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## WESTERN BALKANS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MEETING

Vienna - 9-10 July 2019

# Debriefing from the

*Supporting Smart  
Specialisation Strategies  
and Technology Transfer  
in South-East Europe*

Tuesday 18 June 2019  
Politehnica University of Bucharest  
(Romania)



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### KEY INFO

- High-level conference on S3 and technology transfer
- Organised as a connected event of the "**Innovative Enterprise Week Bucharest 2019**" at the Politehnica University of Bucharest on 18th June
- Organized by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, the Romanian Ministry of Research and Innovation and the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding in the semester of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.



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### KEY PRESENTATIONS

- [Challenges for smart specialisation in the South-East Europe](#)

**Slavo Radosevic**, *Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, UCL London*

- [Financing smart specialization sectors for a smart future](#)

**Mihaela Toader**, *State Secretary in the Ministry of European Funds, Romania*

- [Romanian S3 experience in setting the 2021-2027 financial period](#)

**Radu Gheorghiu**, Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (EUFISCDI)

- [Smart Specialisation in the Western Balkans - Potential for knowledge-based economic cooperation](#)

**Manuel Palazuelos Martinez**, *Team Leader, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*





## ISF PARTICIPATION

- Manfred Spiesberger and Matthias Woiwode from the ISF Team discussed the upcoming S3 study and other related tasks in the ISF WBC II contract at the S3 event with the **key responsible persons at JRC**:
  - Ales Gnamus (responsible for i.a. the Danube and Adriatic-Ionian macro-regions)
  - Nikola Radovanovic (responsible for Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia)
  - Maximilian Benner (responsible for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*)

\* 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.



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### **Coordination with JRC**

- It was agreed to **coordinate the activities well with the JRC**, so as to avoid duplication of efforts and redundancies.
- We will work in a **complementary way**, e.g. clusters are not in the focus of JRC, but in the focus of the ISF WBC II study.
- An approach could also be that **JRC focuses on governmental players, and ISF WBC II team on science and business.**



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### **Coordination with JRC**

- JRC invited the ISF WBC II team to attend their **kick-off of WBC S3 support project**, which is planned for beginning of October (1-2 October probably)
- Other relevant events:
  - An S3 meeting for WB6, possibly to take place in Belgrade in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2019
  - An S3 presidency event similar to the one in Bucharest during the Croatian EU Council Presidency in 2020



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### **Next steps towards WB6**

- At the Bucharest meeting, **Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro** were represented with high level representatives.
- ISF WBC II team discussed with the relevant colleagues the upcoming study and tasks, in particular with Viktor Nedovic for Serbia, Marina Nikolovska for North Macedonia, and Robert Dumi for Albania.





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- Colleagues from **Kosovo\*** could not get visa in time and could not attend the event in Bucharest.
- The minister from **Albania** cancelled the attendance, and the country was represented by the head of the national research agency, Robert Dumi.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** was not represented by policy makers.



## **S3 implementation – current state:**

- **Montenegro:** at Bucharest event it was announced that S3 strategy will be adopted at national level in 2 days. Then it will be forwarded to the EC for assessment.
- **Serbia:** Recently concluded EDP - at the end of May 2019. Design of evaluation and monitoring, and drafting of strategy are under way. Before the end of the year, whole S3 process should be finalised.
- **For other countries S3 preparatory works are under way:** e.g. in Albania, an S3 working group was created in 2018.



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## ISF Team – S3 study

Main contacts:

- Felix Gajdusek ([gajdusek@zsi.at](mailto:gajdusek@zsi.at)), Manfred Spiesberger ([spiesberger@zsi.at](mailto:spiesberger@zsi.at))
- Matthias Woiwode Von Gilardi ([Matthias.WoiwodevonGilardi@dlr.de](mailto:Matthias.WoiwodevonGilardi@dlr.de))



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