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# Policy Dialogue on Aligning Priorities in the Western Balkans

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Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
13 September 2023



Pathways: Digital • Green • Health • Vision 2030



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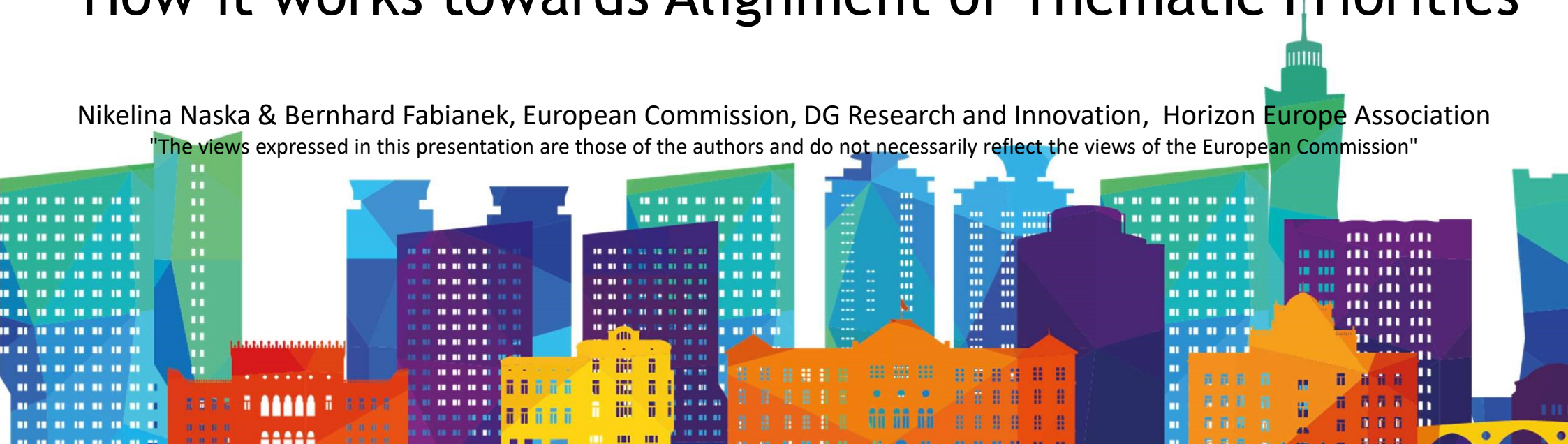
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# The Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

## How it works towards Alignment of Thematic Priorities

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"The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission"



Western Balkans Steering Platform

## Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Economic and Investment Plan

IPA

Horizon Europe

Erasmus+ Creative Europe

Joint Research Center

Digital Transition

Green Agenda

EEN  
DEP  
ESS  
Missions  
EuroHPC

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# Western Balkans Agenda - What is it?

## Generating Opportunities

1. A stronger involvement of the Western Balkans in EU policy work
2. Association of the Western Balkans to EU programmes and initiatives
3. Supporting the quality of Youth engagement and youth policy reforms by increasing opportunities for young people
4. Supporting the Western Balkans fit for the Green and Digital Age

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# Western Balkans Agenda - so far

- Launch at the Brdo EU-Western Balkans Summit, October 2021
- 2022 fear of Research and Innovation budgets being cut due to the energy crisis -> highest budgets ever across the region
- Horizon Europe participation doubled from 2019-20 figures: €83,7 million in less than 2 years (already 48% of Horizon 2020)
- Screening of Research and Education eco-systems in Albania and North Macedonia (Chapters 25 and 26)
- Innovation attracting political attention -> growth and jobs
- Smart Specialisation Strategies and evidence-based policy making

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# Western Balkans Agenda - What next?

- EU Member States, Berlin Process, renewable energy, education
- Green Deal: JRC summer school, Air Pollution, New Bauhaus
- Climate Resilient Excellence Hub (Antares, Widening)
- Regional Innovation Clusters - EIT Hubs, Academia-Business cooperation
- Enterprise Europe Network, European Innovation Agenda
- Fibre, Digital Europe Programme, GÉANT, Cyber Security, EuroHPC
- Cities Mission (Sarajevo, Podgorica, Elbasan, +)
- Ocean Mission: University Master Courses

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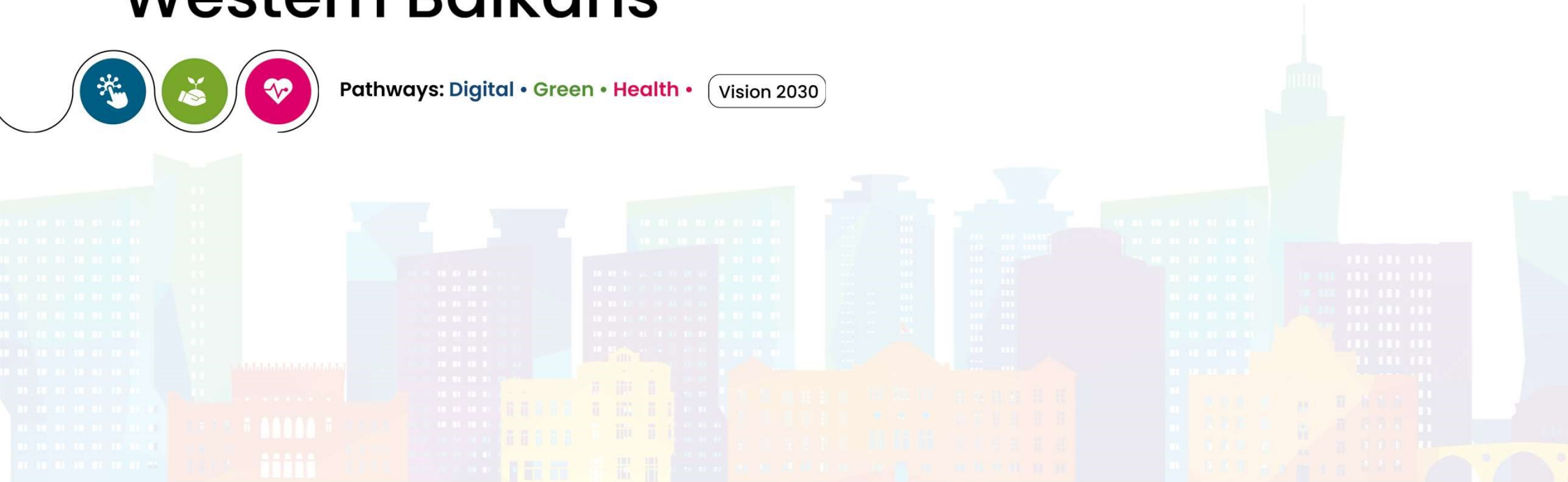
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