

How to ensure sustainability of a regional mobility scheme?

- Characteristics of mobility scheme are already known
- Sustainability is the key
- Important to think of sustainability as early as possible, already when designing the mobility scheme
- Perspective of the Western Balkan stakeholders



How to ensure sustainability of a regional mobility scheme?

Albania

- Focus of mobility should be on young, up and coming researchers, women researchers and also researchers from regional universities/slightly more remote areas – this is to ensure INCLUSIVITY
- To ensure sustainability it is important to include not only individual researchers, but attempt also some kind of institutional support for example departments, research centers, faculties
- Widespread reach and communication so as to include as many stakeholders as possible and build synergies with other mobility schemes – maybe in the future a joint pool of funds can be created
- Involvement of national policy stakeholders (NASRI, Ministry of Education) but also CSOs (SCiDEV, CoPLAN) and other national projects focused on science and research (WBF, OSF WB, EU4Innovation)
- Links with the RYLMP programme, MOVE grants, EU4Innovation, Erasmus Mobility, MCSA, COST, EIT
- Consider not only ‘hard sciences’ but also social sciences as a focus for mobility



How to ensure sustainability of a regional mobility scheme?

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Aspects for Sustainability

Returning researchers knowledge transfer with home institutions
Motivation of researchers (shorter vs. longer stays; young researchers and post-doc mobility)
Strategic relevance for BiH (e.g., aligning with priorities)



Requirements

Map/registry of available infrastructure
Partnership with local institutions to provide adequate resources



Potential Funding Sources

Complex country structure: Ministry of Foreign Affairs BiH + two entity ministries + 10 cantonal ministries
Private sector collaborations and university partnerships
Bilateral/Multilateral agreements on research collaboration



Existing Programs & Links

Scientific and technological cooperation (BiH – SLO)
Sarajevo Canton Science Program
Regional Cooperation on Post-Doc studies (BiH is joining this year) – example of Uni Rijeka (CRO)



How to ensure sustainability of a regional mobility scheme?

Kosovo*

- **Long-Term Vision:** Develop a clear long-term vision for the mobility scheme beyond the initial funding period.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Involve key stakeholders, including universities, research institutions, and governments in the Western Balkans, for support and commitment.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the impact and effectiveness of the mobility projects.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** Facilitate knowledge transfer between participating WB economies and institutions, fostering collaboration and lasting relationships.
- **Alumni Network:** Create an alumni network for past participants to maintain connections and provide mentorship opportunities.
- **Diversify Funding Sources:** Explore additional funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, to extend the project's lifespan.
- **Integration with existing programmes:** Identify synergies with existing regional programmes and instruments to maximise resources and avoid duplication (for instance consider WBF Mobility Grant Scheme Mechanism, WBF MOVE Grants).
- **Policy Alignment:** Ensure that the mobility scheme aligns with regional research and innovation policies for continued support.
- **Dissemination and Outreach:** Promote the scheme's success stories and outcomes to attract further interest and support.
- **Flexibility:** Build flexibility into the scheme to adapt to changing circumstances and emerging needs in the region.



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

How to ensure sustainability of a regional mobility scheme?

Montenegro



How to ensure sustainability of a regional mobility scheme?

North Macedonia

- **International mobility schemes:** MSCA, ERASMUS +, CEEPUS,
- **National schemes:** full scholarships for postgraduate and doctoral studies at the top 100 universities according to the Shanghai List
- **Suggested type of mobility schemes:** intersectoral mobility between industry and mobility in higher education institutions
- **Access to research infrastructure** in the Western Balkans and EU (JRC)
- **Sustainability:** Horizon Europe – dedicated Call for this scheme or other donors, national and international source of funding of Implementation of Action Plans of S3 strategy
- **Links with existing schemes:** to consider proposed mobility schemes in frame of S3 of the Western Balkans, for ex. North Macedonia has defined measures for the mobility of researchers in the S3.



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How to ensure sustainability of a regional mobility scheme?

Serbia

- Open Balkan Initiative
- Collaboration with scientific institutions
- Using EU funding
- Member of four European Research Infrastructure Consortia (CERIC, DARIAH, ESS and CESSDA)
- Idea: creating Regional Consortium

