

R&I Policy Support for Enlargement Countries

POLICY ENLARGE

Towards a Stronger European Research Area:
Lessons and Pathways for the Western Balkans' Participation

POLICY ANSWERS final public event

19 March 2026, Tirana

The Proposal

Call: HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-04-ACCESS-01

Support for R&I policy making in the EU enlargement countries

Type of action: CSA

Budget: EUR 3M

Published: 14 May 2025 under work programme 11; Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area

Deadline: 16 September 2025

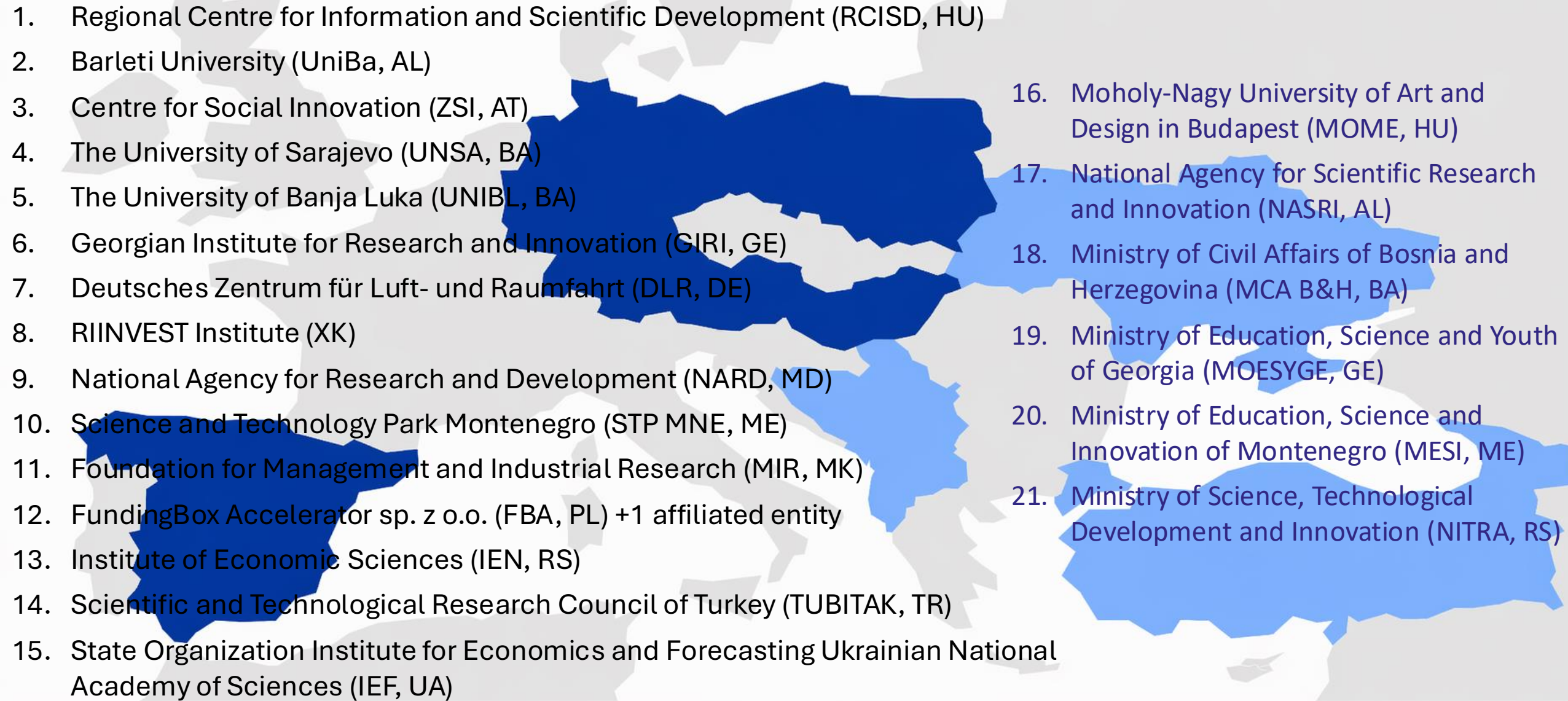
The Project - Policy Enlarge in a nutshell

- Supporting R&I policy making in EU enlargement countries
- Successor to the POLICY ANSWERS project (101058873), building on 20 years of WB policy dialogue and the Western Balkans Info Hub
- Objective:
strengthen evidence-based R&I policies, implementation and coordination, and support deeper integration into the ERA and future EU programmes
- Geographical scope:
Western Balkans plus Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Türkiye, using variable-geometry formats to address different needs
- Approach: five pillars – policy dialogue; policy guidance & learning; joint actions & financial support to third parties; capacity building; communication & Enlargement Info Hub

Consortium

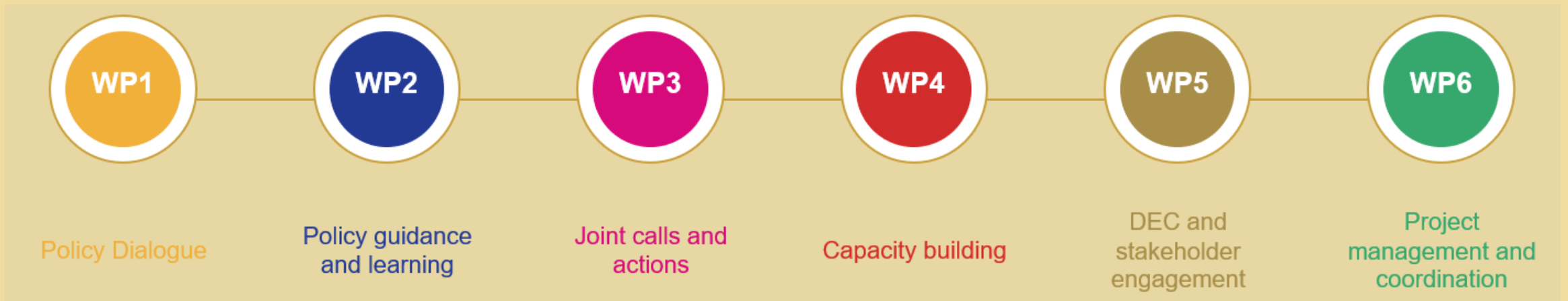
Beneficiaries

Associated partners

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1. Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development (RCISD, HU)
 2. Barleti University (UniBa, AL)
 3. Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI, AT)
 4. The University of Sarajevo (UNSA, BA)
 5. The University of Banja Luka (UNIBL, BA)
 6. Georgian Institute for Research and Innovation (GIRI, GE)
 7. Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR, DE)
 8. RIINVEST Institute (XK)
 9. National Agency for Research and Development (NARD, MD)
 10. Science and Technology Park Montenegro (STP MNE, ME)
 11. Foundation for Management and Industrial Research (MIR, MK)
 12. FundingBox Accelerator sp. z o.o. (FBA, PL) +1 affiliated entity
 13. Institute of Economic Sciences (IEN, RS)
 14. Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK, TR)
 15. State Organization Institute for Economics and Forecasting Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences (IEF, UA)
 16. Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design in Budapest (MOME, HU)
 17. National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI, AL)
 18. Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MCA B&H, BA)
 19. Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia (MOESYGE, GE)
 20. Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro (MESI, ME)
 21. Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation (NITRA, RS)

Work Packages

1. Policy Dialogue (ZSI)
2. Policy Guidance and Learning (DLR)
3. Joint calls and actions (Funding Box)
4. Capacity building (RCISD)
5. Communication, Dissemination, Exploitation and Stakeholder Engagement (ZSI)
6. Project Management and Coordination (RCISD)



Work Package 1 - Policy Dialogue

Task 1.1 High-level dialogue in variable geometry (ZSI; M1-M36)

Task 1.2 Policy dialogue workshops (ZSI; M1-M36)

Task 1.3 Online dialogue events (ZSI; M1-M36)

Work Package 2 - Policy Guidance and Learning

Task 2.1 ERA Integration and Widening (DLR; M1-M36)

Task 2.2 Research Infrastructures (TUBITAK; M1-M36)

Task 2.3 Science-business cooperation/Business R&D (STP MNE; M1-M36)

Task 2.4 Knowledge valorisation (IEN; M1-M36)

Work Package 3

Joint calls and actions (EUR 300 000 FSTP; 80% funding rate)

Fixed lump sum per Funding Instruments

Funding Instruments	Third Party Project duration	N° third parties per Third Party Project	Amount per third party	Lump sum per Third Party Project
1. Small Grants for Joint Regional Innovation Actions	up to 6 months	2 third parties	Up to 4 000 € per third party [1]	Up to 8 000 € per third party project [2]
2. Small Grants for collaborative uptake of results	up to 6 months	2 third parties	Up to 4 000 € per third party	Up to 8 000 € per third party project
3. Small grants for People-to-People Cooperation Projects	up to 6 months	2 third parties or secondees	From 2 500 € to 5 000€ per secondee	Up to 5 000 € per mobility grant

Work Package 4 - Capacity building

- Targeted R&I capacity building **in all 10 enlargement economies**, based on needs identified with national partners
- Focus on **Horizon Europe participation**, S3, technology transfer, research management, Green Deal and digital transition
- **50 000 EUR per country** for tailored national actions (workshops, trainings, study visits, mentoring, expert missions)
- Strengthens skills of **researchers, HEIs & research institutions, SMEs and start-ups**
- Shares good practices and success stories across the region, supported by common methodology and monitoring from RCISD

Thank you for your attention!

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