



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

BUILDING TOGETHER
GOVERNANCE FOR THE FUTURE

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON POLICY CO-ORDINATION WITH THE INAUGURATION OF THE NETWORK OF POLICY CO-ORDINATORS IN WESTERN BALKANS

18-19 October 2021, Tivat, Montenegro
Provisional Programme and Agenda

Venue: Regent Porto Montenegro

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Background

In order to enable governments to plan and execute well-defined policies, it is essential to ensure that a policy development cycle is well-structured and comprehensively established.

The complexity of governance can be seen as the need to interlink various problems and policies faced by governments. Therefore, policy coordination is a more and more important topic for improvement. This is led by the need to ensure whole-of-government coordination to mitigate and diminish existing divergences between sectoral priorities and policies objectively.

Governments of Western Balkan countries have developed important steps in establishing a fundamental legal and institutional framework for improved coordination of various public policies. Besides this, the policy coordination includes the specific structures, responsibilities, mandates and capacities of these structures to carry out these responsibilities. At the same time, the governments still need to develop (and implement) more effective and inclusive methodological frameworks, institutional mechanisms to address policy interactions and coordination across sectors within the government.

ReSPA Programme of work 2020-2021 defined the objective to contribute to a more efficient implementation of public administration reform in the region by strengthening policy coordination, especially the coordination among PAR and PFM strategies. Following that, in 2020, ReSPA engaged an international expert to develop the Analytical paper on Policy coordination in Western Balkans. The study is available on the ReSPA web site: <https://www.respaweb.eu/25/research#par-Z>. As the follow up of this study, ReSPA experts developed six national analytical documents which provided in-depth analyses of policy coordination systems and processes in each of Western Balkan administration. These studies present the strategic, legal and institutional aspects of coordination of public policies, with thoroughly explained the role of the most relevant public administration institutions in improving coordination among public policies. The important segment of these analyses is the set of policy recommendations that were discussed at specific national workshops organized from June till October 2021. At these workshops participated all together more than a hundred high and mid-level public servants involved in policy coordination.

These actions were preconditions for establishing the network of policy coordinators in Western Balkans. This network will connect the most important public servants and officials responsible for implementing the government role in policy coordination and its various aspects - coordination of PAR and PFM, coordination of European integration tasks, EU *acquis* alignment, IPA III assistance etc. The inaugural meeting of the Network of Policy coordinators in Western Balkan will be organized at the end of the Regional Conference on Policy Co-ordination which will be organized in Tivat (Montenegro) on 18-19 October 2021.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY I: Monday, 18 October 2021

08.45	<i>Welcome coffee and registration of participants</i>
09.15 – 09.20	Welcoming speech <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ratka Sekulovic, ReSPA Director• EC representative (TBC)• SIGMA representative (TBC)
09.20 – 09.35	Opening of the Conference by setting the agenda and introduction of ReSPA focus on policy coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dragan Djuric, Programme Manager Coordinator, ReSPA• Gentian Xhaxhiu, Programme Manager (Legal), ReSPA
09.35 – 11.35	Session 1: Comparison of the legislative and institutional framework for policy coordination in Western Balkans administrations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• External ReSPA Expert: Nevila Como• Representative of Serbia: Ninoslav Kekic, Assistant Director of Public Policy Secretariat• Representative of Prime Minister Office of Albania (TBC) <i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i>
10.35 – 11.05	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.05 – 13.00	Session 2: Assessment: Strategic planning and mid-term planning Western Balkans administrations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• External ReSPA Expert Azra Becirovic• Representative Montenegro: Bojana Boskovic, ERP Coordinator, Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare• Representative of BiH: Nijaz Avdukic, Assitant Director Development Programming Institute of FBiH <i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i>
13.00 – 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>

14.30 – 15.45	<p>Session 3: Examples of the coordination of PAR and PFM strategies in Western Balkans administrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External ReSPA Experts: Magdalena Shaldeva • Representative of Ministry of Information Society and Administration, North Macedonia: TBC • Representative of Albania: Integrated Planning System in Albania (TBC) • Representative of Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Serbia: Ljiljana Uzelac (online) • Representative of BiH: Jelena Popovic, Assistant Minister for Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy, Ministry of Finance of Republic of Srpska <p><i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i></p>
15.45 – 16.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.15 – 16.30	Wrap-up and closing of Day I
19.30	<i>Social gathering</i>

DAY II: Tuesday, 19 September 2021

09.15	Welcome coffee and registration of participants
09.30 – 09.40	Recap of Day I
09.40 – 10.30	<p>Session 4: Coordination of EU integration process, EU <i>acquis</i> alignment, IPA III assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of RCC: Tanja Miscevic, Deputy Secretary General • External ReSPA Expert: Demush Sasha • Experience from Montenegro, Marko Mrdak, Deputy Chief Negotiator for the EU Acquis Chapters • Experience from Albania (TBC) • Experience from North Macedonia (TBC) <p>Following by questions, answers and discussion</p>
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.00	<p>Session 5: Capacity development for policy coordination, comparison of experiences, presentation of the successful practise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External ReSPA Expert: Marko Savic • Representatives of Montenegro: Almedina Vukic, Assistant Secretary-General of the Government - Head of Department for Coordination, Monitoring Harmonisation and Implementation of Strategies Establishing Public Policies <p>Following by questions, answers and discussion</p>
12.00 – 12.30	<p>Session 6: How civil society see Policy coordination in Western Balkans?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milena Lazarevic, ReSPA external expert • The promotional film on Policy Coordination developed by Weber project
12.30 – 13.00	<p>Session 7: How to strengthen policy coordination? Future expectation of the Regional Network of Policy Coordinators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dragan Djuric, Programme Manager Coordinator, ReSPA • Gentian Xhaxhiu, Programme Manager (Legal), • SIGMA representative <p>Following by questions, answers and discussion</p>
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch and the End of the Conference
14.30 – 15.00	Inauguration of the Regional Network of Policy Coordinators