



# WESTERN BALKANS

## Steering Platform on Research and Innovation

Update from the  
International Service Facility of the EC

Virtual Meeting, 27 January 2021



## Updates on ISF activities

### ▪ ***Foresight exercise***

- Keynote on Foresight held at Ministerial Meeting 2.12.2020, discussion with WB Ministers
- Flyer on the Strategic Foresight Initiative with summaries of draft scenarios in English; translations into Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian and Serbian finalised and distributed
- Scenarios were further adapted based on your Ministers' feedback, and on in-depth feedback by the JRC Strategic Foresight experts incl. on Delphi Survey
- Delphi Survey currently being prepared, translated and planned to be launched possibly next week to the contacts provided (thank you!)
- Please provide contacts (if not done yet) and use also your dissemination channels to ensure good response
- We look forward to your active participation in the survey!



## Updates on ISF activities

### ▪ ***Country interventions***

- Requests received : 1 Montenegro (Open Science) – finalised, 1 Albania (Cluster) – finalised soon, 1 North Macedonia (Collaborative grant scheme) – in progress, 1 Albania (Smart Specialisation) – pending

### ▪ ***Study on researchers' mobility*** (see separate topic on today's agenda)

### ▪ ***ERA profiles***

- Draft ERA profiles (September 2020 update) submitted to EC and under revision
- Questionnaire sent out to WB6 for written contributions before today's meeting
- Next steps: updates to be prepared for March 2021 (with your and experts' feed back)
- New ERA Communication by the EC with 4 strategic objectives and 14 actions – reporting under Horizon Europe in the upcoming months



## Updates on ISF activities

### ■ ***Policy dialogue and events***

- 3 virtual WB Research & Innovation meetings (June, July and September 2020)
- 2 virtual WB Steering Platform meetings (14 October and 25 November 2020) and collaboration with DG EAC for two additional events
- Virtual Ministerial Meeting of the WB SP on Education and Training & Research and Innovation on 2 December 2020
- Next steps: virtual meetings on 27 January 2021, upcoming in March, April, June, September 2021; Ministerial Meeting in May 2021 for adoption of the Joint Declaration; If possible also a physical meeting in Summer 2021.



## Updates on ISF activities

### ▪ ***Study on S3***

- S3 inception report developed in coordination with JRC and EC; video & phone interviews ongoing
- S3 study will focus individually and for the entire macro-region including the 6 economies on :
  - Policy implementation system (Institutions, stakeholders, policy planning cycles, sectoral strategies)
  - Financing system (policies, planning, distribution)
  - Reporting monitoring and evaluation system (legal rules, capacities and preparedness, evaluation practice)
  - Cluster in S3 (cluster landscape and actors, specific economic niches, outreach)
  - Cluster management (services, funding, planning, monitoring and reporting, international knowledge exchange)
  - Macro-regional coord. activities (relevance, benefits, interaction focus, future potential and options)
- A draft will be available beginning of March 2021 and can be presented during a meeting in 2021



## Updates on ISF activities

### ▪ **Visibility and Dissemination**

- Initial plan to integrate promotion of WB R&I communities into 3 major EU R&I (virtual) events; need to re-design the activity due to COVID-19:
  - Only ESOF2020 could be attended in Sept 2020, 2 Sessions; social media campaign including videos
  - Next steps: implementation of an online communication and promotional campaign as alternative, to raise awareness on the WBC-RTI.INFO platform and to promote Horizon Europe in WB
- WBC-RTI.INFO platform (first 12 months of activity):
  - 71.800 unique visitors; visits mainly from Europe; mainly Serbia, Albania and North Macedonia
  - 533 news, 194 calls, 209 events, 216 documents, 63 links published
  - Newsletter: 15 bulletins sent to 11.300 stakeholders; focus on: Ministerial Meeting, WB Innovation Agenda, Digital Balkans, ERA developments, Science Diplomacy, H2020 and MSCA, etc. ...
  - Next steps: continuation of online information and newsletter services



## Updates on ISF activities

***Fur further information please contact  
the International Service Facility***

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