

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
Moderator: Sanja Damjanovic, POLICY ANSWERS*

- 15:30-16:00 **Registrations with Welcome Coffee**
- 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 Public Administration
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**