

Western Balkans Innovation Vouchers

A POLICY ANSWERS Pilot Programme

27 March 2024

Regional grant scheme supporting academia-industry links

The main objective of the innovation voucher is to encourage the collaboration of SMEs with knowledge provider/s resulting in an innovative solution

The purpose of this pilot incentive scheme is to match the SME beneficiary from one WB to a service provider from another WB, so to benefit the WB common regional market.

Cross-border cooperation eligibility criteria:

- ✓ The applicant and the service provider must be from two different WB economies



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- Amount of IV: up to an amount of **EUR 8,000** and can cover a maximum of 80% of the total costs of a service provided by the HEI/PRO
- Implementation period: The awarded IV must be used by the beneficiary within a period of up to **nine months** from the date of the signed contract
- The foreseen budget available for the Incentive voucher is **EUR 240,000**.
 - ✓ minimum of 25 awarded vouchers in total
 - ✓ minimum of 3 vouchers awarded per WB economy



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TIMETABLE

- Call expected to open: 12 April 2024.
- Call expected to close: 29 June 2024.
- Projects expected to be contracted: during Oct and Nov 2024
- Projects expected to start: Dec 2024 (implementation will last until Aug 2025 with possibility of 3 months extension period).
- All final reports collected: from Aug 2025 until Dec 2025.
- Deliverable report: January 2026