

Environment

March 2026

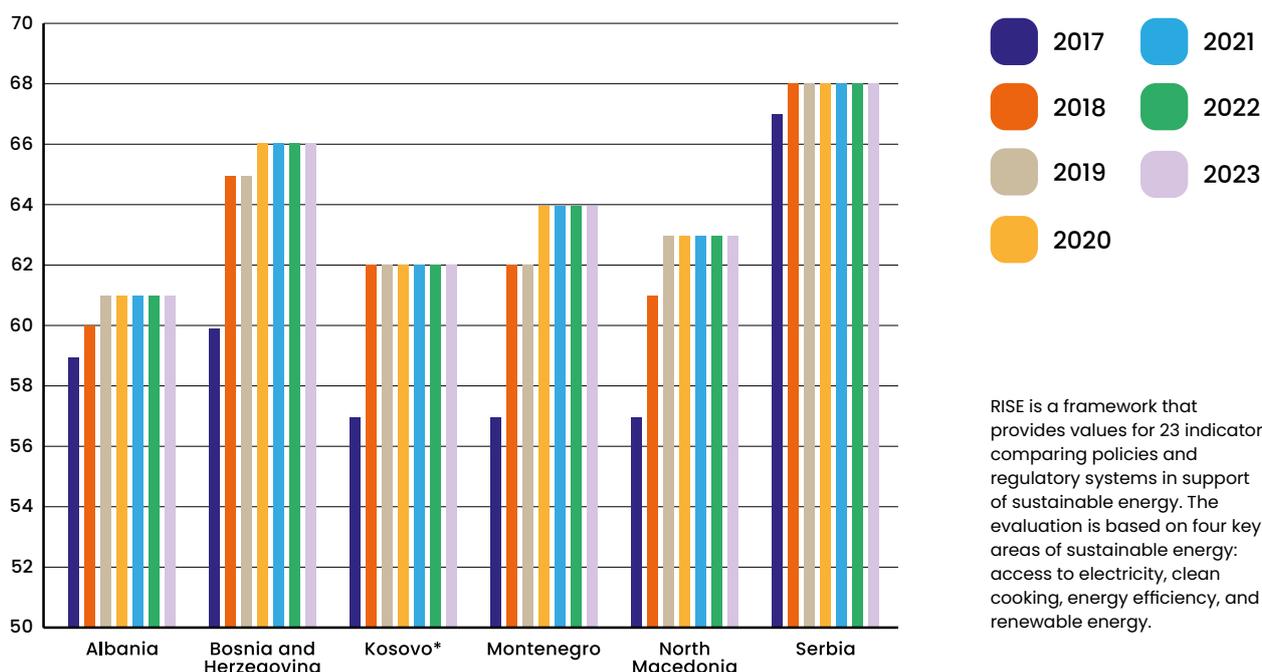
The Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport is a long-term strategy from the EU and the Western Balkans (WB) for cooperation with the region. It will contribute to the region’s economic and societal development, building on three main pillars: Political, Thematic, 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 fourth round of data collection in 2025 and at the beginning of 2026, in comparison to the data collected in the previous third monitoring round.

In terms of Environment, the monitoring focuses on the “Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE)” and various achievements outlined in the WB Agenda (see next page).

Achievements in a wider context of the Western Balkans Agenda

Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE)



RISE is a framework that provides values for 23 indicators comparing policies and regulatory systems in support of sustainable energy. The evaluation is based on four key areas of sustainable energy: access to electricity, clean cooking, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

Sources

Authors’ calculation based on RISE (2025) <https://rise.esmap.org/> (accessed 8 November 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

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| Establishment of soil pollution database for the Western Balkans | Inclusion of the region in pan-European depollution-related networks | Western Balkans Green and Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform |
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Western Balkans Economy Indicators

| Indicator and overall assessment of the region | Western Balkans Green Agenda implemented | | | Counteracting climate change and environmental degradation | | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| | Transition to sustainable transport | Transition in the energy sector | Energy Community Just transition | Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) | Disaster Risk Management | EU Mission: 100 climate-neutral and smart cities | | |
| Albania | Several active projects, no new projects initiated | New projects and initiatives in the field | Not coal dependent | NECP adopted Emission Trading System (ETS) not in place | Disaster Risk Management Centre (DRMC) not in place yet | Participating in the Mission | | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Increased number of public initiatives | New projects and initiatives in the field | Coal phase-out date not set | NECP not adopted ETS not in place | DRMC in place | Participating in the Mission | | |
| Kosovo | Increased number of public initiatives | New projects and initiatives in the field | Coal phase-out date not set | NECP not adopted ETS not in place | DRMC in place | Not participating in the Mission | | |
| Montenegro | Several active projects, no new projects initiated | New projects and initiatives in the field | Coal phase-out date set | NECP not adopted ETS in place | DRMC in place | Participating in the Mission | | |
| North Macedonia | Several active projects, no new projects initiated | New projects and initiatives in the field | Coal phase-out date set | NECP adopted ETS not in place | DRMC in place | Not participating in the Mission | | |
| Serbia | Increased number of public initiatives | New projects and initiatives in the field | Coal phase-out date set | NECP adopted ETS not in place | DRMC in place | Participation in the Mission's Twinning Learning Programme | | |

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

Highlights

Policy Brief and Report Green Agenda for the Western Balkans published by POLICY ANSWERS related to the Green Transition Dubrovnik Declaration endorsed by the Western Balkans Ministers of Environment on 14 October 2025: a shift from planning to measurable action under the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Urban PM2.5 Atlas Air Quality in Cities of Countries involved in the EU Enlargement policy launched at the Fifth EU Clean Air Forum in December 2025



Strengthening Research and Innovation in the Western Balkans: The POLICY ANSWERS project

POLICY ANSWERS is a strategic initiative funded by the European Commission through the Horizon Europe project "R&I POLICY making, implementation ANd Support in the WEStErN BalkanS". The project focuses on enhancing research and innovation (R&I) policymaking and governance systems in the Western Balkans, while also addressing aspects of education, culture, youth, and sports. By providing essential support to the region's development, POLICY ANSWERS plays a crucial role in strengthening the Western Balkans' potential for successful participation in regional and multilateral research and innovation activities.

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