



POLICY ANSWERS

R&I POLICY making, implementation AND Support in the WEStErn BalkanS

POLICY ANSWERS is funded by Horizon Europe to support a better integration of the Western Balkans and the bi-regional dialogue on science, innovation, education and culture.

POLICY ANSWERS continues and scales up the common efforts of the European Union and the Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia – for cooperation on Research, Innovation, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. The goal is to ultimately foster stability and prosperity while strengthening the European perspective of the region.

Led by the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) in Vienna and involving 13 partner institutions, the project follows up on the work carried out in various previous initiatives.

* 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.



The Western Balkans Steering Platforms for Research & Innovation and Education & Training have played a central role in stimulating, monitoring and supporting the cooperation on these topics between the European Union Member States, the European Commission and the Western Balkans in EU funded programmes and beyond. A new Platform for Culture is launched along with the project in 2022.

POLICY ANSWERS continues to provide a widely used information hub: from website and social media channels to a monthly newsletter, which provide high-quality targeted information on research, technology and innovation in, with and for the Western Balkans but also touching upon education, culture, youth and sports.

The project runs until 2026 and focuses among others on:

- Organising policy dialogue events such as Ministerial and Steering Platform meetings and ad hoc policy coordination meetings.
- Supplying an information hub and web platform, addressing R&I, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport in the Western Balkans to enable better information sharing, create opportunities for joint actions and bring the Western Balkans closer to EU policy making.
- Carrying out analytical activities such as mapping of relevant institutions,

programmes, initiatives, needs and common priorities in the Western Balkans, and monitoring ongoing activities related to the implementation of the Western Balkans Agenda.

- Designing informed policy recommendations to decision makers in the region, addressing key shared priorities such as digitalisation, green economy and health.
- Implementing regional pilot activities which reach out directly to academia, industry, civil society and policy-makers. Targeted actions will also be taken to increase the visibility of the Western Balkans in the wider European research landscape.

At all stages of the project, special emphasis will be put on the coordination with key stakeholders and international organisations and on the inclusion of so-far underrepresented groups.

With its ambitious and wide-ranging work programme, POLICY ANSWERS will impact on science, economy and society, thus contributing to a faster recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and to the digital and green transitions in the Western Balkans.





Partners



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