



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

BUILDING TOGETHER
GOVERNANCE FOR THE FUTURE

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATED PLANNING PROCESS IN WESTERN BALKANS

19-20 October 2021, Vienna, Austria
Provisional Programme and Agenda

Venue: [Co-Innovation Factory](#)

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are funded by the
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Background

The recently developed draft ReSPA study provides a comparative analysis of the integrated planning systems in Western Balkan administrations. It covers the planning system's strategic, legal, and institutional aspects. This analysis thoroughly explains public administration institutions' role in improving the integrated planning process, provides benchmarks from the EU countries and highlights good practices from the Western Balkans. Therefore, in view of the importance of integrated policy planning and the latest regional overview on this topic, ReSPA is organizing a regional conference devoted to the presentation of its draft findings and discussion on the potential actions and solutions for the improvement of the systems and practices of strategic planning in Western Balkans. The Conference is organized in close cooperation with experts from OECD/SIGMA, leveraging on the broader perspective and additional aspects of the interconnection of policy and budgetary planning processes.

The strategic planning processes function in different countries in different ways. Obviously, the workable solutions depend on both political and administrative culture, traditions, size and government model, as well as administrative capacity to deliver. Having all that in mind, there are key components that need to be in place for the system to function:

- Legal framework that sets the rules of the game and provides framework and guidance to all bodies involved in the strategic planning process;
- Coordinating institutions that have a mandate to steer and guide the process;
- Key planning documents enabling the translation of the vision into whole-of-the Government plans, being these plans annual, multi-annual or long term;
- Defined and manageable sectoral planning system that enables linking the sectoral plans with central plans and is inclusive;
- Necessary minimum capacity at the central level and the ministries to keep the system running and constantly improve it.

The administrations in Western Balkans (like elsewhere) have approached the issues related to integrated planning system and process differently. However, the study recognized several common challenges in ensuring a well-functioning strategic planning system. They are:

- Linking policy planning with financial planning is still one of the key challenges. Several administrations are using rather medium-term financial projections than medium-term budget programming, there is a vague link between policy and financial priorities, work plans and horizontal strategies are not costed and the same applies for many sectoral strategies.
- The overall hierarchy of the strategic planning documents should be further improved. Only a few administrations have long-term horizontal umbrella strategies that could be cascaded down to sectoral strategies in terms of priorities and targets.
- The same applies to sectoral strategies development, where the system is illustrated by a large number of different types of strategies that are not linked with central planning documents. Coordination capacity for developing sectoral strategies and aligning sectoral policy development with Government priorities is underdeveloped in most administrations. The line ministries strategic planning structures don't exist or are small in staff numbers.

- The integrated planning system in Western Balkans would also benefit from more robust and transparent monitoring, where monitoring reports would be compiled regularly for all strategies (both horizontal and sectoral) and also published.
- Legal framework is often applied inconsistently due to the capacity constraints, both at the Centre of the Government and in the line-ministries.

Potential ways for improvement of IPA will be discussed at the regional conference on integrated planning system. Through the joint organization of this conference ReSPA and OECD/SIGMA aim to enlightened existing practices in comparative way highlighting bottlenecks and well workable solutions.

The regional conference will be organized on **19-20 October 2023 in Vienna (Austria)**.



PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY I: Thursday, 19 October 2023

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| 08.45 | Welcome coffee and registration of participants |
| 09.15 – 09.20 | Short video on ReSPA activities in the area of Policy Development and Coordination |
| 9.20 – 9.40 | Welcoming speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maja Handjiska Trendafilova, ReSPA Director• EC representative (online) TBC• Bagrat Tunyan, OECD/SIGMA representative |
| 09.40 – 09.45 | Opening of the Conference by setting the agenda and introduction of ReSPA focus on policy development and coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dragan Djuric, Programme Manager, ReSPA |
| 9.45 – 10.30 | Presentation of the main results of the Study on Integrated planning systems in Western Balkans <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keit Kasemets, ReSPA expert <i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i> |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | Coffee break |
| 11.00 – 11.45 | Panel 1: Comparison of the legislative and institutional framework for Integrated planning systems in Western Balkans administrations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated by Gentian Xhaxhiu, ReSPA Programme Coordinator• <i>Panellists: ReSPA experts and government representatives</i> <i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i> |
| 11.45 – 12.30 | Panel 2: Government planning documents development process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated by Keit Kasemets, ReSPA Expert (TBC)• <i>Panellists: ReSPA experts and government representatives</i> <i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i> |
| 12.30 – 13.15 | Panel 3: Planning for the European integration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated by Gentian Xhaxhiu, Programme Coordinator, ReSPA• <i>Panellists: ReSPA experts and government representatives</i> <i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i> |
| 13.15 – 14.45 | Lunch |

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| 14.45 – 15.45 | <p>Revised public administration principles for policy development and coordination and selected indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bagrat Tunyan, Senior Policy Advisor, OECD/SIGMA <p><i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i></p> |
| 15.45 – 16.00 | Wrap-up and closing of Day I |
| 20.00 | <i>Social gathering</i> |

DAY II: Friday, 20 October 2023

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| 10.00 | <i>Welcome coffee and registration of participants</i> |
| 10.30 – 10.45 | Recap of Day I |
| 10.45 – 11.30 | <p>How to improve policy planning with budgeting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egle Rimkute, OECD/SIGMA representative <p><i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i></p> |
| 11.30 – 12.00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 12.00 – 12.45 | <p>Connection between government legislative planning for effective parliamentary scrutiny of laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bagrat Tunyan, Senior Policy Advisor, OECD/SIGMA <p><i>Following by questions, answers and discussion</i></p> |
| 12.45 – 13.00 | <p><i>Wrap up and the end of event</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maja Handjiska Trendafilova, ReSPA Director • Bagrat Tunyan, OECD/SIGMA representative |
| 13.00 | <i>Lunch</i> |