



Launch of the Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

A comprehensive, long-term cooperation strategy of the European Union and the Western Balkans to promote scientific excellence as well as reform of the region's education systems was launched at the EU-Western Balkans Brdo Summit, on 6 October, by the leaders of the European Union and its Member States, together with Western Balkans leaders.

The '**Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport**' will create further opportunities for the youth, and will help prevent brain drain.

As reported by [EC news](#), Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth said,

"EU cooperation with the Western Balkans offers unparalleled opportunities. The Innovation Agenda for the Western Balkans will open these opportunities to students, researchers, innovators and cultural operators so that they access new markets, become more competitive and build sustainable prosperity. It's a positive and forward-looking vision for all"

The Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport and its Action Plan builds on three main pillars:

POLITICAL AGENDA

Towards a sustainable future by stimulating an economy that supports the recovery and helps to create jobs

- Reflecting the strategic importance of the region and supporting its integration process through an increased EU engagement;
- Nurturing knowledge-based societies and evidence-informed policy making;
- Supporting the association to all the Union programmes covering Research, Innovation, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport;
- Supporting the implementation of systemic changes and reforms.

THEMATIC AGENDA

Towards closer alignment with the EU strategic priorities

- Transforming the national research and innovation eco-systems;
- Counteracting climate change and supporting the digital transformation;
- Promoting the implementation of the EU Green Deal in the Western Balkans.

REGIONAL AGENDA

Towards a closer regional economic integration through planned investments in human capital development and digital transformation

- Enhancing the quality of education and training;
- Boosting human capital development;
- Reducing the gender and digital divide;
- Improving mobility and connectivity;
- Fostering cultural and regional cooperation.

Through increased investments in Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, the Western Balkans Agenda and its proposed actions will contribute to the region's economic and societal

development and cooperation.
Find related information below and click [here](#) to access the thematic area at our portal.

• RELATED INFORMATION

- **[EU AND THE WESTERN BALKANS LAUNCH A JOINT STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN INNOVATION, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT](#)**

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- **[FACTSHEET ON A WESTERN BALKANS AGENDA ON INNOVATION, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, CULTURE, YOUTH & SPORT](#)**

The European Union developed with the Western Balkans a forward-looking Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. The Agenda outlines a comprehensive, long-term strategy for...

- **[WB AGENDA: SUMMARY INFORMATION AND FORTHCOMING ACTIONS](#)**

The Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport outlines a comprehensive, long-term strategy for cooperation with the Western Balkans.

- **[EU-WESTERN BALKANS SUMMIT IN BRDO REAFFIRMS EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE REGION](#)**

At the European Union-Western Balkans Summit in Brdo pri Kranju, on 6th October 2021, leaders reaffirmed the region's European perspective and commitment to the enlargement...

- **[RESULTS AND DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO THE BRDO SUMMIT](#)**

The Summit came after over 19 months of fighting a pandemic. The EU and its Member States have stood by the Western Balkan partners, demonstrating their solidarity with an unprecedented package of €3....

- **[BRDO DECLARATION, 6 OCTOBER 2021](#)**

The EU-Western Balkans summit took place in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, on 6 October 2021. EU leaders agreed on the Brdo declaration, with which the Western Balkans partners have aligned themselves.

- **[EU - WB COOPERATION IN R&I WEBSITE](#)**

This website provides information on the policy background, latest news, main contacts, funding opportunities and funded initiatives related to the EU - WB R&I cooperation.

• HORIZON EUROPE: LOOKING FORWARD TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- **[THE EU AND WESTERN BALKANS: GROWING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER HORIZON EUROPE](#)**

EU and the Western Balkans collaborate for better opportunities for the near future. Learn more by watching this video...

- **[HORIZON EUROPE - OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS](#)**

EU and the Western Balkans work together for creating new opportunities for SMEs via several funding programs. Find concise information in this short EC video...

- **[PODCAST SERIES: HORIZON EUROPE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS](#)**

In this podcast series by the European Commission, Horizon Europe is explored as one of the world's largest research and innovation programmes. Horizon Europe is the main tool for the European community...

- **[WESTERN BALKANS AND HORIZON EUROPE](#)**

EC publication focusing on Horizon Europe calls and opportunities for the Western Balkans for cooperation with partners in the EU and beyond. Find the flyer here for download

- **[ERASMUS+ 2021-2027 \(FACTSHEET\)](#)**

Enriching lives, opening minds through the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport Erasmus+ mobility has positive effects on educational, social, personal and professional development...

- **[HORIZON EUROPE : APPLY FOR YOUR FUNDING NOW!](#)**

EC Publication on Horizon Europe, the EU's new 7-year framework programme (2021-2027) for research and innovation, represents the most ambitious research and innovation programme ever. Download it ...

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- **[HORIZON EUROPE CALLING SMES!](#)**

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- **[WHY THE NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS HOLD THE KEY TO SUCCESS FOR HORIZON EUROPE](#)**

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- **[ARE YOU A HORIZON EUROPE APPLICANT WHO NEEDS SOME GUIDANCE? HORIZON EUROPE'S NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS CAN HELP YOU](#)**

This EC publication focuses on the Horizon Europe National Contact Points (NCPs), which are an EU support structure that provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation...

- **[GREAT INTEREST IN HORIZON EUROPE - TEAMING FOR EXCELLENCE AND TWINNING WESTERN BALKANS CALLS FOR RESEARCH FUNDING](#)**

A large number of proposals were submitted for the first calls of Horizon Europe - Teaming for Excellence (Stage 1) and Horizon Europe - Twinning for Western Balkans. The deadline for submissions was ...

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The European Commission has published a guidance document on gender equality plans. This guidance document supports organisations to meet the Gender Equality Plan (GEP) eligibility criterion of Horizon...

- **[CELEBRATING SUCCESS STORIES](#)**

- **[CELEBRATING PAST ACHIEVEMENTS OF EU R&I FUNDING FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS \(TESTIMONIALS VIDEO\)](#)**

EU funding has successfully promoted Research and Innovation in the entire Western Balkans region. It fostered excellence and science as well as valuable synergies with EU Member States. At the start ...

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Founded in late 2016 by Prof. Herwig Schopper, former Director General of CERN and initiator of the major SESAME project in Jordan, The Southeast European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies...

- **[IMARECULTURE | ADVANCED VR, IMMERSIVE SERIOUS GAMES AND AUGMENTED REALITY AS TOOLS TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ACCESS TO EUROPEAN UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE](#)**

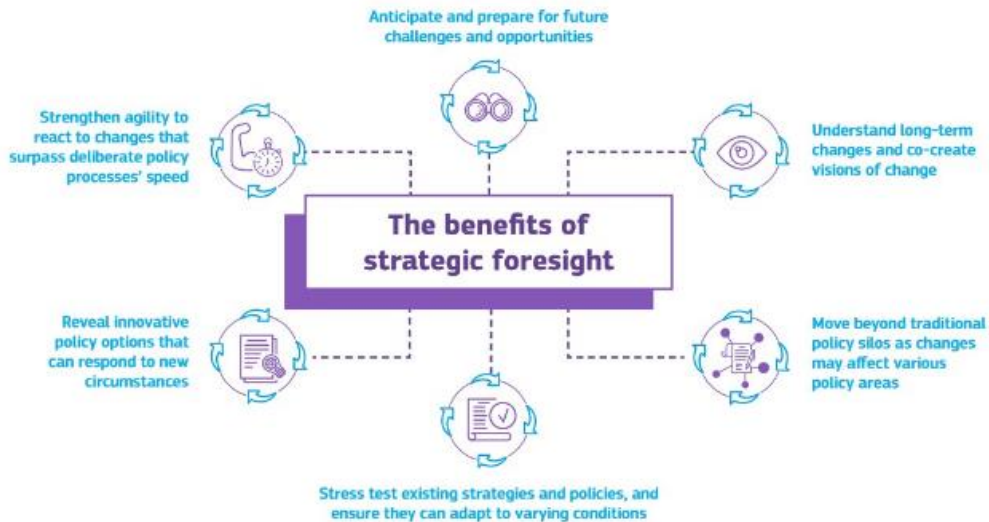
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Strategic Foresight in the Western Balkans: Recovery on the Horizon

A new report by the EC outlines three scenarios on the possible futures of Research and Innovation (R&I) policies in the Western Balkans in 2035. Using a Strategic Foresight approach, the report supports policy-makers in creating an enabling environment for R&I policies to thrive and decide on priorities for strategic investments for the future.



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JRC opens up its Laboratories and Facilities

- [OPEN ACCESS TO JRC RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES](#)**
 The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) opens its scientific laboratories and facilities to people working in academia and research organisations, industry, small and medium enterprises (...)
- [JRC VIDEO: SHARING EU LABORATORIES – CRACKING THE 'MUD BRICK' CHALLENGE](#)**
 This is the story of Dutch researchers who studied adobe 'mud bricks' to better understand how soldiers on peacekeeping missions can be protected using this building material. Find the video here...
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Access to the WBC-RTI.info platform is free of charge. The Platform will be regularly updated this year, with particular focus on one selected theme per month. If you would like to suggest a research topic or promote your R&I project or your research results to over 11,000 interested researchers and policy makers in the Western Balkans and Europe-wide, or if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at office@wbc-rti.info.

INFORMATION SERVICE

The WBC-RTI.info platform acts as a source of high quality targeted information on research, technology and innovation in/with/for the Western Balkan Six. The Platform supports the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkans and is funded by the European Commission (contract № 30-CE-0838742/00-87).



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