

Sustaining RRI: Cooperating for the European Research Area

Welcome!



WBC-RRI.NET

In the European Research Area we will:



Strengthen mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology through greater cooperation among Member States;



Prioritise investments and reforms in research and innovation towards the green and digital transition, to support Europe's recovery;



Boost market uptake of research and innovation results;



Improve access to excellence for researchers across the EU.

More information at
[European research area \(ERA\) | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/!YmgHHX)
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<https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/8e39b01a-c0b6-11ee-b164-01aa75ed71a1>

Below, the actions of the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024 are ordered according to the four priority area in the Pact for R&I.

Deepening a truly functioning internal market for knowledge



Taking up together the challenges posed by the twin green and digital transition, and increasing society's participation in the ERA



Amplifying access to research and innovation excellence across the Union



Advancing concerted research and innovation investments and reforms



<https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/policy-agenda-2022-2024>

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101006279



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✓ 1. Enable Open Science, including through the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

Open Science

✓ 2. Propose an EU copyright and data legislative framework for research

✓ 3. Reform the Assessment System for research, researchers and institutions

✓ 4. Promote attractive research careers, talent circulation and mobility

✓ 5. Promote gender equality and foster inclusiveness

Gender

✓ 6. Protect academic freedom in Europe

✓ 7. Upgrade EU guidance for a better knowledge valorisation

✓ 8. Strengthen research infrastructures

✓ 9. Promote international cooperation

✓ 10. Make EU research and innovation missions and partnerships key contributors to the ERA

✓ 11. An ERA for green transformation

✓ 12. Accelerate the green/digital transition of Europe's key industrial ecosystems

✓ 13. Empower Higher Education Institutions

✓ 14. Bring Science closer to citizens



✓ 15. Build-up research and innovation ecosystems to improve excellence and competitiveness

✓ 16. Improve EU-wide access to excellence

✓ 17. Enhance public research institutions' strategic capacity

✓ 18. Support the development of EU countries' national processes for the ERA implementation

✓ 19. Establish an ERA monitoring system

✓ 20. Support research and innovation investments and reforms

Reports on WB ERA Integration

- POLICY ANSWERS has prepared two editions of WB ERA Reports until now (2023 with info from 2022; 2024 published soon with info from 2023)
- Methodology of the ERA Monitoring Handbook (for the first reports based on 2018 edition)
- POLICY ANSWERS has with external experts prepared reports for:
 - Albania
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Kosovo*
 - North Macedonia
 - Montenegro
 - Serbia
- The reports have been published on the Western Balkans Info Hub: <https://wbc-rti.info/object/news/24662>



“old” vs. “new”

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Reports on WB ERA Integration

- New versions of the reports (to be available in 2024, info from 2023) are based on the template for ERA Country Reports (same as for EU-27) of the European Commission based on a new ERA Monitoring Mechanism
- POLICY ANSWERS has in cooperation with external experts prepared reports for:
 - Albania
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Kosovo*
 - North Macedonia
- Reports for Montenegro and Serbia are prepared by a different contractor of the EC: Ecorys
- ERA Forum representatives from Western Balkans have been involved in validating the reports. The reports are not yet published.

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Albania

- Albania is progressing towards the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda 2022-2024.
- The new Draft Law of Science puts impetus on Open Science, Research Infrastructure and Knowledge Valorisation, as a novelty.
- Fostering talent in Research and Innovation remains a priority. The country has made operative its EURAXESS Portal.
- The Albanian publications are Open Access in their majority, likewise they are international.
- An EIT Raw materials KIC centre will open in Albania January 2024 (originally was planned for the end of 2023).
- The EU for Innovation Portal <https://euforinnovation.al/> was launched to foster the linkages between research and the market.
- The country's efforts for integration in the ERA and implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda are laid out in the National Economic Reform Programme 2021-2023.

North Macedonia

- In June 2023, the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) launched the first Innovation Hub in North Macedonia at the Centre for Technology Transfer and Innovation in Skopje (CTTIS).
- In September 2023, the working group of the Ministry of Education and Science proposed six ERA Actions under three Priority Areas of the ERA Policy Agenda.
- The development of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) of North Macedonia is in its final stage.
- According to the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) 2023, in the period 2016-2023 the gap between North Macedonia's performance and the EU performance became smaller.


Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Bosnia and Herzegovina has made progress in implementing ERA priorities.
- Progress can be observed in the adoption of Open Science and Gender Equality initiatives, followed by the promotion of attractive research careers, and the strengthening of international cooperation and of research infrastructures.
- For the first time since the beginning of the programme, Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) largest university, the University of Sarajevo, became the coordinating institution for the Horizon Europe research and innovation project "Stone monument ensembles and the climate change impact".
- The University Clinical Centre of the Republic of Srpska became the first partner institution from BiH in the project funded under the EU Cancer Mission of the Horizon Europe programme.
- Innovation and technology parks in BiH have been very active and productive with the recent EU and GIZ funded EU4DigitalSME project, which connects academia with industry around established digital innovation hubs in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Tuzla.

Kosovo

Box with main highlights and key takeaways:

- Kosovo is gradually aligning to the ERA Policy Agenda.
- The participation of research and innovation (R&I) actors from Kosovo in international R&I programmes (Horizon Europe, COST, Erasmus+) is increasing, but still at a level that could be improved.
- The legal and policy framework for R&I is currently being revised and expected to be further developed through legal and strategic advancements and an increase of public spending on R&I.
- The development of a Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) has gone through the stakeholder consultation processes, but has yet to be finalised and implemented to guide R&I priority setting and excellence.
- The R&I governance structure is still fragmented, and the capacities to implement, monitor and evaluate R&I policies and developments are weak.
- R&I performers are increasingly looking for opportunities to use support mechanisms for their research and thus they are becoming more active, while the financial incentives to strengthen their collaboration within the country and internationally remain a challenge.
- Currently, there is minimal collaboration between academic institutions and industrial actors in Kosovo. Therefore, the government should encourage joint initiatives in the form of triple and quadruple helix collaboration to stimulate private sector investments in R&I.

A woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt, stands in a meeting room pointing towards a whiteboard covered in colorful sticky notes. Several people are seated around a table in the foreground, looking towards her. The room has large windows on the left and a white wall with the sticky notes.

This event is completed!

Thank you for your attention!

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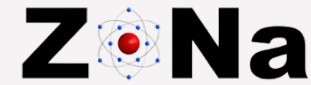
**THANK
YOU!**

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CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION



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