



Smart Specialisation in EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Region

MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN BALKANS PLATFORMS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING & RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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Why Smart Specialisation?



These challenges result in:

- Need for a **boundary-spanning approach** exploring the synergies between different policies, strategies and ongoing reform processes
- Need to use **knowledge and innovation** to add value to existing economic activities and strengthen the value chains
- Need to address the **societal and environmental impacts** of economic transformation

Towards smart specialisation in the Western Balkans



- Economic, innovative and scientific potential of the Western Balkan economies
- Tools and methodologies

Application of
smart
specialisation

Capacity-building
activities for
technology
transfer

Support to
transnational
collaboration

Data quality
enhancement

Smart specialisation framework for the EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Region

- Decision to start the process
- Analysis of strategic mandates

1. Institutional capacity building



- Quantitative analysis
- Qualitative analysis

2. Mapping exercise



- EDP training
- Consultation with stakeholders in workshops
- EDP input to strategy

3. Stakeholder dialogue



- Design of monitoring system
- Creation of mechanism for implementation

4. Institutional capacity for implementation



- Consultations
- Formal approval
- EC approval

5. Final strategy approval



Where are the Western Balkans in the smart specialisation framework?



Progress so far

2

- **Adopted Smart Specialisation Strategies**

5

- **Operational Smart Specialisation Teams**

6

- **Expressed interest**

80

- **Representatives of public administration trained**

450

- **Representatives of private sector involved in the entrepreneurial discovery process**

1600

- **Stakeholders reached: business, academia, NGOs and governments**

Interregional cooperation and smart specialisation



Smart specialisation and recovery

- Localisation (Strategies tailored to places)
- Mobilisation (Involvement of local actors and stakeholders)
- Prioritisation (Selection of key areas for policy support)
- Customisation (Adaptable framework and local solutions)

Innovation as general enabler

to delivering local solutions for global challenges

Thank you!

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