

“Cultivating Excellence towards a Shared European Administrative Space: Connecting the Western Balkans and Italian Administration through the Public Servants Capacity Building and Mobility Programme”

Launching Conference and Induction Day

3 April 2024

Podgorica, Montenegro
Hotel CUE
(Cetinjska 7, The Capital Plaza)

The Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the National School of Administration (SNA), is pleased to launch the forthcoming Western Balkans Public Servants Capacity Building and Mobility Programme.

This initiative aims to provide a platform for over 55 dedicated public servants from the region to participate in a comprehensive series of intensive training modules. Additionally, participants will engage in study visits and exchanges with various Italian institutions. The primary objectives encompass fostering learning, sharing experiences, and cultivating familiarity with Italian and EU administrative practices, while also enhancing relationships with practitioners from an EU Member State, such as Italy. The Programme will concentrate on several pivotal areas, including policy development and coordination, regulatory improvement, European integration and accession, and digital transformation.

Each stream of the Programme will feature two distinct training modules, one held in Podgorica, Montenegro, and the other at the SNA Campus in Caserta, Italy. The modules will be complemented by two-day study visits to Italian institutions, facilitating knowledge exchange among participants and their Italian counterparts. The Programme will commence with an opening conference in Podgorica on April 3, 2024, followed by a closing conference in Italy during the autumn. Additionally, an online session in summer will convene all participants to delve into topics of "horizontal interest," such as artificial intelligence in public sector and green public administration, which will further enrich the programme. The Launching Conference will be followed by the first modules for each stream of the programme, which will be simultaneously held in Podgorica, on 4 – 5 April 2024.

The initiative is funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The participants of this programme, along with participants of another ReSPA-facilitated regional mobility scheme, will become a part of the WB Alumni Community – an important expertise & resource pool and platform for peer learning.

The Launching Conference will gather approximately 54 selected participants (public servants), representatives from Western Balkans, Ambassadors of Western Balkans administrations and Italy stationed in Montenegro, the EU Delegation to Montenegro, representatives of the Italian MFA, the Italian SNA, and ReSPA.

Provisional Agenda:

10.00 – 10.30	<p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Maida GORCEVIC, Minister of European Affairs, Montenegro Mr. Marash DUKAJ, Minister of Public Administration of Montenegro H.E. Ms. Andreina MARSELLA, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to Montenegro H.E. Ambassador Massimo GAIANI, Head of the European and International Affairs, Scuola Nazionale dell'Amministrazione (SNA) Ms. Maja HANDJISKA-TRENDAFILOVA, ReSPA Director
10:30 – 10:35	Interactive video – introducing the components of the programme and the next phases
10:35 – 11:15	<i>Family photo followed by networking coffee break</i>
11.15 – 11:30	<p>Keynote intervention:</p> <p>Impact benefits of Mobility and Knowledge Exchange in the public sector, also in view of gradual integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kjartan Björnsson, Deputy Director & Head of Unit for Public Administration and Governance, DG REFORM, European Commission
11:30 – 11:35	<p>Testimonial:</p> <p>Experience with EU-supported Public Servants' Mobility Scheme in the Western Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genti Xhaxhiu, ReSPA Programme Coordinator
11.35 – 11.55	<p>Impulse intervention:</p> <p>Unlocking Potential: Public sector capacities in view of EU integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ana Krstinovska, researcher and author
11.55 – 12.45	<p><i>World Café: Expectations and Opportunities of the Capacity Building and Mobility Programme</i></p> <p>Three parallel round tables will be organized simultaneously (one for each stream of the programme) to present the main elements of the programme and to discuss expectations that participants have, as well as potential topics of interest.</p>
12.45	The way forward and concluding remarks
12.50 – 13.30	Light lunch and refreshments - networking