

Digital Competitiveness

July 2025

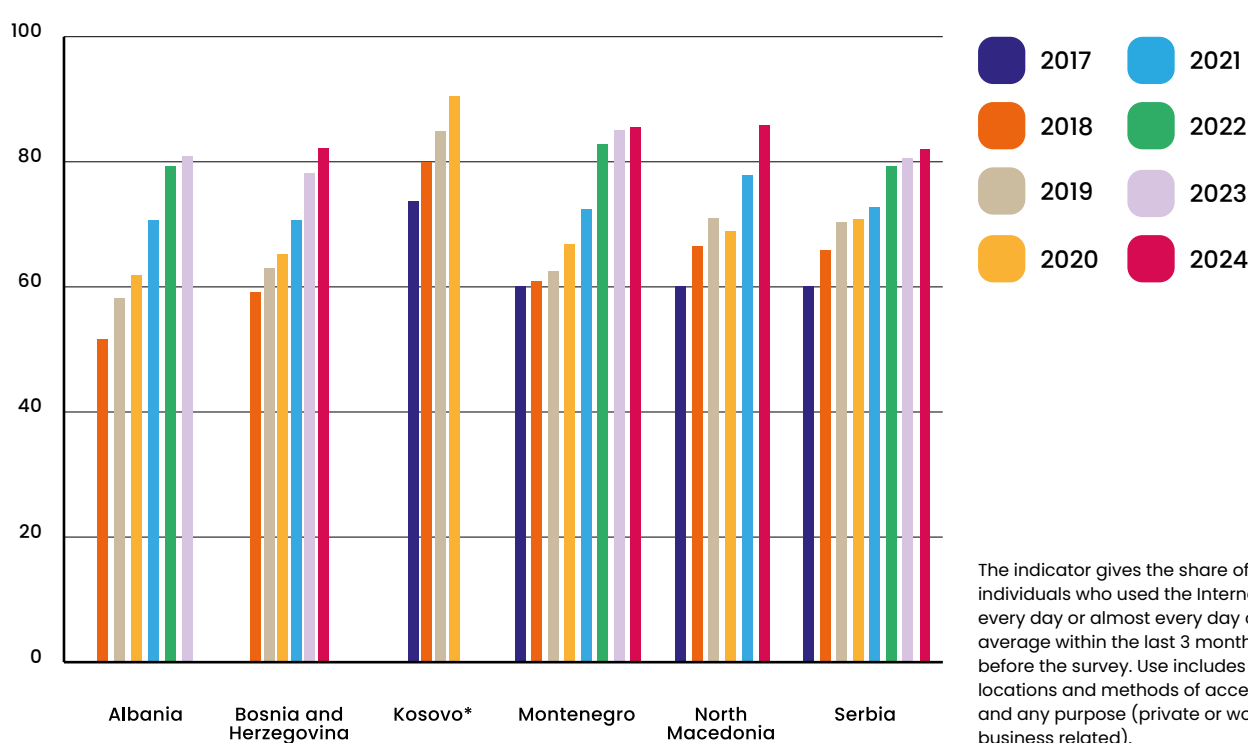
The **Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport** is a long-term strategy from the EU and the Western Balkans (WB) for cooperation with the region. It will contribute to the region's economic and societal development and builds on three main pillars: Political, Thematic, and Regional.

The project POLICY ANSWERS monitors the implementation of the Western Balkans Agenda, and the broader context, progress and achievements are summarised in regular reports. In this Monitoring Card, you find the results of the third round of data collection during 2024 and the first months of 2025 in comparison to the data collected in the previous second monitoring round.

In terms of Digital Competitiveness, the monitoring focuses on the context indicator "Individuals frequently using the internet" and various achievements outlined in the WB Agenda (see next page).

Achievements in a wider context of the Western Balkans Agenda

Individuals using frequently the internet (in percent)



Note
Data not available for Albania (2017, 2024), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017, 2022), Kosovo* (2021, 2024), North Macedonia (2023).

Source
Eurostat, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tin00092/default/table?lang=en> (accessed 13 February 2025).





































* 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.

Regional Indicators

Western Balkans participation in the European
Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH) Network



Western Balkans Economy Indicators

Rapid transformative technological development for a competitive Western Balkans region A Europe fit for the digital age						
Indicator and overall assessment of the region	Development and linking of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH)	Digital education communities of practice/ Digital Edu Hub	Digital skills development and virtual learning	Strategic development of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	WB economies joining the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU)	Participation in Digital Europe Programme
Albania	Increased number of DIHs and partnerships 	No involvement and/or activities 	No publicly funded initiative at central level 	No strategic commitment undertaken 	No participation in the EuroHPC JU 	1 contract signed 
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No new DIHs established Increased number of partnerships 	Involvement in new groups reported Numerous activities implemented 	Increased number of publicly funded initiatives and beneficiaries 	Strategic commitment undertaken 	No participation in the EuroHPC JU 	Joined, 1 contract signed 
Kosovo	New EDIH launched No information on partnerships provided 	No new partners involved Information on implemented activities not provided 	No new publicly funded initiative Considerable increased number of beneficiaries 	No strategic commitment undertaken 	No participation in the EuroHPC JU 	Joined, 1 contract signed 
Montenegro	No new DIHs created No information on partnerships provided 	No involvement and/or activities 	No new publicly funded initiative and beneficiaries 	No strategic commitment undertaken 	Joined 	Joined, 4 contracts signed 
North Macedonia	Increased number of DIHs and partnerships 	Involvement in few groups reported Several activities implemented 	Increased number of publicly funded initiatives and beneficiaries 	No strategic commitment undertaken 	Joined 	Joined, 6 contracts signed 
Serbia	Increased number of DIHs and partnerships 	Involvement in new groups reported No information on implemented activities provided 	Increased number of publicly funded initiatives and beneficiaries 	Strategic commitment undertaken 	Joined 	Joined, 8 contracts signed 

Legend:  On track or maintaining achievement  Moderately improving Challenges remain  Stagnating Significant challenges  Decreasing Major challenges  Information not available

Highlights

All Western Balkans economies are associated to the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

7 projects from Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia are funded under the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) and integrated in the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH)

