

POLICY ANSWERS

“R&I POLICY making, implementation ANd Support in the WEsteRn BalkanS”



The POLICY ANSWERS consortium

Coordinator: Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) from Austria, ZSI



14 beneficiaries from:

Albania

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Kosovo*

Montenegro

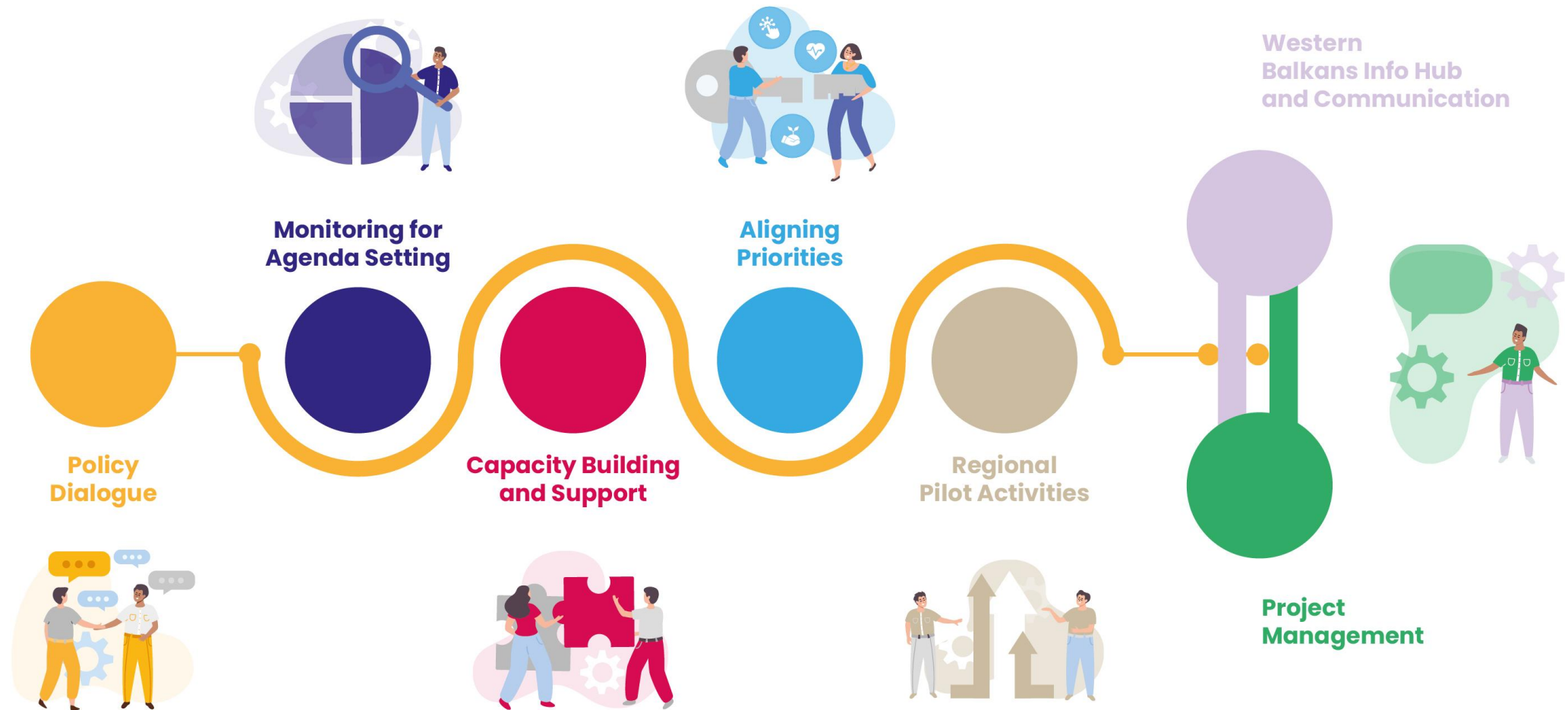
North Macedonia

Serbia

Austria, Croatia, Germany and Italy

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Project overview



Monitoring of the Western Balkans Agenda

3rd monitoring round:
> 2025 edition (progress compared to baseline 2023)

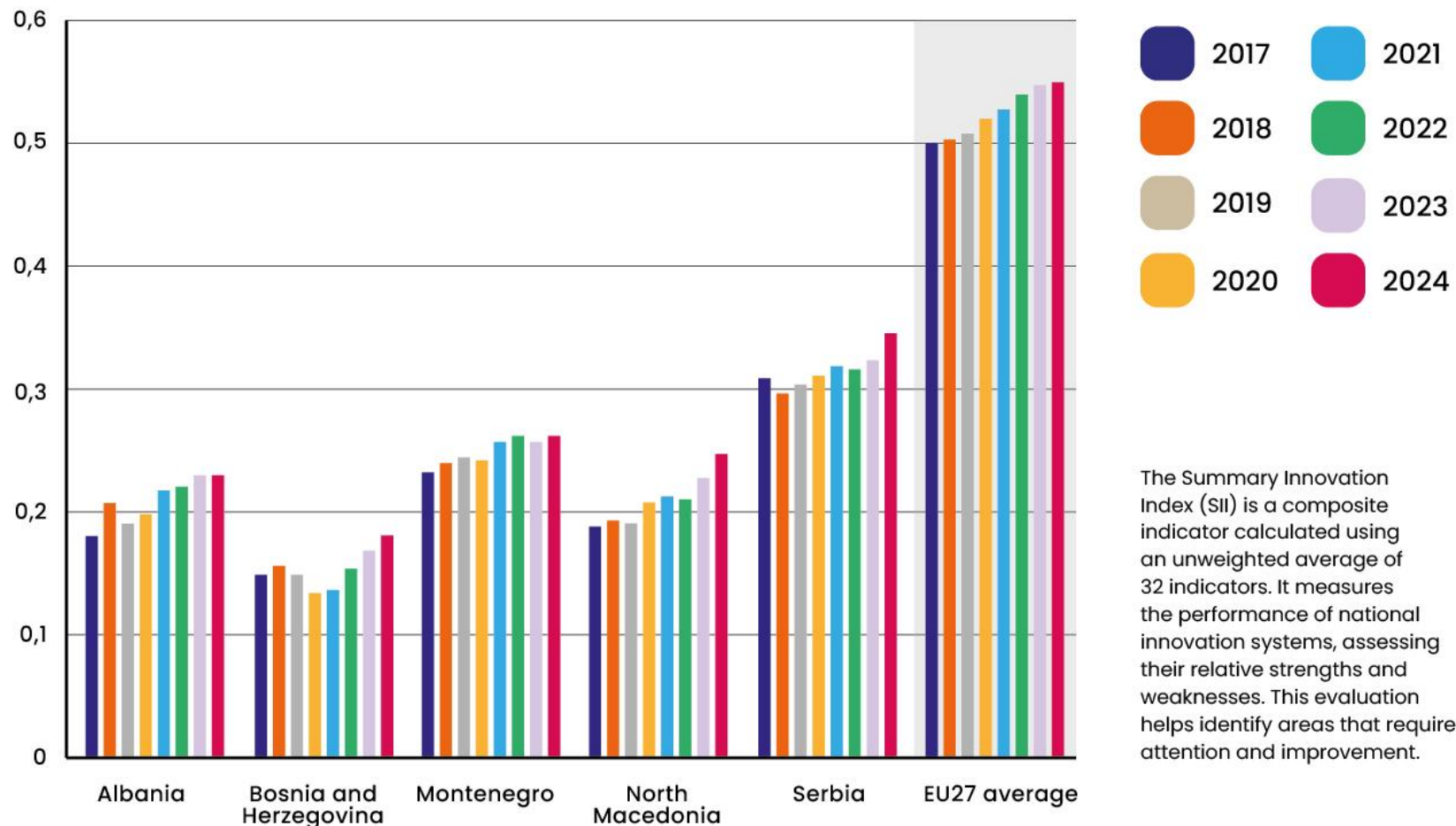
- Research and Innovation
- Digital Competitiveness
- Environment
- Youth, Culture & Sports
- Education & Skills
- Common Regional Market



WP2 MONITORING FOR AGENDA SETTING

Achievements in a wider context of the Western Balkans Agenda

Summary Innovation Index



The Summary Innovation Index (SII) is a composite indicator calculated using an unweighted average of 32 indicators. It measures the performance of national innovation systems, assessing their relative strengths and weaknesses. This evaluation helps identify areas that require attention and improvement.

Note

Data for Kosovo* not available

Source

European Innovation Scoreboard 2024. EU countries and neighbouring countries database <https://tinyurl.com/3z4nztcv> (accessed 10 February 2025)

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WP2 MONITORING FOR AGENDA SETTING

Agenda Priority

Boosting the WB Innovation Capacity by bringing Research and Innovation (R&I) eco-systems closer to the EU



Regional Indicators

WB Steering Platform
on R&I meetings



WB policy dialogue under
the Berlin Process



POLICY ANSWERS
project






































Highlights

Strong participation of the Western Balkans in the 2024 EIT Jumpstarter Cohort
Improving innovation support and trans-national R&I cooperation by continuous growth of the EIT Community



WP2 MONITORING FOR AGENDA SETTING

Western Balkans Economy Indicators

	Supporting Western Balkans’ reforms for science and research alignment with the EU acquis									
	Participation in European programmes, initiatives and schemes									
	Technical assistance to Chapter 25 (Science and Research)		Governments to increase GDP allocations to R&I		Integration in the new European Research Area (ERA)		Participation in European Partnerships under Horizon Europe		Western Balkans participation in the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) initiatives	
Albania	Low level of bilateral R&D projects and Twinning projects Low uptake of TAIEX missions		No new funding schemes reported % of GDP dedicated to R&I remains low		No new joint projects, increased number of mobilities with EU MS and WB		Participation in 2 Partnerships / no new participation in the monitoring period		Participation in EIT HEI (higher education institution) initiative EIT Community RIS (Regional Innovation Scheme) Hub established 11 pledging organisations to the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Increased number of bilateral R&D projects, Twinning projects and TAIEX missions		No new funding schemes reported % of GDP dedicated to R&I remains low		Increased number of joint projects and mobilities with EU MS and WB		No participation in Horizon Europe Partnerships		Participation in EIT HEI initiative EIT Community RIS Hub not yet established 7 pledging organisations to the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative	
Kosovo*	Low level of bilateral R&D projects and Twinning projects Low uptake of TAIEX missions		Increased number of funding schemes % of GDP dedicated to R&I remains low		Increased number of joint projects and mobilities with EU MS and WB		Not involved		Participation in EIT HEI initiative 5 pledging organisations to the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative	
Montenegro	Low level of bilateral R&D projects and Twinning projects Low uptake of TAIEX missions		No new funding schemes reported % of GDP dedicated to R&I remains low		Increased number of joint projects and mobilities with EU MS and WB		Participation in 2 Partnerships / no new participation in the monitoring period		Participation in EIT HEI initiative EIT Community RIS Hub established 4 pledging organisations to the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative	
North Macedonia	Low level of bilateral R&D projects and Twinning projects Low uptake of TAIEX missions		Decreased number of funding schemes and beneficiaries % of GDP dedicated to R&I remains low		Increased number of joint projects and mobilities with EU MS and WB		Participation in 1 Partnership (+1 in the monitoring period)		Participation in EIT HEI initiative EIT Community RIS Hub established 3 pledging organisations to the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative	
Serbia	Increased number of bilateral R&D projects, Twinning projects and TAIEX missions		Increased number of funding schemes % of GDP dedicated to R&I remains low		Increased number of joint projects and mobilities with EU MS and WB		Participation in 2 Partnerships (+1 in the monitoring period)		Participation in EIT HEI initiative EIT Community RIS Hub not yet established 13 pledging organisations to the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative	

Legend:



On track or maintaining achievement



Moderately improving
Challenges remain



Stagnating
Significant challenges



Decreasing
Major challenges



Information not available

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Previous monthly webinars available as recordings

Bojana Bajic Digital Transformation of Public Administration Specialist, Regional School of Public Affairs (ReSPA), Montenegro	Mirek Raba EIT Food	Ariane Blum Water 4All EU Partnership Coordinator, ANR - French National Research Agency
Marija Jevtic Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Novi Sad, Serbia	Elena Simion International Projects Expert, UEFISCDI, Romania	Natalia Bolocan Chief of International Relations and Sustainable Development, National Agency of Research and Development, Republic of Moldova
Djordje Djatkov Professor, Faculty of Technical Science, University of Novi Sad, Serbia	Barna Kovacs Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU, Secretary General of the BIOEAST Initiative	Emanuele Fabbri Economic and Policy Analyst, European Commission - Joint Research Centre Viktor Nedović Director of The Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship Project (SAIGE) Lazar Živković Head of the Innovation Economics Department, Research Associate, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade Dijana Štrbac Research Associate, Institute of Economic Sciences, EUSDR Priority Area 7 (Knowledge Society), Support Team Member
Michael Ploder Head of research group for Technology, Innovation and Policy Consulting (TIP) Joanneum Research Christian Hartmann Senior Policy Researcher at Joanneum Research	Tobias C. Kampmann Research & Innovation Programme Manager for Industrial Technologies at Vinnova	Serhat Melik Horizon Europe National Contact Point for Cluster 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility (TUBITAK)

Impact Example:

A Success Story - Montenegro joined the European Partnership on Blue Economy

Reach&Interest:

~200 webinar participants
~ 800 views to date - reflects strong interest in the topic

Upcoming webinars

Register here



**Luka
Filipovic**

Assistant Professor
and Researcher at the
University of Donja Gorica
(UDG), Montenegro



**Antonella
Autino**

PRIMA Project Coordinator



Webinar 12:

The Role of HPC and e-infracstuctures in
Montenegro's Development
22 May, 15:00h (CET)

Webinar 13:

PRIMA and the Western Balkans: Advancing
Sustainable Innovation through
Euro-Mediterranean Collaboration
19 June, 15:00h (CET)

R&I Youth Awards

- Pitching event and award ceremony 29/20 May in Skopje
- 5 months social media Youth Campaign



Further activities

Capacity building activities in all six WB under implementation
Upcoming e.g. Albania RI mapping, Kosovo report on digitalisation, Montenegro training and mentoring for Horizon proposals, North Macedonia S3 trainings and study visits. Peer learning, Serbia training on evaluation of policies and programmes

Pilot programmes
under implementation:
WB Mobility Scheme
WB Innovation Vouchers
WB Youth R&I Award

Policy dialogue on statistics
planned (4 June 2025)

Policy Briefs, e.g. on Digital Transformation, Green Transition; on Health policy in preparation on FP10: available and to be updated

Regional Innovation Academy
launched

Repository for Steering Platform
members

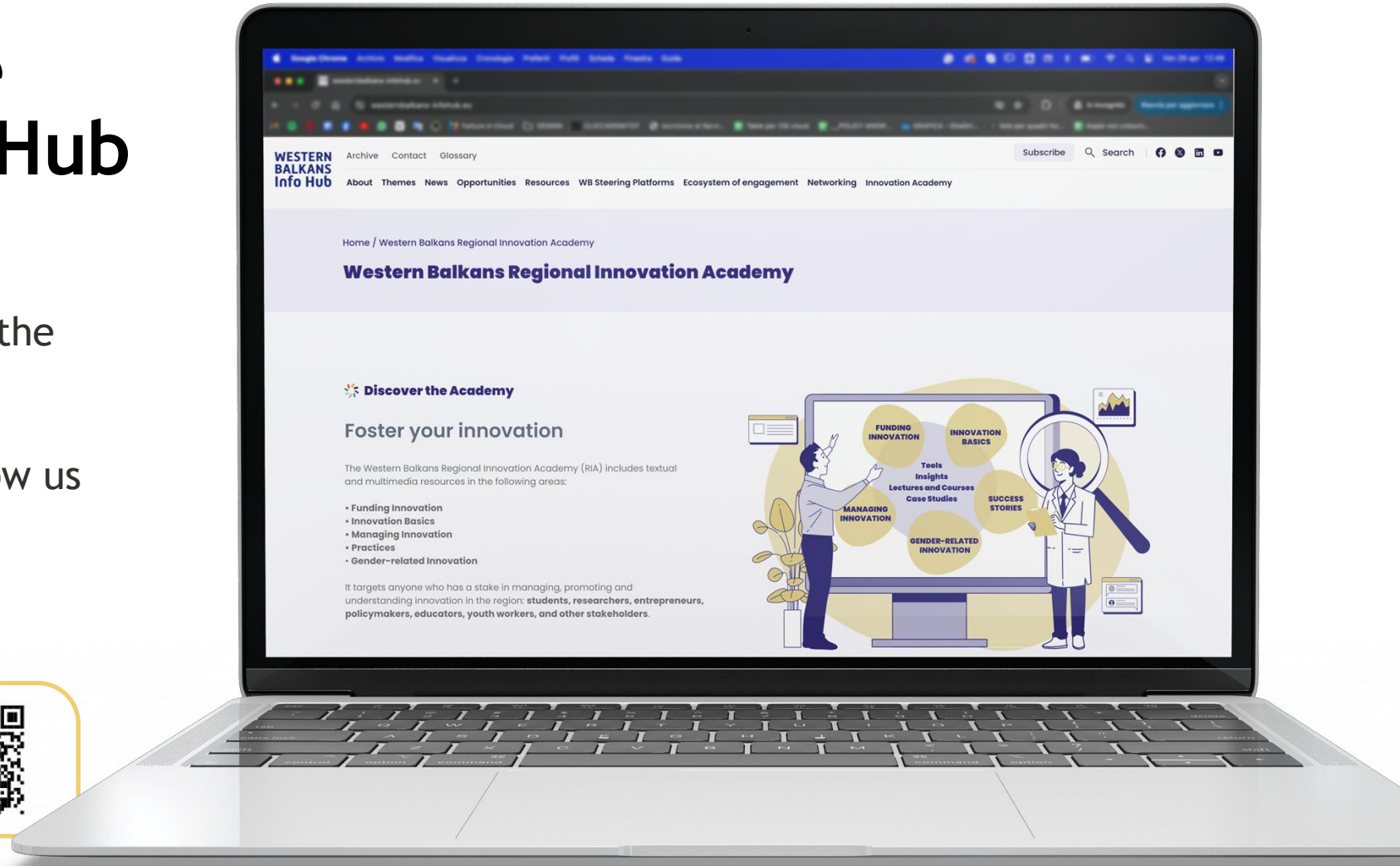
Monthly newsletters and
mobilisation by the WB Info Hub



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Contact us at any time:

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policy-answers@westernbalkans-infohub.eu



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