

## **From Innovation to Implementation - Regulatory Innovation and Sandboxes**

**25-26 May 2026**

**Podgorica**

The event, led by ReSPA, will represent a significant milestone in advancing coordinated regional efforts to translate digital innovation into the practical implementation of eGovernment solutions across the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership. It will position itself as a results-oriented platform aimed not only at knowledge exchange, but at enabling concrete institutional action and scalable transformation.

It will convene policymakers, senior public administration officials, digital transformation practitioners, and international experts to explore how regulatory innovation, artificial intelligence (AI), and emerging technologies can be systematically and responsibly applied to modernise governance frameworks, optimise administrative processes, and enhance public service delivery. Beyond dialogue, the event will actively facilitate peer learning, cross-country collaboration, and the identification of actionable pathways for implementation, with a clear focus on translating concepts into operational solutions.

A strong emphasis will be placed on ReSPA's continuous and structured support to digital transformation in the region. This will include the presentation and practical demonstration of its core instruments and capacity-building mechanisms. In particular, the eGOV Pilots methodology will be highlighted as a key tool for guiding public institutions through the full cycle of service transformation—from problem definition and user research, through ideation and prototyping, to testing and deployment of fully functional digital services. In parallel, broader thematic areas will be addressed, including AI governance frameworks, interoperability and data exchange, open data ecosystems, digital skills development, and trust services. Through these components, the event will further strengthen ReSPA's role as a regional enabler of structured, user-centric, and implementation-focused digital reform.

Day 1 will establish the strategic, policy, and conceptual foundations necessary for accelerating government transformation. The programme will begin with an overview of regional digital transformation priorities and ReSPA's support instruments, situating the discussion within broader public administration reform agendas. Particular attention will be given to enabling conditions for innovation, including governance models, institutional readiness, and regulatory frameworks.

A central component of the first day will be a dedicated workshop on responsible and ethical AI in the public sector. This session will guide participants through key principles such as transparency, accountability, human oversight, and risk-based approaches, while also addressing alignment with European regulatory developments. Participants will engage in practical exercises and case-based discussions to better understand how these principles can be operationalised within public administration contexts.

The day will conclude with a high-level panel discussion focused on building efficient, seamless, and user-centric public services. Panelists will share concrete experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in redesigning services around citizen needs, leveraging digital tools and data-driven approaches. The discussion will aim to bridge policy ambition with implementation realities, highlighting both opportunities and constraints.

Day 2 will shift the focus towards practical application, implementation, and scaling of digital solutions. The programme will emphasise how governments can move beyond pilot initiatives and experimentation towards sustainable, institutionalised digital services.

A key highlight of the second day will be the hands-on workshop on AI regulatory sandboxes. This session will provide participants with in-depth insights into the design and operationalisation of sandbox environments, where innovative solutions can be safely tested under controlled regulatory conditions. The workshop will demonstrate how sandboxes can serve as a bridge between innovation and compliance, enabling institutions to experiment with AI while ensuring adherence to ethical and legal standards.

This will be complemented by regional exchange sessions showcasing experiences and initiatives from the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership. Participants will present ongoing efforts, share challenges, and identify opportunities for collaboration, particularly in areas such as AI adoption, digital service delivery, and institutional capacity building.

The day will conclude with a keynote session addressing the acceleration of public administration transformation in an era of rapid technological change. This will be followed by a structured reflection session, where key insights, lessons learned, and priorities for follow-up actions will be consolidated. The session will aim to define concrete next steps, including opportunities for continued regional cooperation, pilot development, and targeted capacity-building interventions.

The event will reinforce the central role of ReSPA in supporting digital transformation across the region. It will lay the groundwork for a more systematic, hands-on, and impact-driven approach, enabling public administrations to transition from isolated innovation efforts to tangible, scalable, and sustainable implementation of digital public services.

## Agenda

**Day 1 - Monday, 25 May 2026**

### Responsible AI, Emerging Technologies, and Acceleration of Government Transformation

Start	End	Session
09:00	09:30	Registration and Welcome Coffee
09:30	09:45	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>Welcome by host institution / ReSPA / SIGMA / OECD</p> <p>Objectives of the session and expected outcomes</p>
09:45	11:00	<p><b>Presentation of ReSPA Instruments of Support and the GTA Programme</b></p> <p>Presentation of the ReSPA instruments of support - eGOV Pilot</p> <p>Presentation about enablers to accelerate reforms in government</p> <p>This session will present how ReSPA will support institutions through the eGOV Pilot methodology and highlight the key institutional, regulatory, and technological enablers needed to accelerate digital transformation and public administration reform.</p> <p>Bruno MONTEIRO, SIGMA/OECD</p> <p>Bojana Bajic, ReSPA</p>
11:00	11:15	Coffee Break
11:15	13:15	<p><b>Workshop Session: Responsible and Ethical AI in Public Administration</b></p> <p>The workshop will introduce the core principles of ethical AI, fairness, transparency, and accountability from a public sector perspective, while examining risks and the implications of the EU AI Act, including its risk-based approach, obligations for public administrations, and requirements for high-risk systems, as well as the role of AI regulatory sandboxes in enabling safe experimentation.</p> <p>Idoia Salazar, ReSPA Expert</p>
13:15	13:30	Networking and Informal Discussion
13:30	14:30	Lunch
14:30	16:00	<p><b>AI and Emerging Technologies in Public Administration across the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership</b></p> <p>This session will provide an overview of how AI and emerging technologies are being adopted across public administrations in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership, highlighting key initiatives, challenges, and</p>

		<p>opportunities for innovation. In addition, the session will underline the importance of upskilling and reskilling through formal and non-formal education, including initiatives such as MAGIX, to ensure that public administrations are equipped with the necessary competencies to implement and sustain digital transformation.</p> <p>Bruno MONTEIRO, SIGMA/OECD Expert</p> <p>Bojana Bajic, ReSPA</p> <p>Goran Pastrovic, AI4GOV-X partner</p>
16:00	16:30	Closing Discussion and Key Takeaways

## Day 2 - Tuesday, 26 May 2026

### From Experimentation to Better Digital Public Services

Start	End	Session
09:00	09:30	Welcome Coffee and Recap of Day 1
09:30	12:30	<p><b>Workshop Session: AI Regulatory Sandbox in Practice (Spain and EU)</b></p> <p>This interactive workshop will provide practical insights into the design and implementation of AI regulatory sandboxes, drawing on experiences from Spain and the broader EU context, including alignment with the EU AI Act. Participants will explore how sandbox environments enable public administrations to safely test and validate AI solutions under controlled conditions, while ensuring compliance with legal and ethical standards. Through real-life examples and guided discussions, the session will highlight key steps, governance models, and lessons learned for establishing and operationalising sandboxes as a tool to bridge innovation and regulation in the public sector.</p> <p>Coffee will be served in the meeting room</p> <p>Idoia Salazar, ReSPA Expert</p>
12:30	13:30	<p><b>The Road Towards Highly Efficient, Seamless, and Simplified Public Services</b></p> <p>This session will explore how public administrations can redesign services to be more efficient, user-centric, and seamlessly integrated across institutions, leveraging digital technologies, data, and interoperable systems. It will highlight practical approaches, real-world examples, and key enablers, including governance, process simplification, digital identity, and initiatives such as AI4GOV-X and regulatory sandboxes, to support the transition towards fully accessible, streamlined, and high-quality public service delivery.</p> <p>Idoia Salazar, ReSPA Expert</p> <p>Milica Jankovic, ReSPA Expert</p> <p>Goran Pastrovic, AI4GOV-X partner</p>
13:30	14:30	Lunch
14:30	16:00	<p><b>Keynote Speaker: Accelerating Public Administrations and Enabling Government Transformation</b></p> <p>This session will explore how public administrations can accelerate digital transformation and drive systemic change by combining strategic leadership, innovation, and the effective use of digital technologies.</p> <p>Bruno MONTEIRO, SIGMA/OECD Expert</p>

16:00	16:30	<b>Closing Discussion and Key Takeaways</b>  Main insights from both days  Opportunities for follow-up cooperation
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