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

DAY I, 24 September 2024 (Tuesday)

08:40 – 09:00	*Registration and welcome coffee*
09:00 – 09:20	**Introduction to the goals of the Academy and the fourth module** • Maja Handjiska Trendafilova, Director of ReSPA • Member of the ReSPA Governing Board • Delegation of EU in North Macedonia, TBC
09:20 – 09:45	**Presentation of participants and lecturers** • Overview of the Module Objectives and Agenda • Brief Tour de Table moderated by Jelena Mrdak, Programme Manager, ReSPA
09:45 – 10:30	**Public policy cycle in North Macedonia** • General Secretariat of the Government
10:30 - 11:00	*Coffee break*
11:00 – 11:45	**PAR Strategy 2023-2030 priorities related to policy development** • Ministry of Public Administration, North Macedonia
11:45 – 12:15	**eGovernance in North Macedonia** • Ministry of Digital Transformation
12:15 – 12:45	**E-Government Platforms for Citizen Engagement** • Case Studies from North Macedonia
12:45 – 13:00	**Q&A session**
13:00 – 14:30	*Networking lunch*
14:30 – 15:15	**IT tool for Monitoring of the PAR Strategy 2023-2030** • Ministry of Digital Transformation • Martin Todevski, ReSPA expert
15:15 – 16:00	**Lessons learned from using digital tools in North Macedonia** • Ministry of Digital Transformation

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DAY II, 25 September 2024 (Wednesday)

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 – 10:00	**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 • ReSPA expert
10:00 – 10:30	**How to derive actionable insights from big data** • ReSPA expert
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 • ReSPA expert
12:45 – 13:00	**Q&A session**
13:00 – 14:30	*Networking lunch*
14:30 – 15:30	**Platforms for coordination and monitoring of the policy implementation.** Tour de table and discussion • ReSPA expert
15:30- 16:00	**Future trends and innovations in policymaking** • ReSPA expert
17:00	*Sightseeing Ohrid*

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DAY III, 26 September 2024 (Thursday)

08:40 – 09:00	*Registration and welcome coffee*
09:00 – 09:15	**The main takeaways of the second day** Tour de table and discussion
09:15 – 09:45	**SIGMA monitoring reports: preliminary findings in the area of policy development and coordination** • SIGMA
09:45 – 10:15	**Digital Ready Policies – Legislation for smoother implementation** • Bojana Bajić, Public Policies Innovations and Digitalization Officer in ReSPA
10:15 – 10:45	*Coffee break*
10:45 – 12:00	**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*
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