

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

20 – 21 October 2025
Podgorica, Montenegro



SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2025

20:00 - 22:00 *The Welcome Dinner is organised at the Hotel Hilton Podgorica, Restaurant Crna Gora, ground floor.
Dress code: business attire*

MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2025

Conference Venue: Hotel Hilton Podgorica Crna Gora, 2 Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog, Podgorica 81000, Montenegro

Presentation of the report “Emerging Trends in the Western Balkans’ Startup Ecosystem” by the Regional Cooperation Council
(Sky Bar/rooftop)

Moderation: Sinisa Marcic, Senior Expert on Human Capital Development, Regional Cooperation Council

08:15 - 08:45	Interventions Amer Kapetanovic, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council Signe Ratso, Deputy Director-General, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission
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Ministerial Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research and Innovation
(Crystal Ballroom, ground floor; welcome coffee served in the foyer from 8:30 on)

Moderation: Signe Ratso, Deputy Director-General, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission

09:00 - 09:05	Opening Johann Sattler, Ambassador of the European Union to Montenegro
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09:05 - 09:15	Welcome Addresses Maida Gorcevic, Minister of European Affairs, Montenegro Bartosz Marcinkowski, Chargé d'affaires i.a., Poland, for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
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09:15 - 09:30	Innovators’ Ceremony Johann Sattler, Ambassador of the European Union to Montenegro Six innovators from the region
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09:30 - 09:45	Interventions Ase Gornitzka, President, COST Association Martin Kern, Director, European Institute of Innovation and Technology Amer Kapetanovic, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council
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09:45 - 10:15	Coffee Break (Foyer of the Crystal Ballroom, ground floor)
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Ministerial Meeting on Smart Specialisation Strategies

Moderation: Sabine Henzler, Director, DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission

10:15 - 10:20	Welcome and Keynote Johann Sattler, Ambassador of the European Union to Montenegro
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10:20 - 10:40	Welcome Addresses Andjela Jaksic Stojanovic, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro Bartosz Marcinkowski, Chargé d'affaires i.a., Poland, for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
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10:40 - 11:40	Ministerial Round Table Discussion on Smart Specialisation Strategies Topic: Smart Specialisation in the Western Balkans: new challenges and pathway towards competitiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twin transitions in the Western Balkans: main enabling factors and bottlenecks • How can Smart Specialisation combine twin transitions’ challenges and competitiveness?
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11:40 - 11:50	Interventions from EU Member States
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11:50 - 12:00	Concluding Remarks Johann Sattler, Ambassador of the European Union to Montenegro Andjela Jaksic Stojanovic, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro Bartosz Marcinkowski, Chargé d'affaires i.a., Poland, for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
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12:00 - 12:05	Family Picture (Crystal Ballroom, ground floor)
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12:30 - 14:00	Networking Lunch (Restaurant Crna Gora, ground floor, coffee served in the foyer from 13:30)
Ministerial Meeting on Research and Innovation	
Moderation: Signe Ratso, Deputy Director-General, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission	
15:00 - 15:05	Keynote Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation
15:05 - 15:15	Welcome Addresses Andjela Jaksic Stojanovic, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro Bartosz Marcinkowski, Chargé d'affaires i.a., Poland, for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
15:15 - 16:10	Ministerial Round Table Discussion on Research and Innovation Topic: Research Infrastructures and Artificial Intelligence in Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Infrastructures - the engines of the knowledge triangle: experiences and best practice Artificial Intelligence in Science
16:10 - 16:15	Interventions from the EU Member States
16:15 - 16:25	Concluding Remarks Johann Sattler, Ambassador of the European Union to Montenegro Andjela Jaksic Stojanovic, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro Bartosz Marcinkowski, Chargé d'affaires i.a., Poland, for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
16:25 - 16:30	Family Picture (Crystal Ballroom, ground floor)
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee Break (Foyer of the Crystal Ballroom, ground floor)
17:00 - 17:30	Bilateral Meeting of the Commissioner with Delegation from Serbia (Room Jelena, ground floor)
17:45 - 18:15	Bilateral Meeting of the Commissioner with Delegation from Albania (Room Jelena, ground floor)
18:30 - 19:00	Bilateral Meeting of the Commissioner with Delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Room Jelena, ground floor)
20:00	Gala Dinner Restaurant Porto (40 Bulevar Stanka Dragojevića, Podgorica 81000, Montenegro). Bus transfer is organised from the hotel and return, departure in front of the hotel at 19:30. Dress code: business attire

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2025

JRC Research Infrastructures and their services rendered to the Western Balkans (Sky Bar/rooftop)	
Moderation: Sabine Henzler, Director, DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission	
08:15 - 08:45	Intervention Fabio Taucer, Adviser for Research Infrastructure Coordination and Valorisation, DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission
09:45 - 10:00	Coffee Break (Foyer of the Crystal Ballroom, ground floor)
11:00 - 11:30	Bilateral Meeting of the Commissioner with Delegation from Kosovo* (Room Jelena, ground floor)
11:40 - 12:10	Bilateral Meeting of the Commissioner with Delegation from North Macedonia (Room Jelena, ground floor)
12:15 - 12:45	Bilateral Meeting of the Commissioner with Delegation from Montenegro (Room Jelena, ground floor)
Presentation of COST Actions building scientific networks between the region and the EU (Sky Bar/rooftop)	
Moderation: Katalin Alföldi, Policy Adviser, COST Association	
13:00 - 13:30	Interventions Ase Gornitzka, President, COST Association Signe Ratso, Deputy Director-General, DG for Research and Innovation, European Commission
13:30 - 14:30	Farewell Reception (Restaurant Crna Gora, ground floor)

* 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.