



Meeting of the Western Balkans Steering Platforms on Culture, Education and Training & Research and Innovation

3-5 June 2024

Skopje - Hotel DoubleTree by Hilton

(Address: Blvd ASNOM 17, Skopje 1000, North Macedonia. Meeting room: Diamond, ground floor)

WB delegations are required to provide progress reports by 24 May 2024.

Reports can be sent to pecarz@zsi.at and ulrike.kunze@dlr.de. Any additional written inputs or presentations by speakers can be sent to the same addresses by the same deadline.

Remote participants will be able to attend the meeting at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82077668583?pwd=Um7ieaKlNIQjn3yt7bV0bVo199YJv.1>

AGENDA

3 June 2024

15:00 – 18:45 *Registrations and Information at Desk*

Western Balkans Steering Platforms Meeting on Education and Training and Culture

15:00 – 16:00 *Welcome Coffee*

16:00 – 16:30 **Welcome Remarks and Introduction**

- Filip Van Depoele, Head of the 'International Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, co-chair
- Nevena Dimovska, Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of Culture of North Macedonia, WB co-chair
- Ferenc Nagy-Rébék, Head of Department of Science Policy and Research Infrastructures, Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary, incoming EU Council Presidency, co-chair
- Enrica Chiozza, Team Leader Western Balkans Investment Framework, European Commission, DG Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations (online)
- Marzia Conte, Deputy Head of the 'Culture Policy Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

16:30 – 17:30 **Western Balkans Agenda: Culture**

- EC reports on latest developments
Marzia Conte, Deputy Head of the 'Culture Policy Unit', and Olivier Fontaine, Team Leader, European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- Update from SP members

17:30– 18:30 **Western Balkans Agenda: Education, Training and Youth**

- EC reports on latest developments
Filip Van Depoele, Head of the 'International Unit', and Paola Ottonello, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- Update from ETF and other SP members

18:30 – 18:45 **Closing Remarks**

Filip Van Depoele, Head of the 'International Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

18:45 – 19:30 *Bilateral R&I Discussions (Crystal room, floor -1)*

20:00 – 22:00 *Welcome Dinner (Restaurant MONTE in the hotel)*

4 June 2024

08:00 – 14:00 *Registrations and Information at Desk*

Western Balkans Steering Platforms Joint Session on the Ministerial Meeting 2024

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome Remarks and Introduction**

- Filip Van Depoele, Head of the 'International Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, co-chair
- Anne Haglund Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, co-chair
- Emanuela Bellan, Head of Unit 'Member States, Partnerships and International Relations', European Commission, DG Joint Research Center, co-chair
- Giada Trucco, Western Balkans Policy & Regional Strategy, European Commission, DG Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations (online)
- Ferenc Nagy-Rébék, Head of Department of Science Policy and Research Infrastructures, Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary, incoming EU Council Presidency, co-chair
- Biljana Trajkovska, State Advisor on Strategic Planning, Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia, WB co-chair
- Nevena Dimovska, Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of Culture of North Macedonia, WB co-chair

09:15 – 10:30 **Western Balkans Steering Platforms Ministerial Meeting June 2024 (part 1)**

- Filip Van Depoele, Head of the 'International Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- Bernhard Fabianek, Senior Policy Officer at the Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- Paola Ottonello, Policy Officer at the 'International Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- Olivier Fontaine, Team Leader at the 'Culture Policy Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- Emanuela Bellan, Head of Unit 'Member States, Partnerships and International Relations', European Commission, DG Joint Research Center
- Désirée Pecarz, Secretariat of the WB Platforms by POLICY ANSWERS, ZSI

10:30 – 10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45 – 11:45 **Western Balkans Steering Platforms Ministerial Meeting June 2024 (part 2)**

- Feedback from WB and SP members
- Discussion

11:45 – 12:00 **Closing Remarks**

- Filip Van Depoele, Head of the 'International Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

12:00 – 12:15 *Family Photo (Main stairs towards floor -1)*

12:15– 13:45 *Networking Lunch (Restaurant MONTE in the hotel)*

Western Balkans Steering Platform Meeting on Research and Innovation

- 13:45– 14:15** **Welcome Remarks and Introduction**
- Anne Haglund Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit ‘Horizon Europe Association’, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, co-chair
 - Biljana Trajkovska, State Advisor on Strategic Planning, Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia, WB co-chair
 - Ferenc Nagy-Rébék, Head of Department of Science Policy and Research Infrastructures, Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary, incoming EU Council Presidency, co-chair
 - Emanuela Bellan, Head of Unit ‘Member States, Partnerships and International Relations’, European Commission, DG Joint Research Center, co-chair
- 14:15 – 15:15** **Western Balkans Agenda: Priorities and Objectives in Research and Innovation with the Western Balkans**
- EC reports on latest R&I developments
DG R&I, DG JRC, DG EAC, DG NEAR (approx. 5 - 10 min each)
 - Barna Kovacs, BIOEAST Secretary General, Hungary
- Discussion and Q&A
- 15:15 – 16:15** **Western Balkans Agenda: R&I Developments in the Western Balkans (part 1)**
- Western Balkans’ progress reports (AL, BA, XK*); 15 min each)
- General discussion and exchange
- 16:15 – 16:45* *Coffee Break*
- 16:45 – 18:00** **Western Balkans Agenda: R&I Developments in the Western Balkans (part 2)**
- Western Balkans’ progress reports (MK, ME, RS; 15 min each)
 - EU MS, EUREKA, COST, RCC, POLICY ANSWERS updates (5 min each)
- General discussion and exchange
- 18:00 – 18:15** **Closing of the day**
- Anne Haglund Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit ‘Horizon Europe Association’, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- 18:30 – 19:30* *Bilateral R&I Discussions (Crystal room, floor -1)*
- 20:00 – 22:00* *Networking Dinner (Restaurant MONTE in the hotel)*

5 June 2024

08:00 – 13:30 *Registrations and Information at Desk*

Workshop on Western Balkans ERA Reporting

08:45 – 09:00 Welcome and Introduction

- Anne Haglund Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit ‘Horizon Europe Association’, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- Malte Schrage-Veltins, ERA reporting by POLICY ANSWERS, DLR

09:00 – 10:30 Technical session: ERA Reporting along the ERA Policy Agenda

- Heiko Prange-Gstoehl, Policy Officer, ERA, Spreading Excellence and Research Careers, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation (online)
- Malte Schrage-Veltins, ERA reporting by POLICY ANSWERS, DLR
- Sasho Josimovski, ERA Country Report expert North Macedonia

10:30– 10:50 *Coffee break*

10:50 – 11:50 How to approach challenges with regard to WB ERA integration?

- Malte Schrage-Veltins, ERA reporting by POLICY ANSWERS, DLR

Discussion of two selected challenges in parallel focus groups:

- Research management and the implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda
- Business-academia collaboration
- Presentation of results and recommendations in the plenum and discussion

11:50 – 12:10 Strengthening R&I Capacity in the Western Balkans

- Ioannis Sagias, Deputy Head of Unit for valorisation policies and IPR, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, R&I Valorisation (online)

Discussion and Q&A

12:10 – 12:20 Wrap up

- Malte Schrage-Veltins, ERA reporting by POLICY ANSWERS, DLR

12:20 – 12:30 Closing remarks

- Anne Haglund Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit ‘Horizon Europe Association’, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

12:30 – 13:30 *Farewell Reception (Foyer of the Diamond meeting room)*