

Workshop on Research Infrastructures for the Western Balkans

PANEL SESSION 1

Promoting Research Infrastructures for Societal Challenges:
Progress in the Developoment of Research Infrastructures
in the Western Balkans

Research Infrastructures for the Western Balkans

Research Infrastructures are proven to have a powerful social and economic impact, helping solving global challenges.

One of the challenges in the WBs is that outgoing mobility is higher than the incoming mobility due to, among other reasons, underdeveloped research infrastructures, lack of first-class research facilities and access to the newest technologies in the WBs, as well as insufficient support for participation of the Western Balkans in existing leading core European Research Infrastructures (ERIC, ESFRI, and other RIs with TNA)

Research Infrastructures can improve everything, from geopolitical tension, brain drain and limp economic growth -

How to deliver this vision for the WBs and how to raise awareness among policy makers about the benefits of RIs and improve the potential funding sources is the topic of the first panel.

Speakers in the first Panel Session



Vesna Bengin,
Co-founder and Scientific
Advisor, BioSense
Institute, Novi Sad,
Serbia



Nenad Celarevic,
Regional Business
Development Coordinator,
Helvetas, Serbia



Teodora Ilic ,
A member of the Minister's
office at the Ministry of
Science, Technological
Development and
Innovation of Serbia



Mr. Jasmin Ademovic,
President, City Council
of the City of Sarajevo,
Bosnia and Herzegovina



Dejan Mirakovski ,
Rector, Goce Delcev
University Stip,
North Macedonia



Tarik Zaimovic ,
Vice-Rector, University
of Sarajevo,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Agri-Food

Social Sciences

Health&Biotechnology

Green&Digital

Environment

Digital

THEMATIC AREAS



Theme: Research Infrastructures for Agri-Food

ANTARES– the only example of successful Teaming for Excellence Projects in the WBs

Short Biography

Prof. Vesna Bengin is the co-founder of the BioSense Institute – Research and Development Institute for Information Technologies in Biosystems, which focuses on multidisciplinary and needs-driven research of advanced ICT technologies and its applications in biosystems, primarily agriculture. She is the coordinator of H2020 project ANTARES which aims to evolve BioSense Institute into a market-oriented European Centre of research excellence. With a budget of € 30 million, ANTARES is the largest research project ever funded in Serbia by the EU and the only Teaming project awarded outside the EU.

Prof. Bengin also directly focuses on fostering the policy development and economic growth of the region, through specific activities involving the policy makers and national and regional agrifood and IT sectors. She holds the highest national degrees both in teaching and research: she is a full professor at the Department of Physics, University of Novi Sad and a scientific advisor at the BioSense Institute.

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VESNA BENGIN

Co-founder and Scientific Advisor
of the BioSense Institute
**BioSense Institute
Serbia**



Topic to address:

Societal benefits of ANTARES/The Teaming for Excellence Project:
Transformation of the BioSense Institute into a European Center for Excellence

PANEL SESSION 1

Promoting Research Infrastructures for Social Challenges:

Progress in the Development of Research Infrastructures in the Western Balkans

Vesna Bengin was rewarded by POLICY ANSWERS as a RI Ambassador. Her role entails promoting the social benefits of Teaming for Excellence Projects and the clear return of investments, in order to stimulate policy makers to allocate dedicated budgetary supplements

Theme: Research Infrastructures for the Social Sciences

ESS ERIC– considered the most important social science RI in Europe

Short Biography:

Nenad Celarevic works within the Helvetas regional office in Belgrade, as Business Development Manager and Country Manager for Helvetas Serbia. His specific areas of competence include multi-stakeholder regional policy initiatives in the Western Balkans, advocacy initiatives and science diplomacy. Nenad Celarevic worked as D-PM of Swiss Government project PERFROM in Western Balkans on strengthening social sciences research systems and inclusion of the WB in the ERA (ESS ERIC).

Through this work, he has built up an extensive professional network in the Western Balkans, at the same time as being experienced in working with vulnerable and more marginalized groups.

Nenad Celarevic previously worked for OSCE, ODHIR and NDI in Eastern Europe, he holds MA in International relations from Belgrade University.

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NENAD CELAREVIC

Regional Business Development
Coordinator
**Helvetas
Serbia**



Topic to address:

The benefits from participating in leading core international European infrastructures (ERIC, ESFRI) – example of ESS ERIC and its impact on the Western Balkans

PANEL SESSION 1

Promoting Research Infrastructures for Social Challenges:

Progress in the Development of Research Infrastructures in the Western Balkans

Nenad Celarevic was rewarded by POLICY ANSWERS as a RI Ambassador. His role entails promoting the benefits of participating in existing leading core European infrastructures such as ESFRI and ERIC

Theme: Research Infrastructures for Health&Biotechnology

BIO4Campus– large-scale Research Infrastructure - Multidisciplinary R&D complex for life science

Short Biography

Teodora Ilic is a member of the Minister's office at the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of Serbia. She is actively involved in actions related to the development of the BIO4 Campus project.

She is a professional in organizational sciences, and she graduated in Information Systems and Technologies from the esteemed Faculty of Organizational Sciences at the University of Belgrade.

Teodora's prior experience working on government projects such as "Local Self-Government for the 21st Century" and "Support to the Implementation of the Action Plan of the Public Administration Reform Strategy" highlights her commitment to public service with a strong social impact.

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TEODORA ILIC

Engineer of Organizational
Sciences

**Ministry of Science, Technological
Development and Innovation
Serbia**

Topic to address:

Research Infrastructures for efficient
implementation of Smart Specialisation
Strategies – Bio4Campus



PANEL SESSION 1

Promoting Research Infrastructures for
Social Challenges:

**Progress in the Development of Research
Infrastructures in the Western Balkans**

Theme: Research Infrastructures – Green&Digital

Tech4Green – High Performance Computing Center to achieve the goals of the Green Agenda and the Digital Transformation of B&H

Short Biography

Jasmin Ademovic serves as the Chairman of the City Council of the City of Sarajevo. He is a professional in the fields of International Business, Marketing and Management. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Austin Peay State University in 2014. This was followed by a Harvard Extension School (2015-2016). He then pursued a Master's Degree in International Business at the Grenoble Ecole de Management in France in 2017. He also holds a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Sarajevo.

In addition to his public service role, he is the owner of IBS LLC in Sarajevo. He also has an impressive background in sports, particularly tennis and athletics.



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JASMIN ADEMOVIC
President
**City Council of the
City of Sarajevo**
Bosnia and Herzegovina



Topic to address:

Tech4Green - High Performance Computing Center for achieving the goals of the Green Agenda and Digital Transformation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

PANEL SESSION 1

Promoting Research Infrastructures for Social Challenges:

Progress in the Development of Research Infrastructures in the Western Balkans

Theme: Research Infrastructures - Environment



Short Biography

Professor Mirakovski is the Rector of Goce Delcev University in Stip, an institution which has experienced significant growth becoming one of the most esteemed universities in North Macedonia. He graduated at the Faculty of Mining and Geology at Sts. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. His PhD studies were completed at Goce Delcev University. During that time Professor Marakovski collaborated with Japan (MINETEC), Hungary, Bulgaria, France, Sweden, Czech Republic, Austria, and Slovakia..

He is a co-founder of the AMBCION Lab. Since 2014, this lab has obtained accreditation in compliance with ISO 17025 for the testing sectors related to the environment. It is now recognized as one of the foremost research facilities in the country. It collaborates with prominent industrial enterprises in North Macedonia and widely. It is based on non-commercial manner and closely working with government entities with primary objective to enhance the scientific database and provide assistance in monitoring, in particular for air quality concerns.



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DEJAN MIRAKOVSKI
Rector
Goce Delcev University Stip
North Macedonia



Topic to address:
Role of universities and importance of Research Infrastructures for environmental challenges

PANEL SESSION 1

Promoting Research Infrastructures for Social Challenges:

Progress in the Development of Research Infrastructures in the Western Balkans

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Theme: Research Infrastructures - Digital

Short Biography

Prof. Dr. Zaimovic is the Vice-Rector of the University of Sarajevo (UNSA). He is a tenured Professor of management and information technologies at the UNSA and School of Economics and Business. He is an expert in advanced teaching methodologies, internet-based training and lifelong learning programs. As a licensed PRINCE2 Practitioner, he has extensive experience in managing local and international projects, including UN, EC, and WB funded programs related to public administration reform and e-government in BiH.

Prof. Zaimovic has also a comprehensive understanding of public sector development, including strategic planning and business process restructuring. He has contributed to the formation of government strategic plans, ICT plans, public administration reform, and is an author of the State Information Society Development Strategy, and eAgenda. Plus. Prof. Zaimović has also co-authored ten books, several major government strategic documents, and numerous research studies and publications.



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TARIK ZAIMOVIC
Vice Rector
University of Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Topic to address:
University of Sarajevo High-Performance Computing (HPC) System

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Regional Innovation Council

Co-funded by the European Union

VESNA BENGIN
Co-founder and Scientific Advisor of the BioSense Institute
BioSense Institute Serbia



Topic to address:
Societal benefits of ANTARES/The Teaming for Excellence Project:
Transformation of the BioSense Institute into a European Center for Excellence

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Theme: Research Infrastructures for Agri-Food



ANTARES – the only example of successful Teaming for Excellence Projects in the WBs

Questions for Vesna Bengin:

- The power of Teaming for Excellence calls, which strives to support CoE as role models to stimulate institutional building, is best illustrated with the ANTARES project worth 30 MEUR. This is an excellent example of how to effectively create an ecosystem and an environment which attracts the best talents world-wide, stimulates entrepreneurship and employment and boosts collaborations with the private sectors. What do you think is the main reason why the policy makers do not clearly see the benefits from investing in RIs, even if a significant part of funds, 50%, stems from the EU?
- Could you provide a concise overview of direct and indirect benefits of ANTARES and the return of investments for societies.
- What is your recommendation on how to stimulate policy makers to allocate dedicated budgetary supplements (e.g. national or IPA funds), and raise awareness of RIs' benefits for economy and society with a clear return of such investments





NENAD CELAREVIC
Regional Business Development
Coordinator
**Helvetas
Serbia**

Topic to address:
The benefits from participating in leading core international European infrastructures (ERIC, ESFRI) – example of ESS ERIC and its impact on the Western Balkans

PANEL SESSION 1
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Theme: Research Infrastructures for the Social Sciences

ESS ERIC– considered the most important social science RI in Europe

Questions for Nenad Celarevic:

- You played a pivotal role in incorporating the Western Balkans economies into the ESS ERIC map, which also led to Serbia gaining full membership. Through this journey in developing the ‘Story of Change’, could you elaborate on the main challenges you experienced and the key factors that led to the ultimate success?
- Could you provide a concise overview of direct and indirect benefits for the Western Balkans from their participation in the ESS ERIC? Are there now clear advantages for evidence-based policy making ?
- What strategies and coordination actions could be employed to facilitate policy makers to support research community/regional RIs to get integrated into leading core European infrastructures (ESFRI,ERIC)?
- The Work Programme 2023-2024 of Horizon Europe focusing on Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area, currently does not integrate support for facilitating access to world-class research infrastructures (ERICs, ESFRIs). How could we collaborate to advocate for the incorporation of such measures into the upcoming 2025 Programme?





Theme: Research Infrastructures for Health&Biotechnology

ANCIWEDS

Bio4Campus – large-scale Research Infrastructure - the Multidisciplinary R&D complex for life science

Questions for Teodora Ilic:

- The Bio4Campus is a powerful large-scale research infrastructure on the horizon, which will create an ideal ecosystem for innovation and jobs for the best talents. One of the conditions for setting-up a large-scale RI is Sustainability - commitment of policy makers and different stakeholders for formal agreements and well-defined costs and an operational model. How do you see the Sustainability of the Bio4Campus?
- What metrics is being used to measure the economic, societal, and research impact of the Bio4Campus? How do you plan to communicate these impacts to stakeholders and potential funders?
- What was the main driver to convince the policy makers to support starting the development phase of the Bio4Campus through a top-down approach? We see the Bio4Campus as one of the best examples of the implementation of Smart Specialization Strategies. Could you tell us whether the adoption of S3 in Serbia helped in deciding to go for the Bio4Campus?



TEODORA ILIC
Engineer of Organizational Sciences
Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation
Serbia

Topic to address:
Research Infrastructures for efficient implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies – Bio4Campus



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Theme: Research Infrastructures – Green&Digital



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Regional Economic Council

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JASMIN ADEMOVIC
President
City Council of the City of Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Topic to address:
Tech4Green - High Performance Computing Center for achieving the goals of the Green Agenda and Digital Transformation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

PANEL SESSION 1
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Questions for Jasmin Ademovic:

- High Performance Computing Center, Tech4Green, is a Research Infrastructure which is not driven by researches, but by the local authority – by the needs of the City of Sarajevo. What was the main driver to initiate Tech4Green’s development through a top-down approach, and how did it strategically align with the objectives of the City of Sarajevo?
- What is the current funding model for the Tech4Green? How diverse are the sources of funding and how are you going to ensure its long-term Sustainability?
- As Tech4Green seeks to create a framework for research and innovation investment, how do you envision its collaboration with researchers and their potential contribution to its operation?



Theme: Environmental Research Infrastructures

Questions for Dejan Mirakovski:

- Universities are playing a crucial role to advance sustainability and are keys for developing new CoE and RIs. Their contributions from research, teaching, education and collaboration create strong critical mass and knowledge required to address various challenges. My question to you - Is this role of universities in the WBs clearly visible and recognized by policy makers and civil societies?
- What are the keys for success of your University in being seen as one of those pushing agenda around sustainability, in particular in the context of the Environment. Is that connected to the broader context of Curricular or to the better link with industries?
- The self-organization of User communities, most of them are part of universities, is the key mechanism to boost the development of new RIs (single site or **distributed**). Although this approach was robust in our region in the past (dating back to the 1950s), unfortunately the strength of that mechanism has now significantly weakened. What is your view on how to strengthen that mechanism?



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Regional Innovation Council

European Union

DEJAN MIRAKOVSKI
Rector
Goce Delcev University Stip
North Macedonia

Topic to address:
Role of universities and importance of Research Infrastructures for environmental challenges

PANEL SESSION I
Promoting Research Infrastructures for Social Challenges:
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Theme: Data, Computing and Digital Research Infrastructure

Questions for Tarik Zaimovic:

- The UNSA High-Performance Computing System for Research is yet another research infrastructure on the horizon, which will enable researchers to use advanced computing technologies needed for solving complex problems in various fields, but also to effectively produce skilled deep-tech talents. Given that the UNSA is the primary driver of the HPC System, could you please tell us what will be your main strategic research domains?
- One of the conditions for setting-up a RI is Sustainability. How do you see the Sustainability of the UNSA HPC? Are you going to attract industrial users? What is the planned funding model for the UNSA HPC, and how diverse will be the sources of funding?
- The Digital Europe Programme is also accessible to candidate countries. How do you see an advantage from B&H signing the Association agreement? What are your expectations from the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU)?



TARIK ZAIMOVIC
Vice Rector
University of Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina



Topic to address:
University of Sarajevo High-Performance Computing (HPC) System

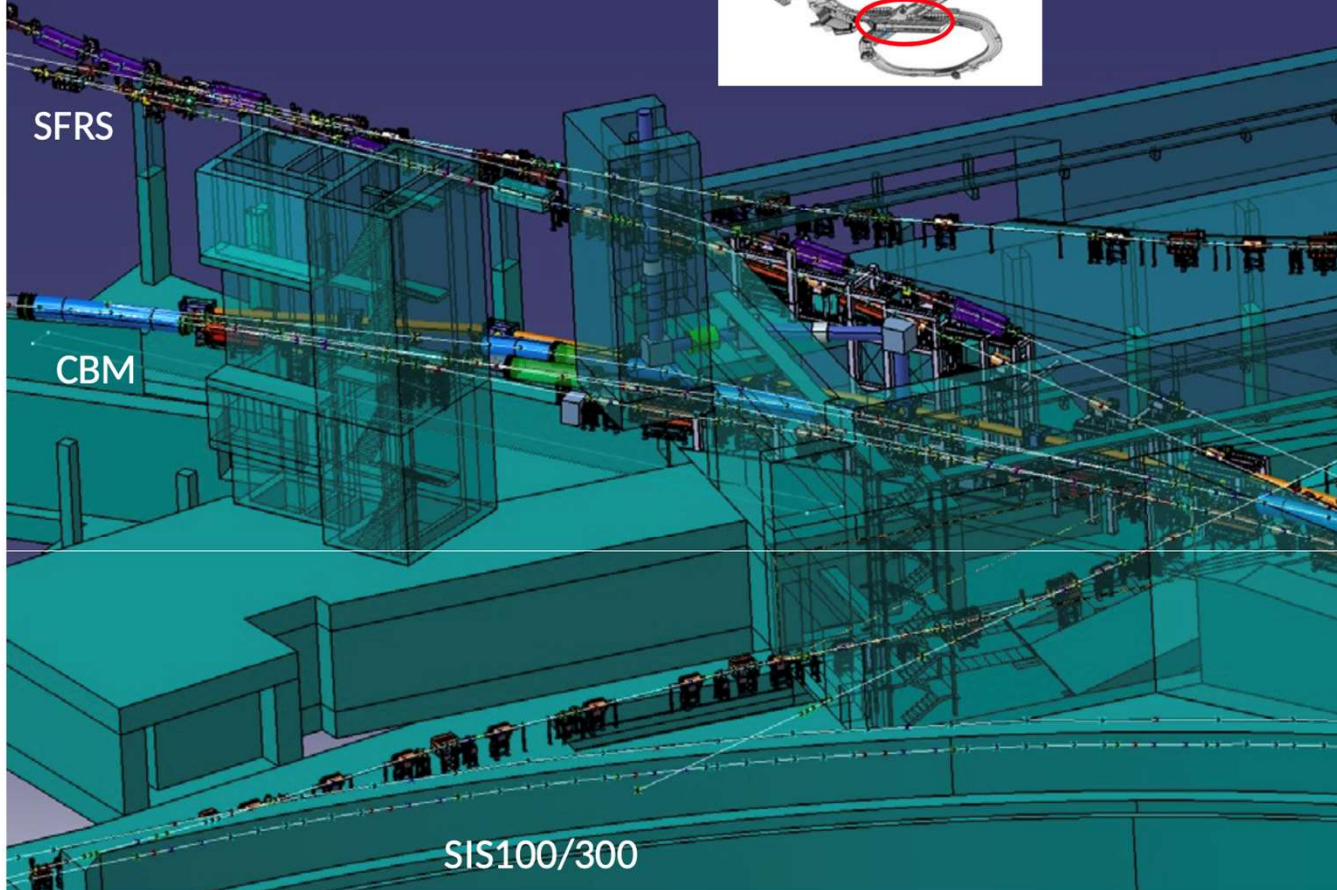
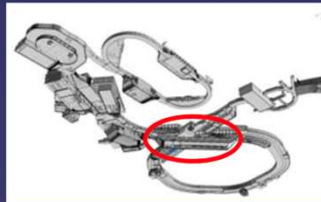
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How to improve **access to all potential funding sources for RIs** -

Synergies with IPA

pbar, APPA



Research Infrastructure – ‘High Energy Beam Lines’ FAIR-GSI, Darmstadt

Traffic Infrastructures - ‘High Five’ Dalas

Discussion on how to improve **access to all potential funding sources for Research Infrastructures, including the IPA funds**

A strategic coordination process is required to optimize access to all potential funding sources for Research Infrastructures and to effectively communicate the societal and economic advantages of RIs, underlining a clear return of such investments.

There is a potential to synergize with the recently published European Commission document

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal->

[content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2022.421.01.0007.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2022%3A421%3AFULL](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2022.421.01.0007.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2022%3A421%3AFULL)

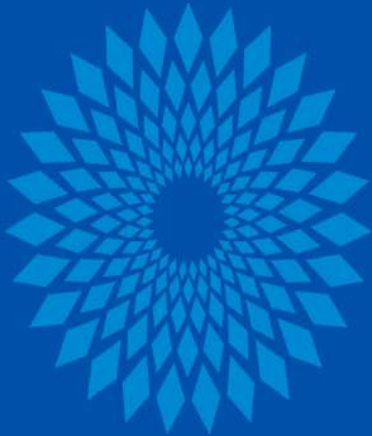
and align its objectives with the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA) funds.

The strategic and coordination process should also include a cohesive and joint efforts to ensure that instruments of facilitating the access to world-class Research Infrastructures (ESFRIs, ERICs, or TNA infrastructures) becomes an integral component of the forthcoming (FP10) Widening Programme

The European Commission provided guidelines on synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe

EU2022.CZ

Czech Presidency of the Council
of the European Union



Prague Declaration
on Synergies in the Research
and Innovation Funding
in Europe

The European Commission provided guidelines to put synergies between Horizon Europe Programme and the EU Cohesion Policy Funds (ERDF), that was follow up by the Prague Declaration on synergies → could be a very useful basis for the WBs.

The document contains legal and implementation details of opportunities for achieving synergies, where the co-funding via the structural/cohesion funds (or IPA for the WBs) could create big values

- Seal of Excellence
- European Partnerships
- Teaming for Excellence
- Digital Europe
- Missions
- EIC
- Research Infrastructures in-line with S3 strategies