

Presentation of the regional research: “Mapping the Future of Industry 4.0 in the Western Balkans”

1. Overview of research findings

Presentation on the key findings from the regional survey launched by **UNIDO** under the project “**Fostering Industry 4.0 for Green Transition and Circular Economy in the Western Balkans**”, funded by the Governments of **Slovenia and Cyprus**. The research assesses digital readiness, innovation capacity, and sustainability practices across the region, providing an evidence base to inform future policies, funding instruments, and support programmes aimed at accelerating industrial modernization and the green transition.

2. Western Balkans Industry 4.0 Readiness Dashboard

The **Industry 4.0 Readiness Dashboard** is designed as a shared **decision-support tool** for the Steering Platform on Research and Innovation. It consolidates key primary and secondary data, indicators, and analytical views to deliver a clear, evidence-based overview of **progress, gaps, and emerging priorities** within the regional research and innovation ecosystem. Its primary purpose is to support **strategic dialogue, alignment, and informed decision-making** among stakeholders.

a) What the dashboard shows

- Key performance and readiness indicators related to digital and green industrial transformation
- Comparative insights across thematic areas, pillars, and stakeholder groups
- Identified strengths, bottlenecks, and opportunity areas requiring steering-level attention

b) How to interpret the results

Dashboard outputs should be understood as:

- A **diagnostic and orientation tool**, not a ranking or compliance mechanism
- A basis for **collective interpretation**, where qualitative insights from SMEs are essential to contextualize the data
- An **evolving instrument**, to be refined over time based on feedback, data availability, and steering priorities

c) Role of Steering Platform members

Members are invited to:

- Identify **implications** for policy development, programming, partnerships, and investment
- Identify **evidence gaps and additional analytical requirements** to strengthen the assessment
- Contribute to defining **next steps and priority interventions** informed by the results