ReSPA Regional Academy on the Evidence-Informed Policymaking Process

The fourth module
"Policy Making in a Digital World"

Provisional Programme and Agenda

24 – 26 September 2024, Ohrid, North Macedonia

Background

The Regional Academy on the evidence-informed policymaking process is ReSPA's initiative aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policymaking in Western Balkan public administrations. The Academy prioritizes strengthening cooperation with national governmental authorities and academic communities, increasing the involvement of national host institutions, and offering extended, comprehensive learning programs. It also emphasizes providing opportunities for highly participatory engagement from attendees representing national institutions.

The primary goal of the Academy is to further enhance the capacity of civil servants in evidence-informed policymaking and to deepen their knowledge of methods and tools that increase the efficiency of complex policy planning. Additionally, harmonizing policy planning approaches across the Western Balkan region will facilitate a better understanding of common problems, more precise solution definitions, and rigorous preparation of ReSPA Members for full EU integration. The Academy aims to improve participants' knowledge and professional skills related to the evidence-informed policymaking process and provides opportunities for networking with colleagues from the region.

ReSPA organized the first module "Introduction to Policymaking" from October 18-21, 2022, in Novi Sad, Serbia. This module bridged theory and practice, covering key elements and stages of the policy cycle, from agenda setting and formulation to decision-making, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and policy learning. The second module, held from June 5-8, 2023 in Bar, Montenegro, focused on monitoring and evaluating public policies. Both modules were conducted in collaboration with national academic and governmental institutions. The first module introduced the policy cycle and policymaking process, while the second concentrated on policy monitoring and evaluation.

The third module, "Policy and Budget," took place from April 2-5, 2024, in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. It aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the connections between policy and budget planning, highlight the significance of financial planning for policy implementation, and provide practical tools for costing and budgeting policy documents. This module also featured case studies from Bosnia and Herzegovina and explored various budgeting approaches, including gender budgeting.

Following the successful realization of the first three modules, ReSPA is organizing the fourth one, focusing on the usage of digital tools in public policy development and coordination. The fourth module of the Regional Academy on evidence-informed policymaking will be held in Ohrid, North Macedonia from 24 – 26 September 2024. The concrete objectives of the fourth module "Policy Making in a Digital World" are:

- Introduce advanced analytical tools and techniques to collect, manage, and analyze data for informed policymaking;
- Improve understanding of e-government platforms for enhancing citizen engagement and participation in the policymaking process;
- Introduce platforms for coordination and monitoring of the policy implementation.
- Provide practical examples of the usage of digital tools in public policy development and coordination in North Macedonia, Western Balkans and EU Member States;
- Build connections among participants for future regional cooperation.

This module of the Academy will again bring together representatives of governmental institutions, mid to senior-level professionals with experience in policymaking, actively participating in policy planning government coordination institutions and line ministries.

Provisional Agenda

Tuesday, 24 September 2024

08:40 – 09:00	*Registration and welcome coffee*
09:00 – 09:20	**Opening remarks** • Minister Goran Mincev, Ministry of Public Administration • Maja Handjiska Trendafilova, Director of ReSPA
9:20 – 9:30	Group Photo
9:30 – 10:15	**Presentation of participants and lecturers** • Jelena Mrdak, Programme Manager, ReSPA • Brief tour de table
10:15 – 10:45	**Public policy cycle in North Macedonia** • Suzana Nikodijevic Filipovska, General Secretariat of the Government
10:45 - 11:15	*Coffee break*
11:15 – 11:45	**PAR Strategy 2023-2030 priorities related to the policy development process** • Esma Adilovic Fazlic, Ministry of Public Administration
11:45 – 12:45	**eGovernance in North Macedonia and lessons learned** • Miroslav Grozdanovski, Ministry of Digital Transformation • Stanislav Vasilkovski, Ministry of Digital Transformation
12:45 – 13:15	**E-Government Platforms for Citizen Engagement** • Gordana Gapic Dimitrovska, Ministry of Public Administration
13:15 – 14:30	*Networking lunch*
14:30 – 15:00	**IT tool for Monitoring of the PAR Strategy 2023-2030** • Martin Todevski, ReSPA expert • Esma Adilovic Fazlic, Ministry of Public Administration
15:00 – 16:00	**2024 SIGMA Monitoring Reports: Key principles and selected preliminary findings in the area of policy development and coordination (PDC)** • Bagrat Tunyan, SIGMA

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

08:40 – 09:00	*Registration and welcome coffee*
09:00 – 09:15	**The main takeaways of the first day and expected results from the second day** Tour de table and discussion
09:15 – 10:30	**Digital Tools for Data Collection and Analysis: Advanced analytical tools and techniques to collect, manage, and analyze data for informed policymaking** Tour de table and discussion • Gerli Õunapuu, Estonia Statistics, Republic of Estonia
10:30 – 11:00	*Coffee break*
11:00 – 12:45	**eDemocracy platforms for enhancing citizen engagement and participation in the policymaking process** Tour de table and discussion • Marten Lauri, Adviser, Strategy Unit, Government Office, Republic of Estonia • Mihaela Bošnir, Assistant Head of the Office, Legislation Office, Republic of Croatia
12:45 – 13:00	**Q&A session**
13:00 – 14:30	*Networking lunch*
14:30 – 15:00	**Platforms for coordination and monitoring of the policy implementation** Tour de table and discussion
15:00 – 15:30	**Result-Based Management by Centers of Government** • Iskra Belcheva, Center for Change Management
15:30- 16:00	**Academic perspective on the usage of digital tools in policymaking** • Goce Armenski, PhD, Professor, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering, "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University, Skopje
16:30	*Sightseeing Ohrid*

Thursday, 26 September 2024

08:40 – 09:00	*Registration and welcome coffee*
09:00 – 09:45	**Digital Ready Policies – Legislation for smoother implementation** • Bojana Bajić, Public Policies Innovations and Digitalization Officer, ReSPA
9:45 – 11:30	**World Caffe discussion on key challenges in the area of policy development and coordination** *Table 1: Enhancing Government Planning and Monitoring* *Table 2: Improving Inter-institutional Coordination* *Table 3: Enhancing Evidence-Based Policy Making* *Table 4: Engaging Citizens and Stakeholders Effectively* *Table 5: Capacity Building for Policymakers*
11:30 – 12:00	*Coffee break*
12:00 – 12:45	**Rapporteurs inform the plenary on the main takeaways of each World Caffee round table**
12:45 – 13:00	**Wrap-up Session / Questions and Answers / Discussion of open questions** • Jelena Mrdak, Programme Manager, ReSPA
13:00 – 14:30	*Networking lunch*
	End of the fourth module of the Regional Academy