



Meeting of the Western Balkans Steering Platform on Research and Innovation

10 February 2026; 09:00-12:00 CET

ONLINE - Webex

The meeting is scheduled from 09:00-12:00 CET; however, participants are kindly asked to reserve 30 additional minutes in their agendas (until 12:30 h) for possible longer discussions.

Note for the speakers: Please kindly limit your contribution during the online meeting to 3 minutes. You can provide any written contributions to pecarz@zsi.at by 6 February 2026. Please see technical instructions on p.3.

Agenda

08:55 – 09:00 <i>Technical instructions</i>	
09:00-09:15	Welcome Remarks and Introduction Mina Stareva, Deputy Head of Unit 'International cooperation - Europe and Americas', European Commission, DG R&I, co-chair
09:15-09:30	Main Developments in Research and Innovation: Updates from the European Commission Mina Stareva, Deputy Head of Unit 'International cooperation - Europe and Americas', European Commission, DG R&I, co-chair Emanuela Bellan, Head of Unit 'Member States Partnerships and International Relations', European Commission, DG JRC Enrica Chiozza, Deputy Head of Unit "Regional Strategy and Investments", European Commission, DG ENEST Q&A, General Discussion
09:30-10:45	Follow-up to Western Balkans Ministerial Meeting Marko Vukašinović, Director General of the Directorate for International Cooperation, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro <i>After presentation, participants are invited to reflect on and discuss the following questions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>How did you like the Ministerial Meeting?</i>• <i>Which ideas do you have on the structure/organisation/format of the next Ministerial event (e.g. more interactive, dynamic)?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the policy areas/subjects you would like to discuss at the next Ministerial Meeting in relation to the further integration into the ERA (e.g. ERA Act, Innovation Act, innovation eco-systems)?</i> • <i>Which steps are you taking to implement the Conclusions of the 2025 Ministerial Meeting and what support would you need?</i> • <i>How to engage better EU Member States in the discussions?</i>
10:45-11:00	<p>Mapping the Future of Industry 4.0 in the Western Balkans</p> <p>Aleksei Savarov, Smart manufacturing Innovation Centre, UNIDO</p>
11:00-11:15	<p>Foresight Exercise</p> <p>Simon Winter, Senior Analyst, DLR-PT</p>
11:15 -11:30	<p>Update by POLICY ANSWERS</p> <p>Elke Dall, POLICY ANSWERS Coordinator, ZSI</p> <p>Q&A, General Discussion</p>
11:30 – 11:45	<p>Strengthening R&I Capacity in the Western Balkans and Enlargement Region</p> <p>Bela Kardon, POLICY ENLARGE Coordinator, RCSID</p> <p>Q&A, General Discussion</p>
11:45-12:00	<p>Concluding remarks and next steps</p> <p>Mina Stareva, Deputy Head of Unit 'International cooperation - Europe and Americas', European Commission, DG R&I, co-chair</p>

Instructions and netiquette for the meeting

All participants are kindly invited to follow these virtual meeting etiquette rules:

- **Limit meeting distractions and background noise**
Distractions make a significant impact on a video conference, please reduce distracting noises in the background and stay engaged.
- **Learn how to mute/unmute your microphone**
When you are not talking, it is best to keep your microphone muted.
- **Stick to the schedule**
Keep your contribution brief (ideally up to 2-3 min) to stay within the time schedule.
- **Raise your hand/use the chat line**
For oral contributions, please click on the 'raise your hand' button to request microphone permission or communicate your question via the chat line that is available within the interface.
- **Technical problems**
In case of technical problems during the meeting, you can communicate with the POLICY ANSWERS organisational staff through the chat line.

On the day of event, you will be able to access the virtual meeting room already at 08:45 for technical tests.

Technical aspects/How to participate in the meeting

Virtual Meeting of the Western Balkans Platforms, Wednesday, 10 February 2026 (9:00-12:00/12:30 CET)

Join via the meeting link:

[Webex](#)

Join by meeting number:

2551 936 1564

Join by video system:

Dial 25519361564@webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.