POLICY ANSWERS

Western Balkans ERA Reporting

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2023 Reports on WB ERA Integration - Introduction

- The reports are based on the new template for ERA Country Reports (same as for EU-27)
  - Based on new ERA Monitoring Mechanism of the EC
  - Priorities defined in the European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda 2022-2024
- POLICY ANSWERS has prepared reports in cooperation with external experts for:
  - Albania
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Kosovo*
  - North Macedonia
- Reports for Montenegro and Serbia prepared by Ecorys
- The reports will be published soon

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
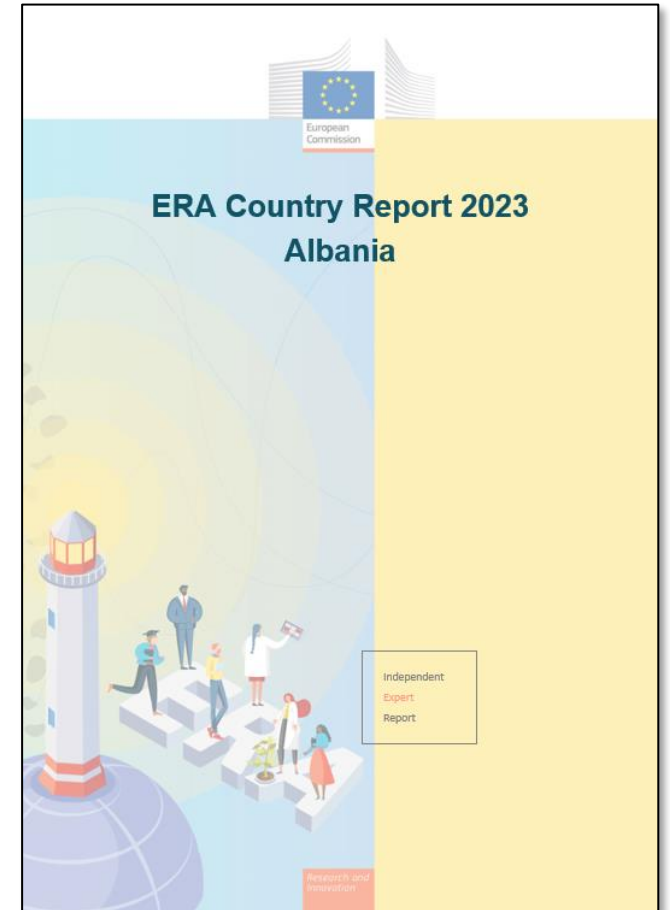
Albania's ERA integration – selected highlights

- Albania is progressing towards priorities of the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-2024; no formal commitment to the priorities yet

- Key initiatives:

  - New Draft Law of Science (in preparation) includes the topics: Open Science, research infrastructures and knowledge valorisation

  - Opening of the EURAXESS Portal

  - EIT Raw Materials KIC centre to be opened soon

- Participation in the European Innovation Scoreboard and the She figures report

European Commission

European Innovation
Scoreboard **2023**
Country profile
Albania

Innovation

Albania's ERA integration – selected recommendations

➢ Enhance R&I funding to better implement strategies, laws, and measures regarding R&I

➢ Improve professionalisation of research management to foster participation of Albanian researchers in international projects and the ERA

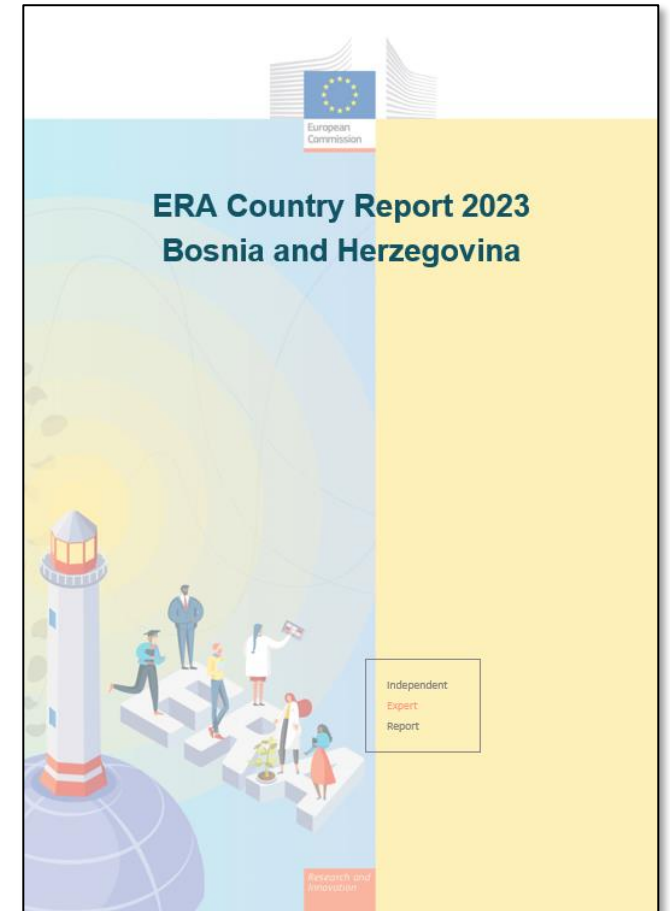# Bosnia and Herzegovina's ERA integration – selected highlights

- Progress regarding the implementation of ERA priorities: Open Science, gender equality, promotion of attractive research careers, international cooperation, research infrastructures

- Increased success in Horizon Europe: University of Sarajevo (UNSA) as project coordinator; University Clinical Centre of the Republic of Srpska partner institution under EU Cancer Mission

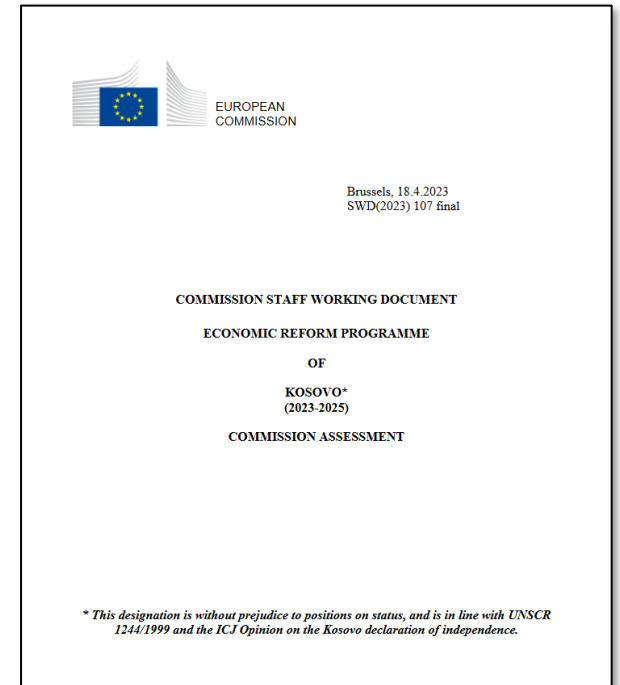Horizon Europe project with UNSA as first project coordinator from BiH

Bosnia and Herzegovina's ERA integration – selected recommendations

➢ Further implement priorities of the ERA Policy Agenda

➢ Make the development process of the Smart Specialisation Strategy more effective

➢ Make use of the increasing interest of researchers in European programmes and foster their participation

ERA Country Report 2023
Bosnia and Herzegovina
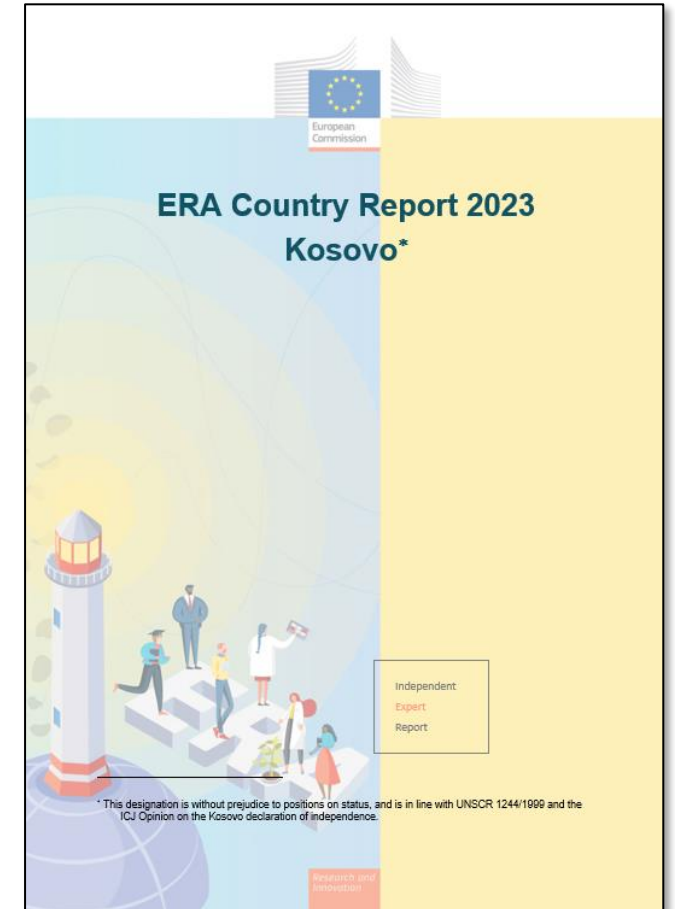
Independent
Expert
Report

Kosovo's ERA integration – selected highlights

- Gradual progress in aligning with the ERA priorities

- National Research Programme 2023-2028: new opportunities to foster R&I (research excellence, internationalisation, Open Science)

- Increasing participation of researchers in European R&I programmes

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 18.4.2023
SWD(2023) 107 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAMME

OF

KOSOVO*
(2023-2025)

COMMISSION ASSESSMENT

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.

Kosovo's ERA integration – selected recommendations

➢ Align the R&I legal and policy framework to the ERA Policy Agenda

➢ Further develop the Smart Specialisation Strategy

➢ Provide more incentives for R&I actors to collaborate nationally and internationally

ERA Country Report 2023
Kosovo*

Independent
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Report

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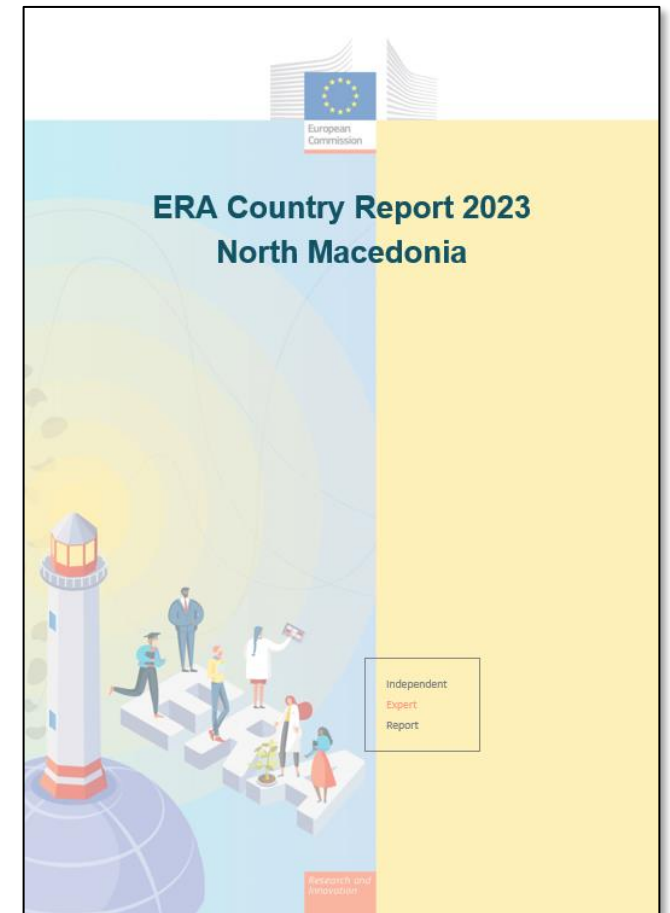
North Macedonia's ERA integration – selected highlights

- Formal commitment to six ERA Actions under three priority areas of the ERA Policy Agenda in September 2023

- First EIT Innovation Hub launched at the Centre for Technology Transfer and Innovation in Skopje in June 2023

- Development of the Smart Specialisation Strategy is in its final stage
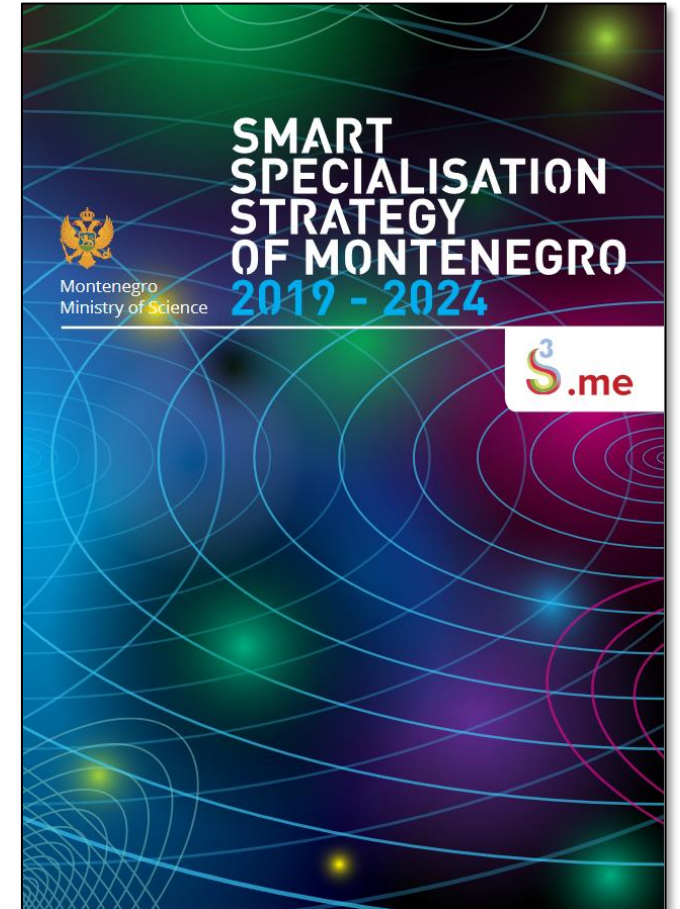
North Macedonia's ERA integration – selected recommendations

➢ Improve the implementation of key strategies, programmes and priorities to more efficiently use R&I funds

➢ Enhance funding from both the public and private sector to develop a knowledge-based society through Green and Digital Transition

**ERA Country Report 2023
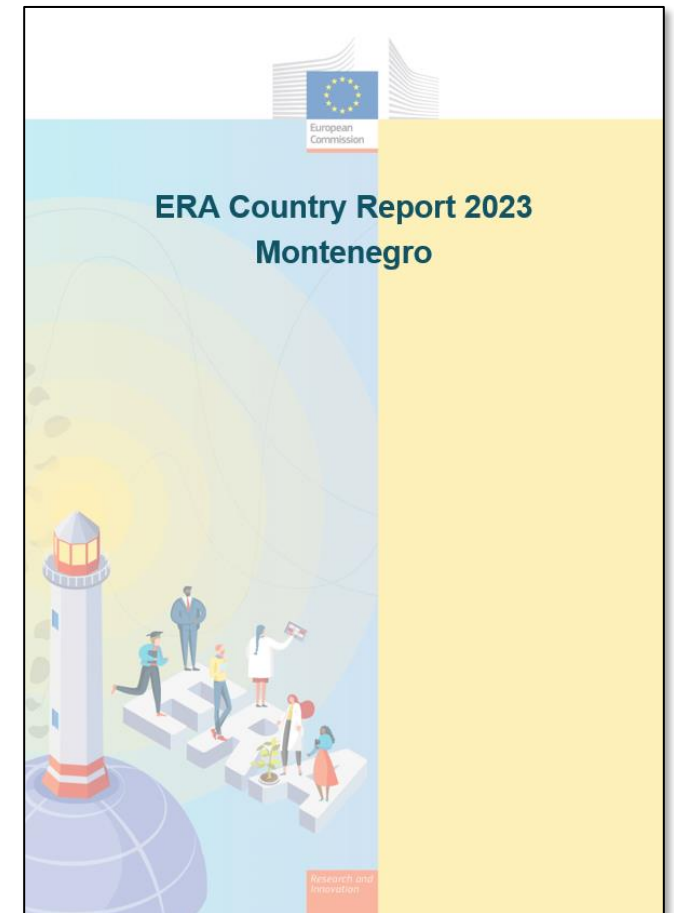North Macedonia**

Independent
Expert
Report

Montenegro's ERA integration – selected highlights

- Implementation of the ERA Policy Agenda through several initiatives; determination by internal capacities to reform the R&I system and mobilise resources

- Integration of the ERA priorities in the draft National Strategy for Research Activities (2023-2027)

- Smart Specialisation Strategy 2019-2024: role model for the cooperation of different actors and for the strengthening of the academia-business cooperation and knowledge transfer

Montenegro's ERA integration – selected recommendations

➢ Facilitate stronger integration into the ERA by securing additional domestic and international sources; thus foster the sustainability of R&I reforms and the development of the R&I system

➢ Improve science-industry cooperation through higher investments by the public and private sector

ERA Country Report 2023
Montenegro

Serbia's ERA integration – selected highlights

- Advancements towards the ERA Policy Agenda: Open Science; gender equality; no formal commitment to any ERA actions

- Integration into ERA through institutional funding reforms and introduction of policy measures; creation of a favourable environment for R&I and science-industry cooperation

- Establishment of a system for the further development of deep-tech: Law on Digital Assets, tax incentive schemes for high-tech companies, PhD programmes on Artificial Intelligence

- Increase in the innovation performance according to the European Innovation Scoreboard

European Innovation Scoreboard 2023 Country profile Serbia

Serbia's ERA integration – selected recommendations

➢ Enhance R&I funding to further implement the ERA Policy Agenda

➢ Work on enacting the European Research Infrastructure Consortium Regulation into national law

➢ Improve the efficiency when implementing strategic policy documents and action plans (such as the Smart Specialisation Strategy)

ERA Country Report 2023
Serbia

Future POLICY ANSWERS activities on ERA reporting

- POLICY ANSWERS will prepare the yearly updates of the WB ERA Country Reports; based on the template by the European Commission
- A workshop on ERA reporting is planned for the next physical Steering Platform Meeting at the beginning of June 2024
- A webinar is planned about the POLICY ANSWERS ERA reporting on 12 June 2024 at 10:00am

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POLICY ANSWERS

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