

WESTERN BALKANS AGENDA ON INNOVATION, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, CULTURE, YOUTH & SPORT

Future Deliverables

- Complete the regional infrastructure roadmap.
- Support the development, implementation, coordination and monitoring of Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) across the whole region.
- Conclude the:
 - o Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) implementation framework for the EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Region;
 - o Analysis of Value Chains in the Western Balkan Economies - Enriching the Potential for Regional Cooperation in Smart Specialisation Priority Areas;
 - o Science and Technology Panorama of the Western Balkans;
 - o JRC Science for Policy Report on “Recent Trends in Coal and Peat Regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine” (to be published on the week of October 18).
 - o Science for policy Report on the status of environment (air, climate, water and soil) in the Western Balkans.
 - o Capacity building in support of the Green Agenda for the WB
 - o Soil pollution database for the Western Balkans
 - o Scenario analysis to assess economic costs of air pollution in the Western Balkans
- Support the Western Balkan partners in developing national scientific advice mechanisms for an informed and evidence-based policy-making and societal scientific literacy, helping also to build trust in science and acceptance of new technologies
- Increase WB participation in: the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and Cluster collaboration projects
- Design targeted HE actions for the region, especially as regards facilitating access to finance - specifically for SMEs.
- Support the regional network of technology transfer offices, research and technology infrastructures, science parks and incubators for high-tech start-ups
- Guide the transition to sustainable transport and the assessment of the WB’s energy sector through macro-regional strategies in cooperation with DG REGIO, especially in the context of the macro-regional strategic frameworks in the Danube and Adriatic-Ionian macro-regions.
- Promote participation of the Western Balkans under Erasmus+ Sport actions and #BeActive Awards, as well as involvement in the HealthyLifestyle4All initiative
- Support the identification of strong exploitation strategies and provide targeted support in taking promising inventions to market (Proof of Concept) through capacity building activities focused on up-skilling and improving organisational capacities.
- Support the identification of strong exploitation strategies and provide targeted support in taking promising inventions to market through technology transfer and skills upgrades
- Strengthen intra- and international (transnational) value chains.
- Foster the development of regional Digital Innovation Hubs and their linking to the well-established Science and Technology Parks and EIT Digital KIC

- Support the region to develop joint standards and procedures for recognition of academic qualifications.
- Increase the WB involvement in the EIT KICs activities.
- Implement the Youth Guarantee in the Western Balkans in line with the EU Youth Guarantee.
- Promote participation of Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Kosovo* and Montenegro in the international dimension of Erasmus+
- Support the participation of the Western Balkans in TIMSS 2023, ICILS 2023, TALIS 2024
- Establish a Western Balkan Ministerial Platform on culture.
- Support for capacity building and communities of practice in Western Balkans on adoption of the European construction standards (Eurocodes).

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.