

## Workshop: Technology-Oriented Research Infrastructures - Opportunities for the Western Balkans



### Overview

This workshop aims to explore how Technology-Oriented Research Infrastructures can serve as a catalyst for scientific and economic development in the Western Balkans (WB). It highlights best practices, investment opportunities, and strategic approaches for developing Technology-Oriented Research Infrastructures in the region. The event brings together policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and funding agencies to discuss successful collaboration models, financing strategies, and real-world case studies from EU Member States and the Western Balkans. The discussion aims to identify feasible steps to strengthen industry-driven research and foster a more innovation-oriented economy in the WB.

Technology-Oriented Research Infrastructures are specialised facilities designed to support research and development (R&D) activities with a focus on industrial applications and commercialisation. These infrastructures play a crucial role in driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and supporting the implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3).

Typically established through collaboration activities between government agencies, academia, and private industry, Technology-Oriented Research Infrastructures address specific technological challenges, develop cutting-edge solutions, and strengthen regional and national economies. A prime example is the Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany, which specialise in applied research across various sectors, including manufacturing, IT, renewable energy, healthcare, and more.

By providing state-of-the-art facilities, facilitating technology transfer, and promoting innovation, these infrastructures enhance industrial competitiveness while contributing to skills development and workforce training. These infrastructures ensure a highly skilled labour market aligned with industry needs, creating a foundation for sustainable economic growth.

## DRAFT Agenda

Venue:

*Science and Technology Park of Montenegro  
Bulevar Mihaila Lalića, Podgorica 81000, Montenegro*

*Moderator: Sanja Damjanovic, POLICY ANSWERS*

15:30-16:00 **Registration**

16:00-16:20 **Opening Remarks and Welcome**

Speakers: Bernhard Fabianek, European Commission

N.N., Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation

N.N., Ministry of Economic Development

N.N., Representative of the Chamber of Commerce

16:20-16:45 **Keynote Talk: Why Technology-Oriented Research Infrastructures are Important for the Western Balkans**

Speaker: Sandro Rossi, Director General, [CNAO](#), Pavia, Italy

**Title:** *From the Heart of Atoms to Cancer Care: CNAO at the Frontier of Research and Innovation*

16:45-18:30 **Showcasing Key Technology-Oriented Research Initiatives**

16:45-17:15 *Session 1*

Speakers: N.N., [Fraunhofer Model](#) (Germany)

Domagoj Crnkovic, [PISMO Novska Gaming Incubator](#) (Croatia)

N.N., [CosyLab](#) (Slovenia)

17:15-17:30 **Joint Photo and Networking Coffee**

17:30-18:00 *Session 2*

Speakers: Nevena Radomirovic, [ElevenEs](#) (Serbia)

Vesna Bengin, [BioSense](#) (Serbia)

Lejla Gurbeta Pokvic, [Verlab](#) (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Arben Merkoci, [nanoBalkan](#) (Albania)

18:00-18:20 **Open Discussion: How to leverage synergies between national and EU funding, public-private partnerships, and investment strategies**

Moderator: Sanja Damjanovic, POLICY ANSWERS

18:20-18:30 **Closing Remarks**

**Networking cocktail**