



WESTERN BALKANS
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MEETING

Vienna - 9-10 July 2019

Support for Smart Specialisation in the Western Balkans and preparatory studies

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Western Balkans



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Policy Dialogue	Smart Specialisation	Analysis and Monitoring	Visibility and Dissemination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Ministerial SP meetings • Four R&I Meetings / regional events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to implementation of national S3 and cluster efforts • Study on the S3 status, R&I clusters • Final event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis for provision of researcher's mobility system • ERA Progress Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for WB Visibility at EU events • Dissemination of information (WBC-RTI.INFO)



Smart Specialisation (S3)

Aim: support development and implementation of national S3 strategies and R&I clusters in the WBC by providing EU expertise through:

- 1) 25 targeted support interventions
 - based on the needs formulated by the WBC
 - including individual counseling and facilitation of regional R&I trainings and events
 - also targeting improvement of the regions' participation in H2020 and Horizon Europe
- 2) Study on the status of S3 and R&I cluster activities
- 3) Presentation of the S3 Study at a specific event to a wider public



- 1) 25 targeted support interventions for the implementation of national S3 and cluster efforts in the WBC**
 - WBC needs can be addressed (in particular) by the national or regional S3 teams or clusters) to the Service Facility / the EC
 - an intervention plan will be developed, suggestion of support activities
 - interventions can be: coachings, trainings, small workshops, counseling and will last for 15 days (incl. preparation, on site visit and follow up)
 - expertise will be provided through experts from Europe (expert pool of different specialised organisations)
 - will work closely together with the relevant stakeholders of the WBC

2) Study on the status of S3 and R&I cluster activities

S3 Study implementation:

- Task: **take stock of the state-of-play in developing and implementing research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3)** in Western Balkans economies.
- The study will look at the various dimensions of the S3 policy framework and assess the **progress made and quality of results** achieved so far.
- The **robustness of the governance and institutional framework** for smart specialisation (including the mandate for coordination of S3 and with other policies) will be studied.
- The **quality of the evidence base** (economic, scientific, innovation related potential) as a basis for priority-setting (quantitative, qualitative) will be discussed.
- The **state of the EDP** (= entrepreneurial discovery process) cycle, of workshops held, stakeholder involvement, working framework (rules, roles, conflict-solving mechanisms), and of priorities identified will be analysed.



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- Assessment of availability and quality of **implementation instruments, as well as of resources** for the S3 strategies, including instruments such as collaborative R&I grants, innovation vouchers, framework conditions for innovation (e.g. legal basis and IPR regulations), support for spin-offs.
- A specific focus will be put on **clusters**, and we will analyse how far they are (or can be) used as instrument for S3 implementation. We will take stock of cluster development in Western Balkans economies by mapping existing cluster initiatives, specialization patterns, size/scope, member companies and research partners, participation in the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, and other transnational cooperation activities.
- The **state of monitoring of S3 strategies**, of indicators and methods used, as well as reporting and dissemination will be investigated.
- A **concept for monitoring RIS 3 development and WBC cluster initiatives will be developed**, including proven EU tools (e.g. Regional Innovation Scoreboard) and OECD indicators on research, innovation, and technology also referenced by the most current data available.



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- The **macro-regional embeddedness and territorial dimension of S3** strategies will be analysed.
- Ultimately, the study will identify **possibilities for Western Balkans regional cooperation** (including a mapping of existing capabilities in Western Balkans universities and centres of excellence), networking with EU clusters, and linking possible support measures and interventions (cf. Activity 3) with the state of smart specialisation in WBC countries.



3) **Presentation of the S3 Study at a specific event to a wider public**

- The Final Study will be **printed in 150 pieces** to be distributed at a presentation **Event indicatively in February 2021 in Belgrade (tbc)**
- Discussions on S3 as a tool for transnational cooperation, strategic innovation policies, priorities of common interest and conclusions and recommendations on S3 implementation across the Western Balkans
- Speakers and participants will include representatives of the S3 and R&I cluster activities across the region and in general, regional and international stakeholders from the quadruple helix (government, industry, academia, civil society). Some travel grants will be made available for WB6.



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Thank you !

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