Implementing the Western Balkans Agenda



Research and Innovation

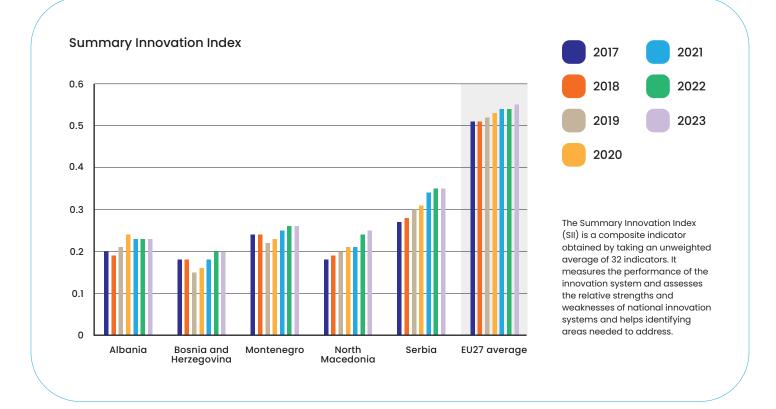
July 2024

The Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport is a long-term strategy from the EU and the Western Balkans (WB) for cooperation with the region. It will contribute to the region's economic and societal development and builds on three main pillars: Political, Thematic, and Regional.

The implementation of the Western Balkans Agenda is monitored by the project POLICY ANSWERS, and the wider context, progress and achievements are summarised in regular reports. In this brief report card, you find the results of the second round of data collection during 2023 and the first months of 2024 and a comparison with the baseline data collected in the previous round.

In terms of Research and Innovation, the monitoring focuses on the context indicator "Summary Innovation Index" and on a variety of achievements outlined in the WB Agenda (see next page).

Achievements in a wider context of the Western Balkans Agenda



Note

Data for Kosovo* not available

Source

European Innovation Scoreboard 2022. EU countries and neighbouring countries database https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard_en#eis-interactive-tool (accessed 21 February 2024).

* 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.

Boosting the WB Innovation Capacity by bringing Research and Innovation (R&I) eco-systems closer to the EU



Regional Indicators WB Steering Platform POLICY ANSWERS **Evidence** based ↑ Î Л meetings policy courses project Western Balkans Economy Indicators Supporting Western Balkans reforms for science & research alignment with EU acquis Participation in European programmes, initiatives and schemes Participation in the European Technical Institute of assistance Governments Investment Innovation and (TA) to Chapter to increase in R&I and Integration in T Technology 25 (Science GDP allocations education the new ERA (EIT) higher and Research) to R&I infrastructure education reforms institutions (HEI) Initiative Low level of No new funding bilateral TA projects No new No new joint governmental and Twinning schemes reported projects and/or Participation with 2 († Albania projects mobilities with EU % of GDP dedicated funding schemes full partners MS reported reported Low uptake of TAIEX to R&I remains low missions Bilateral TA projects Increased number Increased number Participation increased New funding Bosnia and of funding schemes of joint projects with 5 full and **†** Î t Twinning projects schemes and mobilities with 2 associated Herzegovina % of GDP dedicated and TAIEX missions introduced EU MS partners to R&I remains low remain a challenge Low level of bilateral TA projects Increased number No new Increased number and Twinning of funding schemes governmental of joint projects Participation with 1 (\uparrow) t Kosovo* projects % of GDP dedicated funding schemes and mobilities with associated partner reported EU MS Low uptake of TAIEX to R&I remains low missions Low level of bilateral TA projects No new funding Increased number New funding and Twinning schemes reported Participation with 1 of joint projects (î t schemes t Montenegro projects and mobilities with full partner % of GDP dedicated introduced FU MS Low uptake of TAIEX to R&I has increased missions Low level of No new funding Twinning projects and bilateral TA Increased number No new North schemes reported governmental of joint projects Participation with 2 Î t projects funding schemes and mobilities with full partners Macedonia % of GDP dedicated reported EU MS No new TAIEX to R&I remains low missions taken up No new Twinning or bilateral TA projects No new funding Increased number Participation reported schemes reported New funding of joint projects with 6 full and († t Serbia → Low level of and mobilities with % of GDP dedicated scheme introduced 2 associated TAIEX missions EU MS partners to R&I remains low uptake remains a challenge Moderately improving, On track or maintaining Stagnating, Significant challenges Decreasing, Information Legend: Î T Challenges remain Major challenges not available achievement

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Highlights

Western Balkans partners successful in the 2023 EIT HEI Initiative

Further ERA integration by increased number of joint projects and mobilities with EU Member States



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