

Regional initiatives for open science and open access in the Western Balkans

Monika Petrova

Expert on Human Capital Development

Banja Luka, 22 September 2022

Good.
Better.
Regional.

- **Open science models - a challenge** for researchers and research organisations not only **from the Western Balkans** but also from in the **most parts of the EU**.
- **Sharing of research output** including knowledge, data, and tools **as early as possible** in the Research and Innovation process.
- **Open research infrastructures** are critically important to make scientific knowledge available in a long run.

- The RCC has been supporting the Western Balkans to follow Open Science developments at the EU level.
- In 2017 - regional **Working Group on Open Science** – participation in annual meetings of the Commission expert group on National Points of Reference on Access to and Preservation of Scientific Information at EU level.
- In 2020 - **Open Access Research Infrastructure in the Western Balkans Support Programme**.

- **Tailor-made Open Access policies** for RIs in the Western Balkans – 21 selected RIs in the region to introduce principles of Open Access - the first time that any research organisations in the region developed their OA policies.
- Open Access policies are **essential part of well-functioning research infrastructures** – yet scattered implementation or limited development.
- Developing the Open Science practices in the higher education and public research organizations in the region is still a work in progress.

- RCC brokered a regional agreement on the **Protocol on Open Access to Research Infrastructures in the WB** in 2020.
- Established/regular meetings of the **Network of Open Access Research Infrastructures in the WB** and are planning to provide additional support to kick-start their joint regional actions.
- In 2022 - 1st **joint meeting of the WGs on Research and Innovation and Open Science and the Regional Network of Open Access Research Infrastructures** in the WB.
- Need for enhancing the **sustainable business-academia collaboration** models and promoting the opportunities provided by the **EU funding programs** such as Horizon Europe and Digital Europe, and projects through the EIT, Eureka Network, and COST Association.

- Horizon Europe **Open Science** - a driver for change in the region – one of the EU's top 5 priority initiatives
- Western Balkans need to catch up and line its projects with the Open Science to acquire EU funds
- **European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) ; National Initiatives for Open Science in Europe (NI4OS)**, the consolidated **Open Research Europe (ORE)** publishing platform
- **UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science**

- The region's R&I community requires **targeted efforts**, in particular through practical support actions to empower local R&I teams and promote their efforts regionally.
- To encourage the growth of the region's R&I ecosystem we have designed several promotional tools such as regional **Butterfly Innovation & Business Forum** and **Butterfly Innovation Award**.
- RCC launched the website BalkanInnovation.com - information about existing and future opportunities (funding initiatives, projects).

Reach out to us to promote your projects, initiatives, and success stories with regional dimension. We will gladly promote your interesting journeys related to Open Science and more broadly in the field of research & innovation.



Thank you!

Regional Cooperation Secretariat
Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1/V
71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: +387 33 561 700
Fax: +387 33 561 701
Mob: +387 61 190 601

www.rcc.int
Twitter: @rccint
Facebook: RegionalCooperationCouncil
YouTube: RCCSec