



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

BUILDING TOGETHER
GOVERNANCE FOR THE FUTURE

ReSPA Regional Academy on the Evidence-Informed Policymaking Process

The fifth module

"Regulatory Impact Assessment for Effective Policymaking"

Provisional Programme and Agenda

4-6 November 2025, Tirana, Albania

ReSPA activities
are funded by the
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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.

The fourth module "Policy Making in a Digital World" was organised in Ohrid, North Macedonia from 24 – 26 September 2024. The focus was on leveraging digital tools and platforms to enhance data-driven policymaking, citizen engagement, and effective policy implementation and monitoring. It also provided practical examples of the usage of digital tools in public policy development and coordination in North Macedonia, the Western Balkans, and EU Member States.

Following the successful realization of the first four modules, ReSPA is organizing the fifth one, focusing on the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), a cornerstone for transparent, efficient, and EU-aligned policymaking. The fifth module of the Regional Academy on evidence-informed policymaking will be held in Tirana, Albania, from 4-6 November 2025. The concrete objectives of the fifth module, "Regulatory Impact Assessment for Effective Policymaking," are:

- Introduce the RIA framework in the Western Balkans and EU Member States and its role in evidence-based policymaking and EU integration.
- Provide hands-on experience in developing RIA.
- Foster peer learning and create a network of RIA practitioners across the region.

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, 4 November 2025

08:40 – 09:00	<i>Registration and welcome coffee</i>
09:00 – 09:20	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Public Administration, Albania Maja Handjiska Trendafilova, Director of ReSPA Delegation of the European Union, Albania
9:20 – 9:40	Keynote address: The importance of RIA for evidence-based policymaking and the EU integration process Bojana Bošković, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Montenegro
9:40 – 10:00	The certificate ceremony and group photo
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation of participants and lecturers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jelena Mrdak, Programme Manager, ReSPA Tour de table and discussion
10:30 – 11:00	2024 SIGMA Monitoring Reports: Key findings on RIA implementation in the Western Balkans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bagrat Tunyan, SIGMA
11:00 - 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Public policy cycle in Albania Representative of the Albanian administration
12:00 – 12:30	Albania's RIA framework, legislative basis and capacity-building initiatives Representative of the Albanian administration
12:30 – 13:00	Estonia's approach to Regulatory Impact Assessments, Ex-post evaluations and monitoring the functioning of RIA system Representative of the Estonian administration
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Networking lunch</i>
14:30 – 16:00	State-of-the-Art RIA presentations by the Western Balkans administrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jelena Mrdak, Programme Manager, ReSPA Tour de table and discussion
16:30	<i>Sightseeing Tirana</i>

Wednesday, 5 November 2025

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	RIA methodology deep dive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ReSPA expert
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 13:00	Practical Exercise Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Networking lunch</i>
14:30 – 16:30	Practical Exercise Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work

Thursday, 6 November 2025

09:00 – 09:15	Summary of key insights from Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de table and discussion
9:15 – 11:00	Practical Exercise Part 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 12:45	Group presentations of drafted RIA reports
12:45 – 13:00	Closing session: Key takeaways and next steps Jelena Mrdak, Programme Manager, ReSPA
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Networking lunch</i>
	<i>End of the fifth module of the Regional Academy</i>