

CONFERENCE

Policy Dialogue on Aligning Priorities in the Western Balkans

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POLICY
ANSWERS

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
13 September 2023



Pathways: Digital • Green • Health • Vision 2030



Funded by
the European Union

POLICY ANSWERS is funded by the European Commission through the Horizon Europe project "R&I policy making, implementation and support in the Western Balkans", Grant Agreement N° 10105887.

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Outcome of the POLICY ANSWERS Conference 'Policy Dialogue in Aligning Priorities in the Western Balkans'

Sanja Damjanovic (GSI, Germany)

Workshop on Researchers' Mobility

14-15th September 2023, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



The Objectives of the Conference were

- To stimulate a policy dialogue on how to align priorities in the Western Balkans with the focus on policy making, stakeholder engagement and policy implementation tools across three thematic areas: **Digital Transformation**, **Green Transition** and **Heathy Society**.
- To support the inclusion of the Western Balkans in relevant EU initiatives and platforms, such as **European Partnerships** and **Smart Specialization platforms** towards a **Digital, Green and Healthy Future in the Western Balkans**





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Pathways Digital Green

Green Health

VISION 2030

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Bosnia &...
13 Se...

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Pathways Digital Green

Green Health

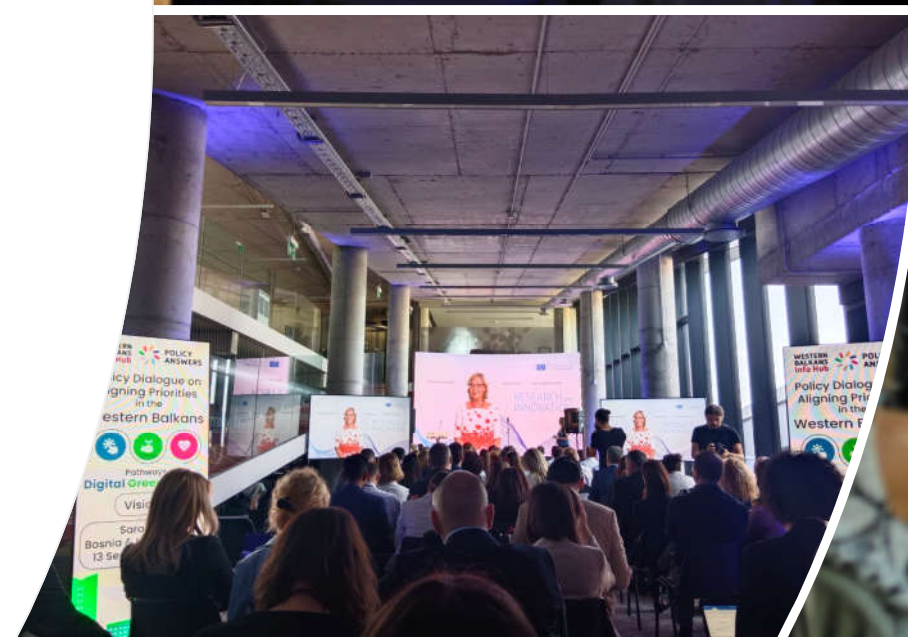
VISION 2030

RESEARCH and INNOVATION

#ResearchandEU #InnovationEU #InvestEUresearch

The Conference demonstrated a significant impact of policy dialogue







- where
 - **Government representatives from the Western Balkans,**
 - **Key stakeholders,**
 - **European Commission representatives,**
 - **and Experts from both the Western Balkans and the EU**
- have converged.










150 Participants from 19 European countries



PARTICIPANTS

	Bosnia And Herzegovina	37
	Serbia	23
	Montenegro	19
	North Macedonia	13
	Albania	9
	Kosovo*	8

	Austria	7
	Germany	6
	Italy	4
	Poland	4
	France	3
	Hungary	2
	Belgium	2

	Sweden	1
	Switzerland	1
	Spain	1
	United Kingdom	1
	Denmark	1
	Slovenia	1

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Keynote Speakers at the Conference

Plenary Session 1 provided an overview of the WBs on its Pathway to implement Digital and Green Agenda as well as Health Policy and highlighted key instruments for aligning priorities. The session also highlighted best practices in each of the WB economies that can serve as a model for other economies in the region.

Keynote Talk

European Commission



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BERNHARD FABIANEK
Senior Expert for Horizon Europe Association, DG RTD, European Commission

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
The Western Balkans Agenda and how it works towards Alignment of the Thematic Priorities

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Key Input for Setting the Scene



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BOJANA BAJIC
Regional Expert for Digital Transformation
 ReSPA: Montenegro

WB4Digital



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MARIJA JEVTIC
Regional Expert for Health
 University of Novi Sad, Serbia

WB4Health

Regional Experts

Key Highlights and Insights on Instruments and Opportunities for Aligning Priorities



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MALWINA GEBALSKA
Coordinator for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, ERA-LEARN, Poland

"There is ever more need for coordinated action between relevant actors of the EU and WB to boost research and innovation in the region!"

European Partnerships



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NIKOLA RADOVANOVIC
Senior Analyst, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission

Smart Specialisation Strategy – Opportunities with Partnerships for Regional Innovation

EC Joint Research Center



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CLAUDIO BELIS
Senior Scientist - Project Leader, JRC, European Commission

JRC Report on the Status of Environment and Climate in the Western Balkans'

EC Joint Research Center



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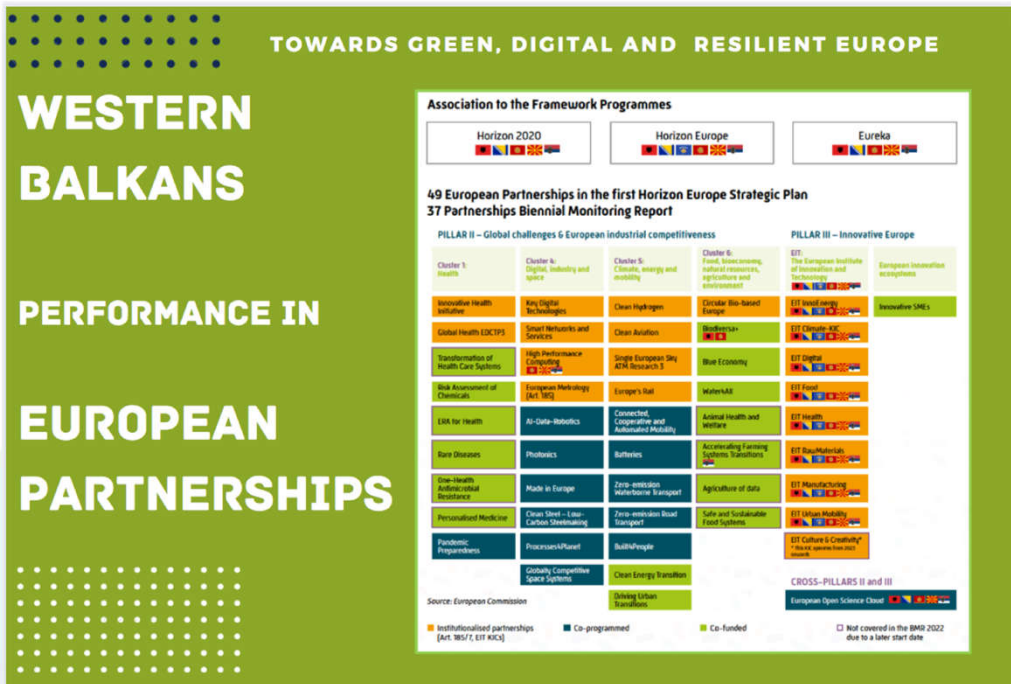
MIROSLAV VESKOVIC
Regional Expert for Green Transition
 University of Novi Sad, Serbia

WB4Green

ERS

Meetings with European Partnerships - the Conference was a great opportunity to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between the WB's Ministries & European Partnerships

38 Bilateral meetings were organized between representatives of **9 European Partnerships** and **17 representatives of the Western Balkans Ministries**



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Towards Green, Digital and Resilient Europe and Healthier Societies

Opportunities for the Western Balkans stakeholders to meet with European Partnerships

MARGHERITA CAPPELLETO
Coordinator
European Partnership
Climate Neutral, Sustainable and Productive Blue Economy;
SBER, Italy

ARIANE BLUM
CEO
European Partnership
Water4all – Water Security for Planet
France

ORSOLYA KÜTTEL
Programme Manager
European Partnership
Driving Urban Transitions
Austria

ANNE TRUMPFELLER
Head of communication of EURAMET
European Partnership
on Metrology
Germany

TUAN TRINH
Regional Director East
European Partnership
EIT Digital
Hungary

ADAM STRZELECKI
Senior Project Manager
European Partnership
EIT-Food
Poland

LAURA MARIN
Coordinator
European Partnership
One Health Antimicrobial Resistance
(OHAMAR)
Sweden

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Register now: <https://wbinfohub.eu/conf23>

Although Partnerships are widely used among the EU Member States, the WBs have not been actively engaged in them

Parallel Session 2: Panel Discussions - Solutions to the Challenges



The main conclusion from the Conference on Challenges and the Solutions offered will be summarized in special Reports for each of the thematic topics - to be prepared by the Regional Experts

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Kickstart of the EU-WB Policy Dialogue Stakeholder Platform

The Conference was actually the kickstart of a EU-WB Policy Dialogue Platform which will continue to stimulate a policy dialogues on aligning priorities in the WBs with those of the European Union across key thematic areas; Digital, Green and Helath

The Platform will faciliate fuitful exchanges, webinars, collaborations, and will serve as a channel for identifying joint project activities to achieve tangible progress within these three thematic areas

We invite you to join the Platform - Bring your ideas and proposals and contribute to the development of the Vision 2030 for the Western Balkans!

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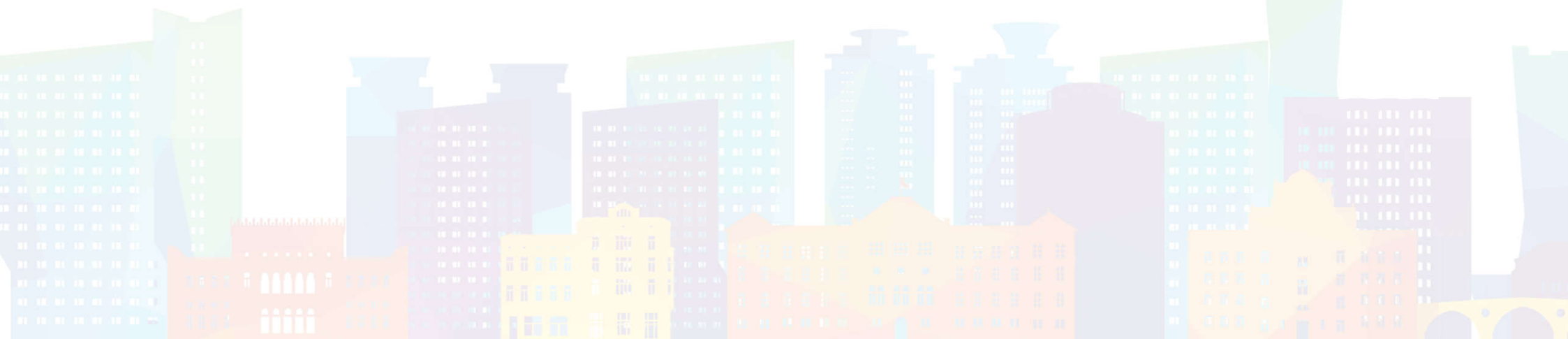
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