



POLICY ANSWERS

Policy Dialogue on Aligning Priorities
in the **Western Balkans**

Vision 2030

Digital / Green / Health Pathways

Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
13 September 2023





Objective



The Conference aims at stimulating a policy dialogue on how to align priorities in the Western Balkans (WB), focusing on policy making, stakeholder engagement and policy implementation tools across three thematic areas: Digital Transformation, Green Deal and Healthy Societies. One of the objectives of the POLICY ANSWERS project is to build bridges between national/regional priorities and EU priorities and to support the inclusion of the WB in relevant EU initiatives and platforms, such as European Partnerships, Missions, and Smart Specialisation platforms, towards a digital, green and healthy future in the WB.

The Conference is set to bring together government representatives from the WB and other key stakeholders, representatives from the European Commission and external experts to address the state of the WB and discuss priorities for the years ahead: the Vision 2030.

It presents an opportunity for professionals to engage in a constructive, forward-looking dialogue and to propose effective solutions and instruments for aligning the WB priorities with EU priorities towards greener, digital and more resilient economies and healthier societies. Through the collaborative approach and the focus on long-term goals, the Conference has the potential to yield a positive outcome and benefit all parties involved.



Scope



After a high-level opening, the policy dialogue's three sessions will discuss EU initiatives and opportunities for the WB, focusing on crucial instruments for achieving sustainable growth in the region.

- **Session 1** is a plenary which provides a snapshot of the WB region and of its pathway to implementing a Digital and Green Agenda and a Health Policy for the wealth of citizens and the development of sustainable economies. The session will also highlight best practices in each WB economy that can serve as a model for the region. The initial findings will serve as a launching point for the next session.
- **Session 2** will be set in a parallel format for each thematic area (Digital, Green and Health) with a focus on the challenges. It will act as a 'door opener', stimulating interactive discussions where all attendees can actively participate and share their insights into the factual findings and challenges presented. This will also include collaborations with European Partnerships, Missions and S3 platforms. The first two sessions will lay the groundwork for the third session, focusing on proposing solutions.
- **Session 3** will also be set in a parallel format, aiming at stimulating discussions among key stakeholders from the WB and the EU. The session's objective is to identify practical solutions and effective instruments for overcoming challenges and promoting the adoption of best practices in the region.

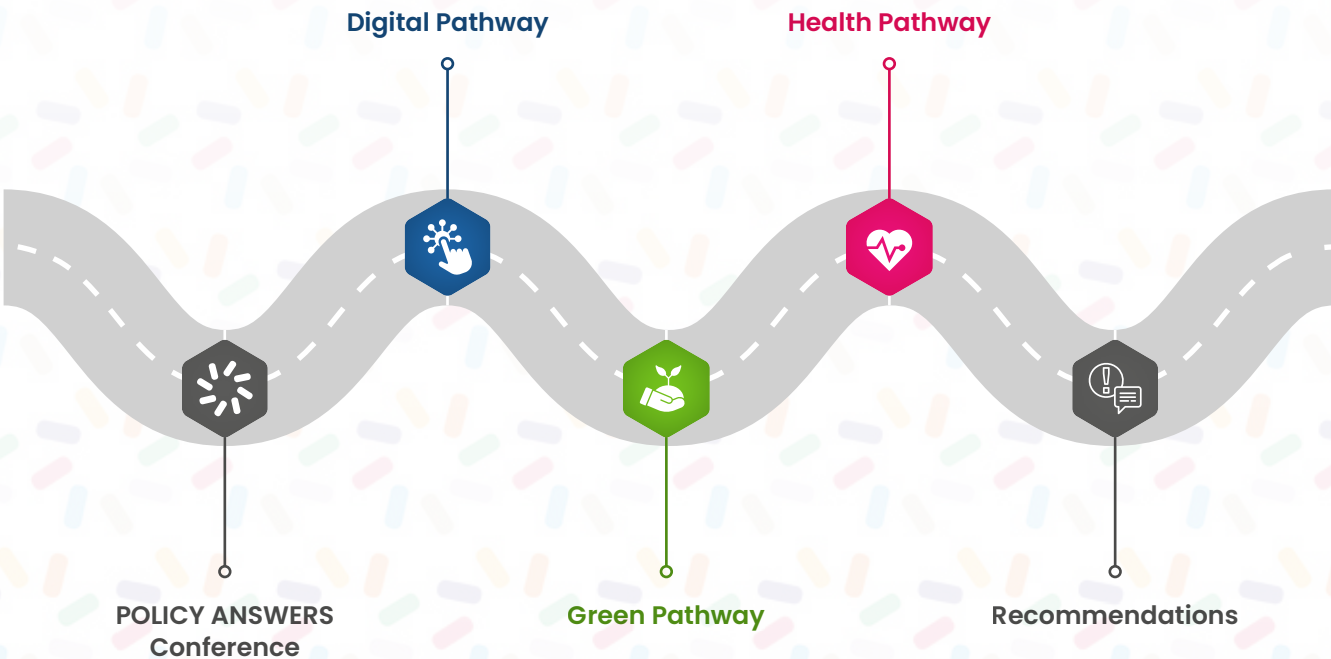
The Concluding Session will be a plenary, providing the floor to the regional experts to reflect on the key takeaways and recommendations that arose from the three sessions. Strategies will be identified to address the challenges encountered within each thematic area.



Outcome



The Conference will stimulate the creation of a roadmap with recommendations for a green and digital transition and new trends in healthcare.





Participation & Registration



The Conference will be open to all relevant actors, namely:

- policy makers
- government officials from the WB
- regional experts
- thematic experts
- representatives of the relevant EU institutions and initiatives such as European Partnerships, JRC
- representatives of regional networks and organisations

The Conference website and registration will be opened by mid-May. The website will be accessible until the end of the project in 2026, serving as a community platform to facilitate interactions among regional actors for the three thematic areas.

Information about the conference will be provided via <https://westernbalkans-infohub.eu/object/event/23992>



Organisation



The organising committee consists of the following representatives:

- **Maja Arslanagic-Kalajdzic** (UNSA, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Milica Bozovic** (STP, Montenegro)
- **Gabriela Kostovska Bogoevska** (MIR, North Macedonia)
- **Elke Dall** (ZSI, Austria)
- **Sanja Damjanovic** (GSI, Germany)
- **Fiorda Llukmani** (ZSI, Austria)
- **Andjela Pepic** (UNBL, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Sanja Popovic** (IMP, Serbia)
- **Andrea Troncoso** (FBLU, Italy)
- **Berna Windischbaur** (FFG, Austria)

Local Organiser:

- **University of Sarajevo** (UNSA)



POLICY ANSWERS ('R&I POLICY making, implementation ANd Support in the WEsteRn Balkans'): General information

POLICY ANSWERS focuses on the research and innovation (R&I) policy and governance systems in the Western Balkans (WB) while also covering the aspects of education, culture, youth and sports. The project monitors and supports policy coordination within the EU-WB cooperation, strengthening the WB potential for successful participation in regional and multilateral research and innovation activities. It promotes regional cooperation in R&I and supports networking and access to information and excellence.

More information about POLICY ANSWERS and its activities is available on the following website: www.westernbalkans-infohub.eu



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.