



## 13 May 2025

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

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

15:30 – 16:00 *Registrations with Welcome Coffee*

#### 16:00 – 19:00 **Moderator: Sanja Damjanovic, POLICY ANSWERS**

- Showcasing Key Technology-Oriented Research Initiatives
- Open Discussion: How to leverage Synergies between National and EU Funding, Public-Private Partnerships, and Investment Strategies

*At the end of the event, a transfer is organised towards the Hotel Hilton for the Welcome Dinner*

### Western Balkans Steering Platform Meeting on Research and Innovation

*Hotel Hilton Podgorica Crna Gora, 2 Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinskog, Podgorica 81000, Montenegro – Princess Jelena meeting room*

19:00 – 20:00 *Registrations and Information*

#### 20:00 – 22:00 **Welcome Dinner**

*Restaurant Crna Gora*

## 14 May 2025

08:00 – 09:00 *Registrations and Information*

08:00 – 09:00 *Welcome coffee served in the foyer of Princess Jelena meeting room*

### Western Balkans Steering Platform Meeting on Research and Innovation (Part 1)

#### 09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome Remarks and Introduction**

- Anne Haglund-Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit 'International Cooperation: Europe & Americas', EC DG R&I, co-chair
- Marko Vukasinovic, Director General for International Cooperation, European Integration and EU Funds, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro, WB co-chair
- Filip Tarlowski, European Cooperation Expert, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Polish EU Council Presidency, co-chair
- Liliana Pasecinic, Deputy Head of Unit 'Member States Partnerships and International Relations', EC JRC (online)
- Liselotte Isaksson, Deputy Head of Cooperation, European Union Delegation to Montenegro

#### 09:15 – 10:30 **Western Balkans Agenda: Priorities and Objectives in Research and Innovation with the Western Balkans**

- EC reports on latest R&I developments  
DG R&I, DG JRC, DG EAC, DG ENST (approx. 5 – 10 min each)

*Discussion and Q&A*

#### 10:30 – 11:30 **Western Balkans Agenda: R&I Developments in the Western Balkans (part 1)**

- Western Balkans' progress reports (AL, BA, XK\*; 15 min each)
- General discussion and exchange*

11:30 – 11:50 *Coffee break served in the foyer of Princess Jelena meeting room*

#### 11:50 – 12:50 **Western Balkans Agenda: R&I Developments in the Western Balkans (part 2)**

- Western Balkans' progress reports (ME, MK, RS; 15 min each)
- General discussion and exchange*

#### 12:50 – 13:30 **Western Balkans Agenda: R&I Developments in the Western Balkans (part 3)**

- Christian Gollubits, Head of Unit Bilateral Cooperation Programmes, Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research, Austria
- Tim Grebe, Senior Scientific Officer, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, Germany & Ralf Hanatschek, Senior Scientific Officer, DLR Projekttraeger, Germany
- Ferenc Nagy-Rebek, Head of Department of Science Policy and International Scientific Cooperation, Ministry of Culture and Innovation, Hungary (online)
- Slavi Krusic, Secretary, EU and International Cooperation Office, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Slovenia and Ales Bosnjak, Institute of Information Science, Director, Slovenia
- Lucian Brujan, Berlin Process, Programme Director International Affairs, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
- Alessandro Lombardo, Head of Project Management Office, Central European Initiative, Executive Secretariat (online)
- Katalin Alföldi, Global Networking Task Leader, COST Association
- Branka Zizic, EIT Community Officer, EIT Community Hub Montenegro
- Filippo del Ninno, Human Capital Development Specialist, European Training Foundation
- Ines Marinkovic, Eureka NPC Austria, Austrian Research Promotion Agency (online)
- Elke Dall, POLICY ANSWERS Project Coordinator, ZSI GmbH (online)
- Sinisa Marcic, Senior Expert for Human Capital Development, Regional Cooperation Council

*General discussion and exchange*

#### 13:30 – 13:35 **Closing Remarks**

- Anne Haglund-Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit 'International Cooperation: Europe & Americas', EC DG R&I, co-chair

13:35 – 13:45 *Family Photo*

13:45 – 15:00 *Networking lunch served in the Restaurant Crna Gora*

*(After lunch coffee available in the foyer of Princess Jelena meeting room from 14:30)*

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## Western Balkans Steering Platform Meeting on Research and Innovation (Part 2)

<b>15:00 – 15:15</b>	<b>Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liliana Pasecinic, Deputy Head of Unit 'Member States Partnerships and International Relations', EC JRC (online)</li> <li>Ivana Jankovic Mijanovic, Director General for Innovation and Smart Specialisation, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro, WB co-chair</li> <li>Filip Tarlowski, European Cooperation Expert, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Polish EU Council Presidency, co-chair</li> </ul>
<b>15:15 – 15:45</b>	<b>Western Balkans Agenda: Priorities and Objectives in the context of Smart Specialisation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EC JRC reports on latest developments (online)</li> <li>DG R&amp;I, DG EAC, DG ENEST (approx. 5 – 10 min each)</li> </ul> <p>Discussion and Q&amp;A</p>
<b>15:45 – 16:45</b>	<b>Western Balkans Agenda: S3 Developments in the Western Balkans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western Balkans' progress reports (AL, BA, XK, MK, ME, RS; 5 min each)</li> </ul> <p>General discussion and exchange</p>
<b>16:45 – 17:15</b>	<i>Coffee break served in the foyer of Princess Jelena meeting room</i>
<b>17:15 – 17:45</b>	<b>Preparing the Western Balkans Steering Platform Ministerial Meeting October 2025</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anne Haglund-Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit 'International Cooperation: Europe &amp; Americas', EC DG R&amp;I, co-chair</li> <li>Kalina Esmein, Policy Officer, Unit 'Member States, Partnerships and International Relations', EC JRC</li> <li>Bernhard Fabianek, Senior Expert, Unit 'Horizon Europe Association', EC DG R&amp;I,</li> <li>Desiree Pecarz, Secretariat of the WB Platforms by POLICY ANSWERS, ZSI GmbH</li> </ul>
<b>17:45 – 18:00</b>	<b>General Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from WB and SP members</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p>
<b>18:00 – 18:15</b>	<b>Closing of the Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anne Haglund-Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit 'International Cooperation: Europe &amp; Americas', EC DG R&amp;I, co-chair</li> <li>Ivana Jankovic Mijanovic, Director General for Innovation and Smart Specialisation, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro, WB co-chair</li> <li>Liliana Pasecinic, Deputy Head of Unit 'Member States, Partnerships and International Relations', EC JRC (online)</li> </ul>
<b>18:30 – 19:30</b>	<i>R&amp;I Discussion Session</i>
<b>20:00 – 22:00</b>	<b>Networking Dinner</b> <i>Restaurant Crna Gora</i>

## 15 May 2025

<b>08:15 – 08:45</b>	<i>Registrations and Information</i>
<b>08:00 – 08:45</b>	<i>Welcome coffee served in the foyer of Princess Jelena meeting room</i>

## Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA): Opportunities for Researchers' Training, Career Development and Mobility

<b>08:45 – 10:45</b>	<b>Moderator: Sohail Luka, Policy Officer, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maria Vili, European Research Executive Agency (REA), MSCA Department</li> <li>Martina Lukic, NCP MSCA Montenegro, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation</li> <li>Filip Petrovic, NCP MSCA Montenegro, Rectorate, University of Montenegro</li> <li>Ana Gardasevic, MSCA Post-Doctoral Fellow, University Institute of Lisbon (online)</li> </ul> <p>Discussion and Q&amp;A</p>
<b>10:45 – 10:50</b>	<i>Coffee break served in the foyer of Princess Jelena meeting room</i>

## Smart Specialisation: Productivity-based competitiveness and company-level innovation in the face of intense competition for labour and skills

<b>10:50 – 11:50</b>	<b>Moderator: Pirita Vuorinen, Senior Expert, European Training Foundation (online)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The case of the Western Balkan Agri-Tech Sector</li> </ul> <p>Discussion and Q&amp;A</p>
<b>11:50 – 12:00</b>	<b>Wrap Up and Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anne Haglund-Morrissey, Deputy Head of Unit 'International Cooperation: Europe &amp; Americas', EC DG R&amp;I, co-chair</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>Farewell Reception</b> <i>Foyer of Princess Jelena meeting room</i>