

Research and Innovation

July 2025

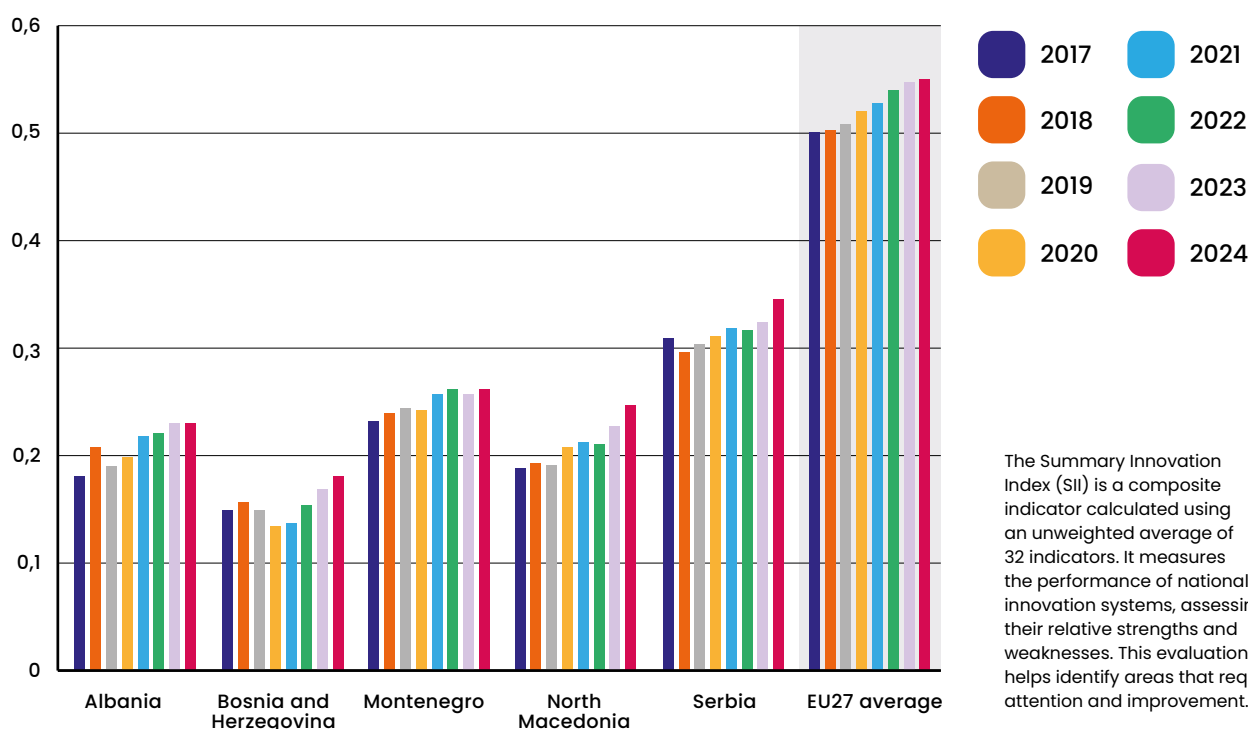
The **Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport** is a long-term strategy from the EU and the Western Balkans (WB) for cooperation with the region. It will contribute to the region's economic and societal development and builds on three main pillars: Political, 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 Research and Innovation, the monitoring focuses on the context indicator "Summary Innovation Index" and various achievements outlined in the WB Agenda (see next page).

Achievements in a wider context of the Western Balkans Agenda

Summary Innovation Index



Note
Data for Kosovo* not available




































Source
European Innovation Scoreboard 2024. EU countries and neighbouring countries database https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard_en#eis-interactive-tool (accessed 10 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

WB Steering Platform on R&I meetings 	WB policy dialogue under the Berlin Process 	POLICY ANSWERS project 
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Western Balkans Economy Indicators

Supporting Western Balkans' reforms for science and research alignment with the EU acquis Participation in European programmes, initiatives and schemes					
Indicator and overall assessment of the region	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) and EIT KIC RawMaterials Hubs 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

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

