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# Policy Dialogue on Aligning Priorities in the Western Balkans

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Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
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Pathways: Digital • Green • Health • Vision 2030



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# Challenges of Widening Countries in the Creation and Implementation of European Partnerships (with a focus on the Western Balkans)

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# Goal of the survey

To learn about the experience of national stakeholders involved in the European Partnerships (EP), in particular

- Criteria for selection of partnerships by participating members states
- Roles of participating organisations
- Type of stakeholder involvement
- Measures supporting participation of Widening and less performing countries
- Learning needs of participating organisations
- Use of Cohesion Policy Funds

Special focus: to investigate participation of Widening Countries (including Associated Widening Countries)

Survey opened: July - October 2022

Sent to: Widening & non-Widening member states and Associated Countries

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# Widening Countries In Horizon Europe

Widening Countries – countries with low performance in previous Framework Programmes

## Widening Member States

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

## Widening Associated Countries

Albania, Armenia, [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), Faroe Islands, Georgia, [Kosovo](#), Moldova, [Montenegro](#), Morocco, [North Macedonia](#), [Serbia](#), Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine

## Outermost Regions

French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), Canary Islands (Spain)

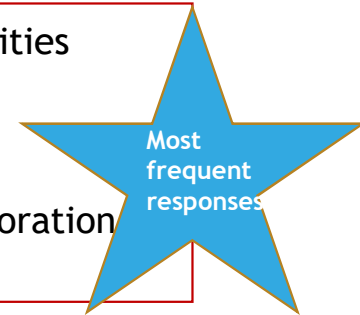
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# Advantages of active participation in partnerships

- Participation in the decision making process and influencing the partnership strategy and priorities
- Mutual learning & better understanding of the EP instrument
- Networking opportunity (opportunities for future actions) & strengthening international collaboration



- Developing national strategies and driving new developments in national priorities through participation in the EP
- Strengthening an organisation's international profile and increasing its international visibility

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# Challenges facing Widening countries

- Lack of personnel incl. need for experienced staff
- Budgetary issues
- Defining national priorities and alignment of partnership goals with national agendas
- Involvement of national and regional stakeholders
- Lack of success in calls for proposals
- Administrative complexity of the EPs

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# National instruments supporting Widening countries' participation in the EP

- Support and mentoring for researchers applying for grants in the EP calls provided by National Contact Points, national research funding organisations and administrative staff dealing with EU projects
- (plan to) Use of cohesion funds to support participation in EP calls
- Forum gathering national organisations participating in EPs established to monitor national participation in EPs

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# Support needed to successfully plan and implement the European Partnership

- Structures needed to support national coordination
- Policy support

**Support needed also  
from the EC**

- Additional sources of information, especially on: synergies with the Cohesion Policy (or IPA) funds; financial issues (including in-kind contribution); governance structures and policies
- Financial resources
- Personnel
- Dedicated EC officers

**Support needed mostly  
by Widening Countries**

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# Recommendations

- Enhance administrative structures at research organisations supporting researchers applying for grants
- Support investment in personnel (project management skills)
- Further develop structures providing policy support and coordination on the national level

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# For more information please check:

*ERA-LEARN Report on Challenges of Widening Countries in European Partnerships:*  
[https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/era-learn-report\\_challenges-of-widening-countries\\_eps\\_survey.pdf](https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/era-learn-report_challenges-of-widening-countries_eps_survey.pdf)

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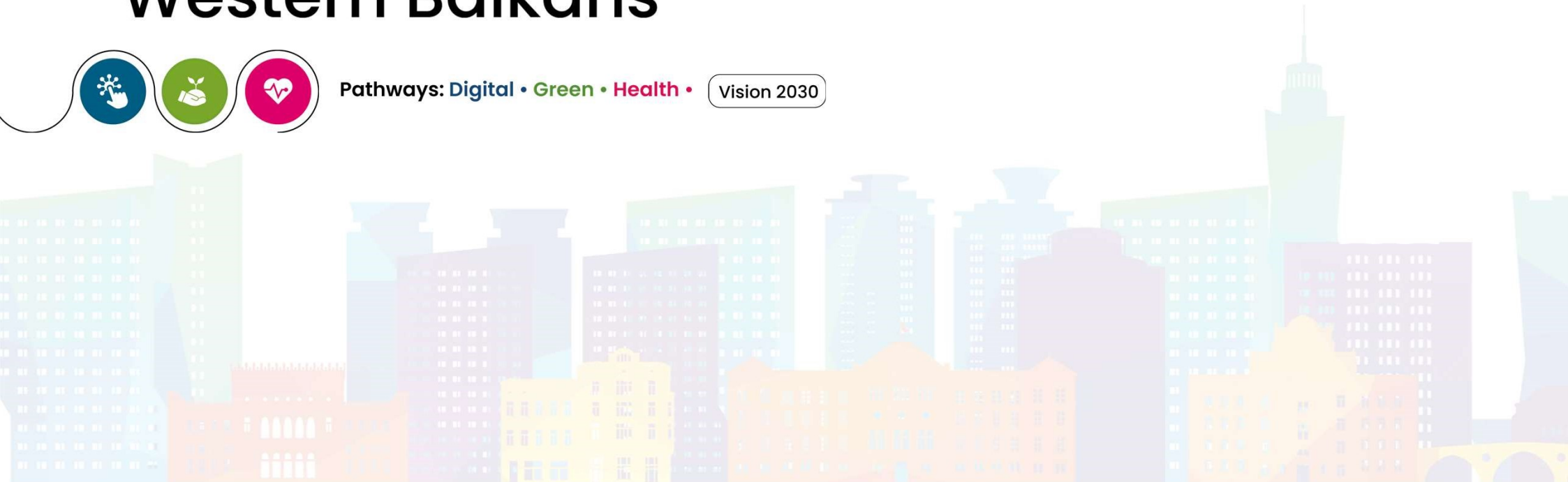
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