

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.

Agenda

Venue: Science and Technology Park of Montenegro

Bulevar Mihaila Lalića, Podgorica 81000, Montenegro

Moderators: Aleksandra Boskovic, Bild Studio and Sanja Damjanovic, POLICY ANSWERS

13 May 2025

- 15:30-16:00 **Registrations with Welcome Coffee**
- 16:00-16:20 **Opening Remarks and Welcome**
Speakers: **Marash Dukaj**, Minister, Ministry of Public Administration, Montenegro
Bernhard Fabianek, European Commission
Yngve Engstroem, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro
Ivana Jankovic, Director General, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro
Tanja Radusinovic, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro
- 16:20-16:45 **Keynote Talk:**
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*
- 16:45-19:00 **Showcasing Key Technology-Oriented Research Initiatives**
- 16:45-17:25 **Session 1**
Speakers: **Djerdj Horvat**, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation ISR (Germany)
Mirka Gottberg, [VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd](#) (Finland)
Domagoj Crnkovic, [PISMO Novska Gaming Incubator](#) (Croatia)
Nevena Radomirovic, [ElevenEs](#) (Serbia)
- 17:25-17:40 **Joint Photo followed by Networking Coffee**
- 17:40-18:30 **Session 2**
Speakers: **Sinisa Marcic**, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
Vesna Bengin, [BioSense](#) (Serbia)
Lejla Gurbeta Pokvic, [Verlab](#) (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Arben Merkoci, [nanoBalkan](#) (Albania)
Lisa Cowey, The Technology Transfer Interface (UK)
- 18:30-18:55 **Open Discussion: How to leverage synergies between national and EU funding, public-private partnerships, and investment strategies**
Moderator: **Sanja Damjanovic**, POLICY ANSWERS



18:55-19:00 **Closing Remarks**

19:00-20:00 **Networking cocktail**