

CONFERENCE

# Policy Dialogue on Aligning Priorities in the Western Balkans



Vision 2030

Pathways: **Digital** • **Green** • **Health** •

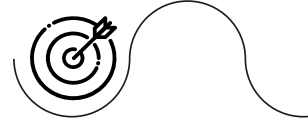
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
13 September 2023

[wbinfohub.eu/conf23](http://wbinfohub.eu/conf23)





# Objective

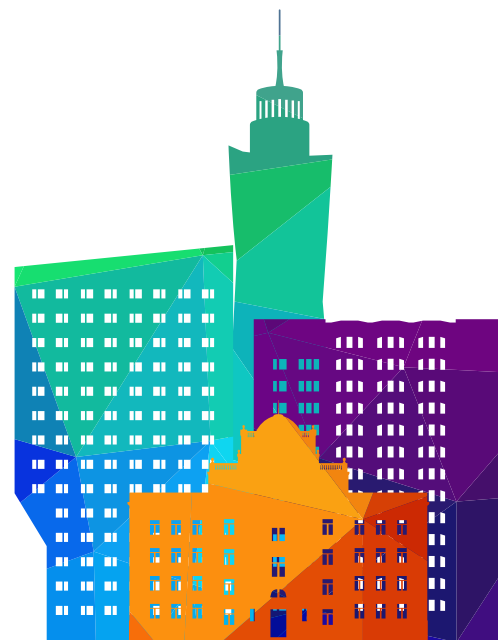


The Conference aims at stimulating a policy dialogue on how to align priorities in the Western Balkans (WB), focusing on policy making, stakeholder engagement and policy implementation tools across three thematic areas: Digital Transformation, Green Deal and Healthy Societies. One of the objectives of 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.

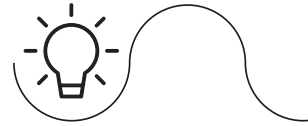
It presents an opportunity for professionals to engage in a constructive, forward-looking dialogue and to propose effective solutions and instruments for aligning the WB priorities with EU priorities towards greener, digital and more resilient economies and healthier societies. Through the collaborative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

Opportunities • Dialogue •  
Solutions • Instruments





# 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.

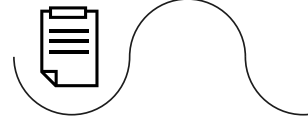
**The Concluding Session** will be a plenary, providing the floor to the regional experts to reflect on the key takeaways and recommendations that arose from the three sessions. Strategies will be identified to address the challenges encountered within each thematic area.

Digital • Green • Health •  
Agenda • Recommendations





# Outcome



By bringing together experts and stakeholders from various fields, the Conference will contribute to the Western Balkans Agenda by serving as a catalyst for ideas and a kickstart for an innovative EU-WB Policy Dialogue Stakeholder Platform. It will boost the creation of a roadmap for a green and digital transition and new trends in healthcare.

## Digital Pathway

## Health Pathway



POLICY ANSWERS  
Conference

Green Pathway

Recommendations





# Participation & Registration



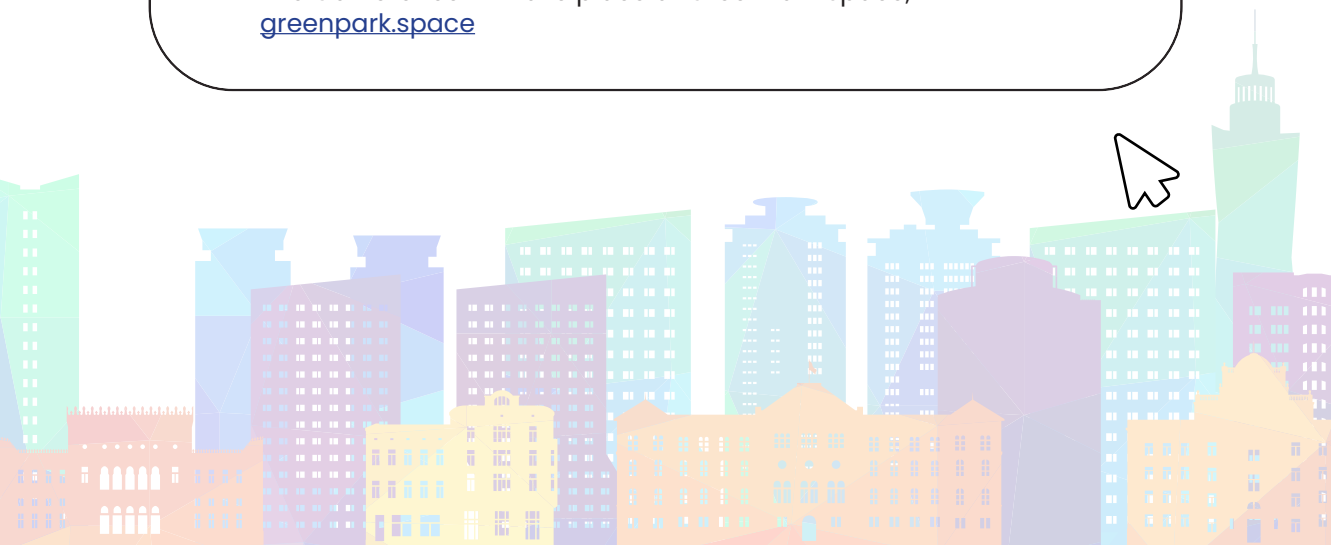
The Conference will be open to all relevant actors, namely:

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

The Conference website, place for registration and updates, is the following: [www.wbinfohub.eu/conf23](http://www.wbinfohub.eu/conf23)

The Conference will launch a community platform which will be accessible throughout the duration of the project until its end in 2026, aiming to facilitate knowledge sharing and interactions among regional actors involved in the three thematic areas.

The Conference will take place at GreenPark Space, [greenpark.space](http://greenpark.space)





# Organisation



The organising committee consists of the following representatives:

- **Maja Arslanagic-Kalajdzic** (UNSA, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Milica Bozovic** (STP, Montenegro)
- **Elke Dall** (ZSI, Austria)
- **Sanja Damjanovic** (GSI, Germany)
- **Alba Domi** (NASRI, Albania)
- **Alban Hashani** (RIINVEST Institute, Kosovo\*)
- **Gabriela Kostovska Bogoevska** (MIR, North Macedonia)
- **Fiorda Llukmani** (ZSI, Austria)
- **Desiree Pecarz** (ZSI, Austria)
- **Andjela Pepic** (UNBL, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Sanja Popovic** (IMP, Serbia)
- **Andrea Troncoso** (FBLU, Italy)
- **Berna Windischbauer** (FFG, Austria)

Local Organiser:

- **University of Sarajevo** (UNSA)



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





## **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-fohub.eu](http://www.westernbalkans-fohub.eu)

