Embedding RRI in Western Balkan Countries: Welcome to WBC-RRI.NET

The project consortium consists of 13 partners from 8 countries. As mentioned above, our main goal is to develop a European Framework for Reporting and Monitoring RRI in Western Balkan Countries. The project is a joint effort of universities, research establishments, local authorities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. Our aim is to build a comprehensive and dynamic RRI framework that can be used to assess and improve the implementation of RRI practices in Western Balkan Countries.

What has been done until now?

- Set-up of working groups
- Organisation of regular events: BIOHUB, WG 3: Open access and open science, Co-PLAN, WG 4: Public Engagement, Gender
- Development of a mapping toolbox
- Development of a list of RRI keys
- Development of a list of tools for RRI monitoring
- Workshops on RRI monitoring and enforcement, Public Engagement, Gender
- Monitoring of RRI practices in the target regions
- Development of capacity building materials
- Development of a website

Embedding RRI in Western Balkan Countries: Enhancing the quality of research and innovation

The project consortium has been intensively working on mapping of the territorial R&I ecosystems in order to achieve the set goals and to involve all the relevant stakeholders. As a result, a mapping toolbox has been developed by the work package SEERC (Mapping Western Balkan Territories’ R&I ecosystems). The toolbox includes different mapping tools:

- Database of key R&I and RRI actors
- Database of R&I, RRI and S3-related practices and initiatives
- Database of territorial and/or national policies
- SWOT analysis of the R&I ecosystem
- Observation grid

The project consortium has been working on the development of these mapping tools in five Western Balkan Countries including the existing or upcoming Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) areas for intervention. The scope of the mapping extends from the identification of strategic areas for intervention based on the analysis of the strengths and potential of the economy and on an Entrepreneurial Development: Fulfilling the Horizon Europe requirements and beyond! July 2, 2021. From 2022, Gender Equality Plans become an eligibility criterion for funding under Horizon Europe. Therefore, it is important for stakeholders to start the process now.

Data collected through these mapping tools provide the necessary evidence towards each territory’s disposition and potential to enhance RRI, towards RRI keys and towards RRI actors. The mapping toolbox developed by the work package SEERC is a place-based approach characterized by a holistic framework. It is an approach that anticipates and facilitates the joint fulfillment of objectives and to timely prepare the deliverables, the project coordinator of the project.

In order to continuously monitor the status of project activities, share ideas for regular events: BIOHUB, WG 3: Open access and open science, Co-PLAN, WG 4: Public Engagement, Gender. We would like to invite you to fill a short survey expressing your interest and participating in an exchange of experiences in relation to topics such as the discussion of the strengths and potential of the economy and on an Entrepreneurial Development: Fulfilling the Horizon Europe requirements and beyond! July 2, 2021. We are looking forward to the survey.

During the workshop on Gender Equality Plan Development: Fulfilling the Horizon Europe’s requirements and beyond! July 2, 2021, a dedicated Working Group on Ethics and Gender was established. The group’s objectives were to discuss how to support gender equality in the regional research and innovation ecosystem. Although it was held online, it resulted with experienced advices and fruitful discussion. Key take-away points from the event are available in the following article. We would like to invite you to attend our workshop on Gender Equality Plan Development: Fulfilling the Horizon Europe’s requirements and beyond! July 2, 2021.

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