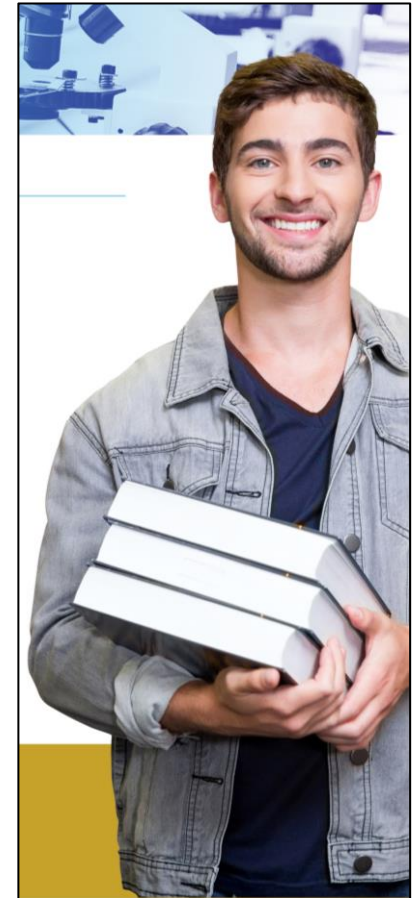# POLICY ANSWERS

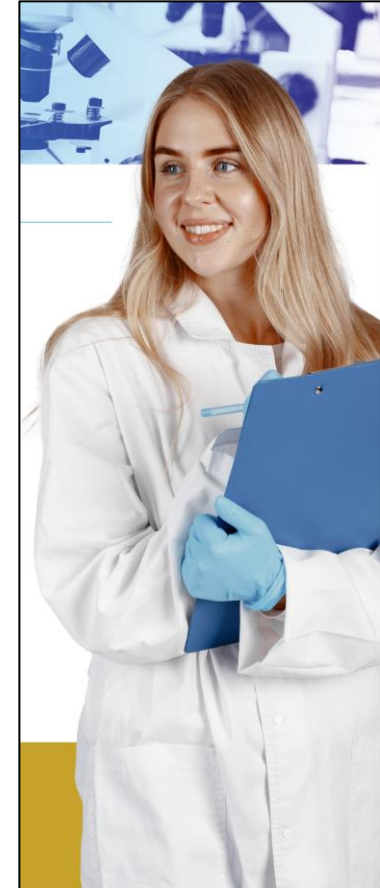## Western Balkans Mobility Scheme

Western Balkans Mobility Scheme: <u>Aim and objectives</u>

- Aim is to support <u>sustainable economic growth, societal resilience and convergence of the Western Balkans with the European Union</u> by fostering <u>regional cooperation</u> and sustained support in mobility-driven R&I

- Three objectives of the scheme:
  - Fostering <u>brain circulation</u> and <u>encourage brain retain within the WB</u> at an <u>early stage of the researchers'</u> careers
  - Supporting <u>excellence</u> in research in the WB
  - Promoting and increasing the <u>Open Access use of research infrastructure (RI</u>) across the Western Balkans

- Building the ground for a <u>follow-up of the mobility scheme</u> to be funded by regional, economy-level or international stakeholders
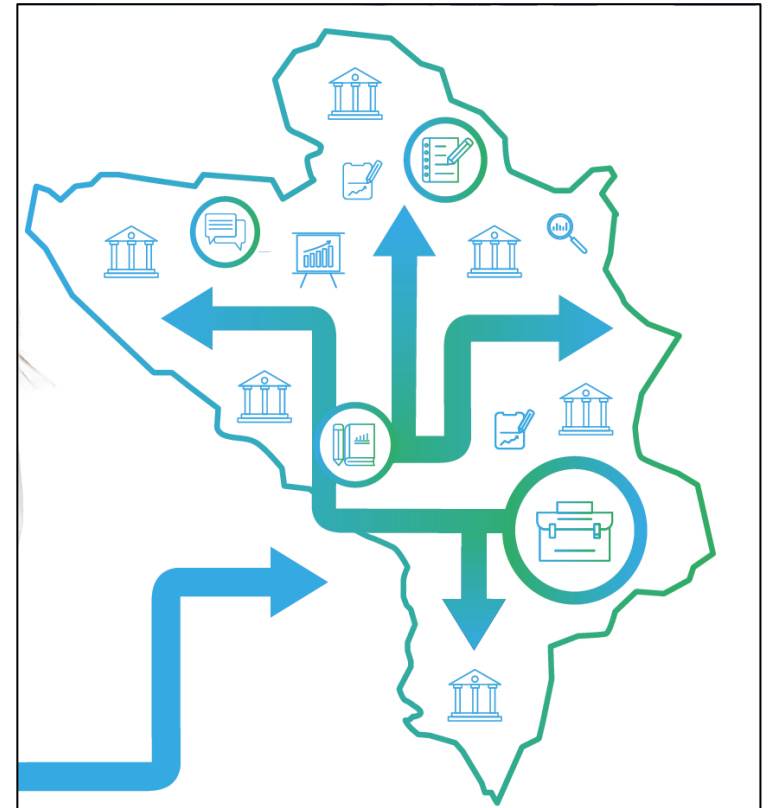
Western Balkans Mobility Scheme: <u>Type of project</u>

- Projects must cover all of following aspects:
  - short-term mobility as <u>physical presence</u> of the grantee for a duration of <u>between two weeks and two months</u> within another WB economy
  - <u>the use</u> of specialised equipment or facilities (<u>research infrastructures</u>) <u>in another WB</u> in order to
  - <u>do research</u>

- <u>All thematic research areas are eligible</u>

- Applications that address the <u>twin transition</u> (green and digital) and priorities mentioned in economy-level <u>research strategies / S3 strategies</u> are particularly welcome

Western Balkans Mobility Scheme: <u>Clarifications</u>

- As <u>early-career researchers</u> only PhD students and Post-docs, whose doctorate was awarded no longer than seven years before deadline of the call are eligible as grantees

- Definition of <u>research infrastructure</u> according to the definition of the European Commission as a set of facilities, resources and services (like laboratories, equipment, facilities, data, archives, libraries) that are used by the research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their respective fields
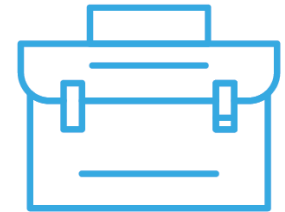
Western Balkans Mobility Scheme: <u>Funding and timetable</u>

- Overall <u>100.000 EURO as total budget</u> for the grants available
- <u>Maximum project duration between two weeks and six months</u>
- <u>Maximum 5.000 EURO per grant</u>

- <u>Eligible costs</u>: (1) travel costs and living allowances as unit costs, (2) accession fees, consumables etc. by host institution, (3) costs for exploitation of project results (publication of scientific article, etc.)

- Call expected <u>to open</u>: 28 March 2024.
- Call expected <u>to close</u>: 31 May 2024.
- <u>Projects expected to start</u>: 1 October or later (but all projects must be terminated by 31 May 2025).

POLICY ANSWERS

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THANK YOU!

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