



2023 Tirana Civil Society and Think Tank Forum

PANEL

“The prospects of mobility driven Research and Innovation: How to strengthen Western Balkans integration into European Research Area?”

15 October 2023

Tirana, Rogner Hotel

13:00 – 14:30

For online participation: Zoom Webinar Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5Gh-B_zWQCG1UqdhUfdi1Q

Panel Description

Research and innovation (R&I) and knowledge transfer in the Western Balkans (WB) have the transformative potential of accelerating sustainable growth and convergence of the WB economies with the EU. This potential can be attained only if the pressing challenges of R&I and mobility-driven innovation in the Western Balkans are addressed timely, in order to catalyze regional cooperation and facilitate integration into the EU, including the European Research Area. Even though the Western Balkans have made significant strides in aligning their R&I ecosystems with EU standards, steadfast support and investment in mobility-driven R&I – both intra-regionally and with the EU – are still needed. Enhanced cooperation and sustained support in mobility-driven R&I are pivotal for equipping the WB6 with the requisite tools and knowledge to address shared challenges, such as climate change and digital transformation, while curbing brain drain and fostering a generation of innovators who can reshape the region's future. This panel discussion will draw from findings of the thematic working group on mobility and reflect on how to strengthen the integration of the region into the European Research Area, ensuring the WB6 not only aligns with, but also actively collaborates with their European peers in pioneering progressive initiatives. Consequently, the commitment from the WB6 Government and the EU to finance and bolster the R&I ecosystem is decisive for the sustained economic growth, societal resilience, and accelerating the integration into European frameworks.

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12:45 – 13:00	Registration
13:00 – 13:05	Welcome remarks Moderated by Elvin Gjevori , PhD, Director General, Parliamentary Institute
13:05 – 13:15	Keynote - National and regional priorities for research and innovation Mrs. Ogerta Manastirliu , Minister of Education and Sports
13:15 – 13:25	Key recommendations on strengthening mobility driven Research and Innovation in Western Balkans Blerjana Bino , Executive Director, SCiDEV Center With comment by Lisa Cowey , Knowledge Transfer Senior Expert, Member of TWG on Mobility
13:25 – 14:10	Panel Discussion: How to strengthen Western Balkans integration into European Research Area? <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bernhard Fabianek, Senior Expert for the Western Balkans, Horizon Europe Association Unit, DG Research and Innovation▪ Sanja Damjanovic, Scientists, GSI Helmholtz Centre for Heavy Ion Research, Darmstadt▪ Lucian Brujan, Berlin Process Coordinator for Education, Science and Innovation, German Academy of Science Leopoldina▪ Linda Pustina, Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of Albania and Head of Albanian S3 Team▪ Anastas Mishev, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University
14:10 – 14:25	Open Discussion
14:25 – 14:30	Concluding Remarks Blerjana Bino , Executive Director, SCiDEV Center