



# WESTERN BALKANS

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MEETING

### AGENDA

21-22 MARCH 2018  
SKOPJE

#### WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2018

- 11:30 – 13:00 *Networking Lunch & Registration (Hotel Marriott, Skopje)*
- 13:00 – 13:30 **Welcome remarks | Opening statements**
- Ministry of Education and Science
  - European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
  - European Commission, Joint Research Centre
  - Regional Cooperation Council
- 13:30 – 15:30 **Towards Steering Platform meeting 2018**
- Recent R&I cooperation developments in/with the Western Balkans
- FP9, International Research Facility in South East Europe (European Commission, Chair of SEEIIST Steering Committee)
  - Follow-up Belgrade, R&I Strategies, R&I Budgets (update from the Western Balkan 6)
- Upcoming | Next steps
- EU - Western Balkan Summit, Sofia, May 17, 2018 (Bulgarian EU Council Presidency)
  - Multi-Annual Action Plan on Regional Economic Area: Progress and needs assessment report on R&D and Innovation related actions (Regional Cooperation Council)
  - Towards Joint Science Conference, Rome, 2018; Western Balkans Research Foundation (Berlin Process / Joint Science Conference)
- Discussion | Summing up towards Steering Platform meeting / Ministerial Meeting, Brussels, June 25-26, 2018 (European Commission)
- 15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:00 – 17:15 **New Enlargement Strategy: “Credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans”**
- Short presentation of the Strategy with focus on R&I (European Commission)
  - Role of Western Balkan 6 in FP9 in view of Enlargement (European Commission and Western Balkan 6)
- Discussion

In cooperation with :



Ministry of Education  
and Science

- 17:15 – 18:00 **Conclusions and summary of the preparatory tasks for the Steering Platform meeting / Ministerial Meeting, Brussels, June 25-26, 2018**
- Measures (e.g. capacity building, finance, etc.) to be undertaken by Western Balkan 6 in view of Enlargement
- 20:00 **Networking Dinner (“Vodenica Mulino”, Skopje)**

## THURSDAY, 22 MARCH 2018

- 08:30 – 10:30 **Smart specialisation in the context of R&I capacity building**
- Update on capacity building through the Enlargement and Integration Action (E&IA) initiative (DG Joint Research Center)
  - Update on smart specialisation activities in the region (Regional Cooperation Council)
  - S3 and Industry 4.0: A Way Forward for the Western Balkans (Tambourine Innovation Ventures)
  - Measures in support of research and innovation capacity building (META Group)
  - Croatia’s Experience with S3
  - Economic Reform Programme (ERP) measures and smart specialisation activities (update from the Western Balkan 6)
- Discussion: Why is it so important to focus on S3 R&I capacity building efforts?
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Development of regional research infrastructures based on smart specialisation and industry cooperation**
- International Research Facility in South East Europe and related efforts – updates (Montenegro, European Commission, Croatia, Bulgaria)
  - Linking of accompanying research infrastructure efforts across the region and beyond (European Commission)
  - Socio-economic impact of research infrastructures (European Commission)
  - Input by Western Balkan 6 and all stakeholders
- Discussion
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Conclusions on the further integration of the Western Balkans into existing knowledge networks in the EU**
- 14:00 – 16:30 **Bilateral meetings**

## MEETING VENUE & NETWORKING DINNER

### Meeting Venue:

**Skopje Marriott Hotel**  
Plostad Makedonija 7  
(entrance from str. Maksim Gorki)  
1000 Skopje; Phone: +389 (0)2 510 2510

### Dinner on March 21, 2018

**Vodenica Mulino**  
Str. Teodosij Gologanov 69  
1000 Skopje; Phone: +389 (0)2 32 32 877