



08:30 – 17:00 Registrations at Information Desk

Western Balkans Steering Platform Meeting on Education and Training

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome Remarks and Introduction

- Filip Van Depoele, Head of the 'International Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, co-chair
- Aneta Trpevska, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia, WB co-chair
- Bibi Gramson, Deputy Head of Mission, Swedish Embassy to North Macedonia, Swedish EU Council Presidency, co-chair
- Rūta Žarnauskaitė, Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- Adrienn Kiraly, Adviser, European Commission, DG Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations
- Hana Vlckova, Counsellor for Research and Space Policy at Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic, Outgoing Czech EU Council Presidency

09:30 – 10:00 Main Policy Developments and Cooperation in 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
- The European Master in Translation and its competence framework
Nikola Kunte, Acting Head of Unit 'Professional and organisational development', European Commission, DG Translation
- Supporting Conference Interpreting Training in the Western Balkans
Manuela Brovarone, Deputy Head of Unit 'Talent Development [SCIC]', European Commission, DG Interpretation

10:00 – 10:15 *Coffee Break*

10:15 – 11:35 Western Balkans Agenda: Education, Training and Youth

- Update from all SP members
- ETF updates – Ulrike Damyanovic, Regional Contact Point for South Eastern Europe and Turkey, European Training Foundation
- UNICEF updates – Maida Pasic, Regional Education Adviser, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
- WBAA – Mila Lukic, Board Member, Western Balkans Alumni Association

11:35 – 11:50 Feedback, Q&A, General Discussion

11:50 – 12:00 Closing Remarks

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

12:00 – 12:15 *Short technical break*

12:15 – 13:30 Western Balkans Platforms Ministerial Meeting June 2023

- Filip Van Depoele, Head of the 'International Unit', European Commission, DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- Rūta Žarnauskaitė, Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- Emanuela Bellan, Head of Unit 'Member States, Partnerships and International Relations', European Commission, DG Joint Research Center
- Adrienn Kiraly, Adviser, European Commission, DG Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations
- Aneta Trpevska, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia, WB co-host of the Ministerial meeting
- Bibi Gramson, Deputy Head of Mission, Swedish Embassy to North Macedonia, Swedish EU Council Presidency
- Désirée Pecarz, Secretariat of the WB Platforms by POLICY ANSWERS, ZSI

13:30 – 14:30 *Networking Lunch (Restaurant MONTE in the hotel)*

Western Balkans Steering Platform Meeting on Research and Innovation (part 1)

14:30 – 15:00 Welcome Remarks and Introduction

- Rūta Žarnauskaitė, Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, co-chair
- Aneta Trpevska, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia, WB co-chair
- Bibi Gramson, Deputy Head of Mission, Swedish Embassy to North Macedonia, Swedish EU Council Presidency, co-chair (tbc)
- Filip Van Depoele, Head of the 'International 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

15:00 – 15:45 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 EAC, DG JRC, DG NEAR, DG REGIO; approx. 5 min each)

15:45 – 16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00 – 17:00 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 exchanges

17:00 – 18:00 Western Balkans Agenda: R&I Developments in the Western Balkans (part 2)

- Western Balkans' Progress Reports (MK, ME, RS; 15 min each)
- General discussion and exchanges

18:00 – 18:10 Wrap up and Closing words

- Rūta Žarnauskaitė, Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

18:10 – 20:00 *Bilateral Discussions*

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

08:30 – 16:00 Registrations at Information Desk

Western Balkans Steering Platform Meeting on Research and Innovation (part 2)

09:00 – 09:10 Welcome and Introduction

- Aneta Trpevska, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science of North Macedonia, WB co-chair
- Ruta Zarnauskaite, Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, co-chair

09:10 – 10:40 Western Balkans Agenda: R&I Cooperation with the Western Balkans

Updates from EU Member States and SP members based on progress reports (5 min each)

- EU MS report on bilateral/regional measures
- Berlin Process - Lucian Brujan, Programme Director, German National Academy Leopoldina
- COST - Katalin Alfoldi, Policy Officer, COST Association
- EEN - Marija Popovic, Project Adviser, EISMEA, Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and EEN Partnerships
- EIC - Eric Olivier Pallu, Policy Adviser, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)
- EIT - Luke Incorvaja, Innovation Officer, European Institute of Innovation and Technology
- EUREKA - Wolfgang Wittke, Policy Officer EUREKA, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- RCC - Sinisa Marcic, Senior Expert, Regional Cooperation Council
- General Discussion

10:40 – 11:20 Strengthening R&I Capacity in the Western Balkans

- Horizon Europe upcoming opportunities
Nikolina Naska, Policy Officer, Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- POLICY ANSWERS' updates and capacity building activities
Elke Dall, Project Coordinator, ZSI
- Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste scholarships
Fabio Mazzolini, International Relations Officer, Elettra - Sincrotrone Trieste
- European Business & Innovation Centre Network – Innovation cooperation opportunities
Laura Lecci, Chief Executive Officer, EBN

11:20 – 11:30 Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

- Ruta Zarnauskaite, Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

Workshop on the New European Research Area

11:45 – 11:50 Welcome Remarks and Introduction

- Ruta Zarnauskaite, Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- Manuel Aleixo, Head of Unit 'ERA Governance and Implementation', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

11:50 – 13:30 Priorities and Governance of the New European Research Area (ERA)

- ERA policy agenda for 2022-2024
Heiko Prange-Gstoehl, Policy Officer, 'ERA Governance and Implementation', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- ERA Actions and Structural Funds support – ADRION
Gilles Kittel, Team Leader EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, IPA and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy
- POLICY ANSWERS' Reports
Malte Schrage-Veltins, Task Leader, DLR
- Feedback from Western Balkans (AL, BA, XK, MK, ME, RS)

13:30 – 13:45 General Discussion and Closing remarks

- Ruta Zarnauskaite, Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

13:45 – 14:45 Networking Lunch (Restaurant MONTE in the hotel)

Seminar on the New European Innovation Agenda

14:45 – 15:45 New European Innovation Agenda

- Andras Inotai, Head of Unit, 'Innovation Policy & Access to Finance', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
- Feedback from Western Balkans (AL, BA, XK, MK, ME, RS)

15:45 – 16:00 Closing remarks

- Ruta Zarnauskaite, Head of Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

16:00 – 17:00 Farewell Coffee and Bilateral Talks (Diamond Ballroom Foyer)