significant impact on increasing the efficiency of operation of electrical power companies.

Creation of temporary and permanent jobs in the production and distribution of equipment is expected, as well as in other services such as design, installation, operation and maintenance.

Thus, the activity in the industrial sector continued to grow with a stronger intensity, with a part of the traditional activities also having a positive contribution.

Investments on development of electricity generation capacities are foreseen to be made by private investors.

This measure is expected to contribute to an increase in investments in the Montenegrin electrical power sector and to an improvement in knowledge, which will further have a significant impact on portfolio diversification and an improvement in the competitiveness of the electrical power companies.

Establishing a clear and simple subject = the entity performing an action

Bangladesh's regulatory system needs the establishment of a technical regulatory oversight body at the center of government to oversee, lead and report on regulatory reforms.

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The rise in joblessness due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is expected to be extraordinarily steep, with significant economic, social and psychological consequences.

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to cause a steep rise in joblessness, with major economic, social, and psychological consequences.

The airport is more than just an employer for hundreds of people. Tourism is central to the island nation's economy, providing roughly a quarter of Vanuatu's GDP and employing thousands across the country.

The airport **does not just employ** hundreds of people. **It also drives tourism**, which is central to the island nation's economy, providing roughly a quarter of Vanuatu's GDP and employing thousands across the country.

This application of technology is important given the lack of systematic data in the sector and for timely and accurate data for decision makers.

Given the lack of systematic data in the sector, **this technology** can support timely and accurate data for decision makers.

Work to better alert the public about disasters has been based on lessons learned from previous disasters in the region.

Based on lessons learned across the region, **the project is working** to better alert the public about disasters.

Developing a rigorous and long-term monitoring and evaluation system is a priority across the whole agenda of addressing violence against women.

The whole agenda of addressing violence against women requires a rigorous and long-term system for monitoring and evaluation.

As the first significant private sector investment in power generation in the country, the success of this project shows that the country can structure bankable and potentially complex PPPs.

The project is the country's first significant private sector investment in power generation. **Its success** shows that [country name] can structure bankable and potentially complex PPPs.

Working in coordination with other donors, **support in the form of subsidies, technical assistance, and inputs to farms are being provided** for the spring and autumn planting seasons.

In coordination with other donors, **the project is providing** subsidies, technical assistance, and inputs to farms for the spring and autumn planting seasons.

While public sector resources will provide some of this financing, **innovative new business models that incentivize the private sector to invest** are essential.

While public sector resources will provide some of this financing, **countries need** innovative new business models that incentivize the private sector to invest.

The state of energy and transport infrastructure in the region continues to be an obstacle to economic development and trade integration.

The EC report on Montenegro of spring 2018 sets out that the Montenegrin economy **is assessed as** moderately prepared "to face competitive pressures within the EU".

Maintaining Albania's economic recovery in the framework of the medium-term macro-fiscal balance is very important to ensuring future economic development.

The main assumption on which voluntary land consolidation lies is **the ability of the Ministry to provide free technical assistance and support related to the transaction cost as a powerful incentive to which farmers may react.**

An important determinant of economic trends in all Western Balkan countries and thereby BiH as well is the unfavourable structure of GDP in these countries.

The clear EU perspective and the policies the Government implements, contributed to economic recovery, though still very fragile.

It is well-known that good fiscal policy is one of the factors that help economic growth in the medium or longer term. It also contributes to strengthening competitiveness and employment by specific measures.

It is worth mentioning that the amount of export in EU countries for 2017 was over 18.3 million €, which compared to the previous year is 53.4% higher.

In the conditions of a liberalised rail market, clearly defined legislation in this area and the strong role of an independent regulator may serve as an incentive to include new operators in the market, which would improve competitiveness and the quality of services.

With respect to railway sector, operating on a single-track rail line, low-standard rail infrastructure and disregarding freight transport reduce the effectiveness of rail transport and prevent the creation of a competitive transport market.

Uncertainty in Middle East region, geopolitical risks stemming from Syria and terrorism potential cause limited resources planned for economic structural transformation to be relocated to defense expenses.

Better use of the beginning and end of the sentence

The creation of an effective board has improved the company's overall strategic approach, leading to marked bottom line improvements.

By creating an effective board, the company has improved its overall strategic approach, leading to marked improvements in its bottom line.

The Tina River Hydropower Project backed by Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) and Hyundai Engineering Corporation (HEC) is a good example.

A good example is the Tina River Hydropower Project backed by Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) and Hyundai Engineering Corporation (HEC).

When disasters – exacerbated by the effects of climate change – strike, the impacts can be devastating and widespread, affecting families' livelihoods, healthcare and education.

Exacerbated by the effects of climate change, **disasters have devastating and widespread impacts**, affecting families' livelihoods, health care, and education.

Programs administered in the context of large-scale job displacements during recessionary periods face challenges because workers may be unable to transfer to another sector or geographic area easily.

When recessions cause large-scale job displacements, programs face challenges, because workers may be unable to transfer to another sector or geographic area easily.

We are ready to explore new opportunities in collaboration with our Korean partners following a number of successful infrastructure projects in challenging markets over the years.

After a number of successful infrastructure projects in challenging markets over the years, we are ready to collaborate with Korean partners and explore new opportunities.

With the right mindset of focusing on the triple bottomline and innovative thinking — which is the DNA of any successful startup — companies should leverage the current tryingtimes to reinvent themselves for the better.

By focusing on the triple bottom line and innovative thinking, companies can leverage trying times to reinvent themselves for the better. **This mindset is the DNA of any successful startup.**

[Note: Use of dashes is strategic in the original, which reads well. But this revision would avoid such a long opening and increase emphasis.]

The electricity price in Serbia is at least 30% lower than the price in any other SEE country for households.

Procedural simplification and reducing the time and cost of trade and transport will contribute to reduce the economic distance to potential markets of export.

In the following period, the priorities include the establishment of an efficient model for science funding, greater support to business innovation, as well as stronger links between the business and academic community, resulting in higher private sector investment.

Although the reports produced by the majority of reference international institutions state that Montenegro's competitiveness has improved, obstacles have been identified and need to be eliminated in order to ensure its further improvement.

This will require, inter alia that labour market policies incorporate an efficient inclusion of social and gender groups, development of programs in support of vocational education training, creation of new employment opportunities, etc.

Mismatches between private employer needs and the skills provided by the education system are problem for decreasing the high unemployment rate in Macedonia, especially youth unemployment being at a level of 47.6% in 2017, almost three times higher than EU average.

The unfavourable structure of agricultural holdings (farm fragmentation without enough incentives to join forces), technical and technological obsolescence primarily of small and medium-sized holdings, as well as intensified

pressures on farmers due to more demanding standards and regulations in the process of alignment with the EU Common Agricultural Policy, additionally impede the development of agriculture.

The quantitatively modest BiH manufacturing industry is, in qualitative terms, characterized by a narrow production base of mainly resource and labour-intensive industries, resulting in the production of low technology intensive products of modest value added.

Further, to ensure food security for next generations by taking farmer income and agricultural products market into account; efficient stock management, reduction of losses in the production - marketing-retail chain, enhancing administrative and technical capacity for market regulation and effective use of foreign trade tools are other targets.

Addressing the institutional and regulatory barriers faced by businesses, simplifying rules, procedures and other procedural requirements, with particular emphasis on improving predictability and transparency of business regulation, are crucial to business development.

More intensive implementation of measures which promote youth employment, the registration of informal workers and measures for improving the position of women in the labour market, are also expected.

Avoiding interruptions between the main subject and verb

Many urge the Government to use force to clear the roadblocks, after near 40 patients have died because of oxygen failed deliveries, and to take MAS leaders to international justice.

After nearly 40 patients died because of failed oxygen deliveries, many urged the government to use force to clear the roadblocks. **They also urged that it** take MAS leaders to international justice.

Municipal Civil Protection Committees, comprised by volunteers from the community, are at the core of the country's National Risk and Disaster Management System. These committees, coordinated by municipalities, are permanent fixtures, and they can persist despite the fragility of institutions.

Municipal Civil Protection Committees are at the core of the country's National Risk and Disaster Management System. **Comprising volunteers from the community and coordinated by municipalities,** they can persist despite the fragility of institutions.

The pandemic offers us a chance to work with various stakeholders, including the public and private sectors and development finance institutions, to redesign family-friendly policies for a resilient workforce.

The pandemic offers a chance to redesign family-friendly policies for a resilient workforce **by working with various stakeholders, including the public and private sectors and development finance institutions.**

In the energy sector, **the progress** made to reduce distribution losses and by improving bill collection rate, in spite of the promising results thus far, **needs further consolidation.**

Transport and energy infrastructure, **owing to the fact that they have not been fully modernised or constructed, and the existence of non-physical barriers to trade within the regional markets,** limit the degree of integration.

This situation makes import dependency and external financing needs, **which are the constraints of growth,** more important.

Breaking up long, complex sentences for clarity and emphasis

To support **the goal of putting Uzbekistan on track to reduce national economy energy intensity by at least 50 percent over the next decade,** a comprehensive package of further measures needs to be adopted.

Uzbekistan aims to reduce the energy intensity of its economy by at least 50 percent over the next decade. **It needs to adopt** a comprehensive package of further measures to get back on track with this goal.

For those fortunate enough to stay in school, **the low quality of education services is driven by** poorly trained teachers, an **inadequate** teaching and learning environment, insufficient teaching and learning materials, and an **inadequate** student assessment system.

Even for those fortunate enough to stay in school, **the quality of education is low. Factors include** poorly trained teachers, a weak environment for teaching and learning, insufficient teaching and learning materials, and an inadequate system for student assessment.

Removing infrastructure bottlenecks and introducing renewable energy solutions become even more important for ensuring sustainability and energy security, creating jobs and strengthening resilience to protect people's health and welfare the **current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.**

To ensure sustainability and energy security, it has become even more important to remove infrastructure bottlenecks and introduce renewable energy solutions. **This can also create** jobs and **strengthen** resilience to protect people's health and welfare during the pandemic.

During this pandemic, the remarkable creativity and innovation of youth-led initiatives in sectors like health, jobs, and food security are stories worth telling.

During this pandemic, **youth demonstrated remarkable creativity and innovation as they led initiatives** in sectors like health, jobs, and food security. **These are stories worth telling.**

With the severe economic challenges young people throughout the world are predicted to face, this roundtable that served to support and elevate African youths' voices, along with inspire youth-centric solutions to these problems could not have been timelier.

With **young people throughout the world facing** severe economic challenges, **this roundtable could not have been more timely.** It served to support and elevate African youths' voices, as well as inspire youth-centric solutions.

Nevertheless, better access to finance and financial deepening, particularly for start-ups and higher risk economic activities, remain an important impetus to elevating Kosovo's growth potential, and will be further addressed by measures to improve the protection of property rights including through legalization of unpermitted construction and to improve court efficiency in economic disputes.

Most of the goods are transported by road transport. Thus, in the total freight transport for the period 2006-2016, the share of road freight transport is over 91.7%, while the railway is less than 8.2%

There is still a low level of investment in industrial modernisation (the share of investments in fixed assets in the processing industry increased slightly compared to 2016, but still accounts for 3.7 percent of total investments in 2017).

In 2016 in Paris, within the framework of Summit for the Western Balkan Countries (WB6), the Republic of Macedonia signed the Sustainability Charter, for which the Energy Community Secretariat has prepared a detailed Plan for the implementation of measures related to: improving the governance for energy efficiency, implementing support measures that improve the sustainability of energy systems, measures to reduce the negative consequences of climate change and fostering transparency of sustainable energy markets.