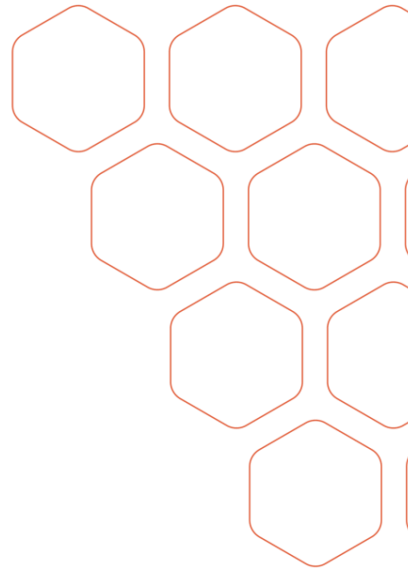




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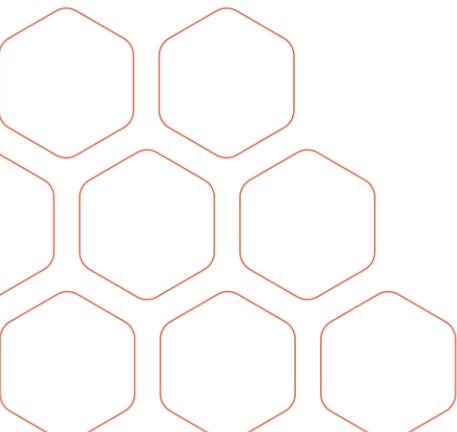


# REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC)

## EUROPEAN PUBLIC FUNDING GRANT SCAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS

ECONET (FUNDINGBOX GROUP)

September 2023



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE SCAN

This report, prepared by Econet, at the request of the **Regional Cooperation Council**, hereafter **RCC**, aims to provide the client with a Funding Audit or Grant Scan report with European Funding opportunities, including Cascade Funding.

Within the “Support programme for development of Digital Innovation Hubs in the Western Balkans” service, this document contains the available European funding lines to which **Western Balkans Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs)**, hereafter, **WB DIHs** and entities of the DIHs ecosystem can apply for public funding in the areas of interest identified, namely:

- Bolstering innovation ecosystems and fostering networking opportunities for DIHs in the region and promoting collaboration with other EU regions.
- Providing advice and access to the digital transformation process for businesses.
- Training in advanced technologies and knowledge transfer to SMEs, as well as capacity-building schemes to empower DIHs in the WB.

In this way, Econet responds to the agreed agreement to provide professional assistance and to maximize the opportunity to obtain public funding.

In order to perform the service with optimal results, it has been taken into consideration the information provided during the initial kick-off meeting with **RCC**, where key challenges and aspirations for the DIHs in the Western Balkans region were discussed. Thus, the **RCC** emphasised that many DIHs in the region are in their initial stages, grappling with limited resources and a lack of expertise to fully exploit available opportunities. It was clear that there is a need not just to target the few matured DIHs but to ensure a more inclusive approach. The **RCC** also highlighted their intention to prioritise funding opportunities that would foster networking, experience sharing, and capacity building.

With this information in mind, a search and mapping of existing funding programmes was carried out based on the objectives, activities and interests of **RCC** and the **WB DIHs** in order to identify the most appropriate funding instruments available to develop their project/s.

### 1.2 HOW TO USE THE GRANT SCAN

This report is structured as follows:

On the one hand, it contains an introduction to the **RCC** and **WB DIHs** interests, extracted from the “Mapping of Digital Innovation Hubs and identification of needs within Western Balkans and of prospective regional cooperation actions”, as well as information provided during the initial kick-off meeting with the **RCC**.

Thus, point 2 includes information on the main lines of action identified for this Funding Audit.

On the other hand, point 3 as the core part of the report includes the Funding Audit for the project/s at European level. In this Funding Audit, the opportunities presented are related to the calls of interest, giving a general description of them and a justification of the fit of the potential project. A calendar related to these opportunities is presented in point 4.

The report concludes with point 5, with a series of recommendations and conclusions for the presentation of applications. Special attention was given to opportunities in the period 23-24.

## 2. INTRODUCTION TO WB DIHS AND ITS INTERESTS IN SEEKING FUNDING

### 2.1 THE WB DIHS

Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) in the Western Balkans region are mechanisms envisaged to empower and accelerate the digital transformation processes across the six economies - Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo\*<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The aspiration of the **RCC** is to align the Western Balkans more closely with the European Union, driven by the Common Regional Market (CRM) Action Plan 2021-2024.

Currently, the **RCC's** initiative aims to mould these hubs in a manner analogous to the exemplary European DIHs, which have been recognised for their excellence by the European Commission. The primary essence of these hubs, evident from the **RCC's** mapping, is to provide basic, supplementary services.

#### RCC VISION FOR WB DIHS

**Position WB DIHs as one-stop solutions for regional SMEs, enabling them to seamlessly tap into technical, human, and financial resources essential for their digital evolution.**

The main asset of the **WB DIHs** is its partners, who contribute towards providing a comprehensive offer of services in line with the industries' challenges whilst offering complementarity to existing commercial services as **DIH**. In this way, thanks to the technical and business knowledge provided by the consortium partners, digitalisation is made available to all regional companies.

Therefore, the **WB DIHs** act as catalysts, connecting businesses and public administrations with innovative solutions, offering a holistic perspective.

#### MISSION OF WB DIHS

**Propel regional enterprises into the digital age, encouraging the adoption of innovative business models, and thereby amplifying their competitive advantage.**

<sup>1</sup>\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## 2.2 WB DIHS'S INCOME STRUCTURE

The analysis of the expected income structure of **WB DIHs**, has a dual approach:

- the private income that a Hub obtains selling services to their clients, sponsoring some activities and with in-kind contributions made by partners
- the public income that will correspond to the funds that **WB DIHs** expects to secure in several public funding programmes.

Public authorities play a key role supporting DIHs, mainly during the initial phases related to the creation, and the initial launch of their services portfolio. The funding structure of **WB DIHs** has a significant forecast of income from public funds, so it is important to have this overview of the main European public funding opportunities for the years 2023-2024.

In order to maximise the operational capacity of the **WB DIHs**, it is necessary to have enough resources to **deploy service portfolio**, thus it is interesting to find specific programs aimed at funding the costs associated with the implementation of digital transformation services.

Another type of activities where there is room for specific opportunities to fund activities to be developed by the **WB DIHs** is related to **digital training**.

In addition to the activities more closely related to the tasks of building and strengthening the service portfolio, it is also necessary to take into account the core funding needed to carry out those tasks of transversal nature that must be addressed by the partners, such as **management and communication activities**.

### **Funding Opportunities Highlighted in This Document:**

It's important to differentiate between the types of grants and funding opportunities available. Some grants can be directly accessed by the DIHs and their member entities. On the other hand, there are grants that businesses can seek, with the support and guidance of the DIHs. However, **this document focuses on the support available to either DIHs directly, or to their member entities**, considering public entities, Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) and business associations, preferably.

### 3. FUNDING POSSIBILITIES FOR WB DIHS

In the evolving digital landscape of the Western Balkans, access to pertinent and synergistic funding sources is pivotal for the amplification and expansion of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs). Given the varying stages of maturity and capacity observed among the **WB DIHs**, there's a need for not just individual but also collaborative approaches in garnering support. Thus, central to this report's objectives is the identification of such funding programmes where at least two or more economies of the Western Balkans and the European Union can jointly participate. The shared vision is to encourage opportunities for experience exchange and best practice benchmarking, foster inter-regional networking, and cultivate capabilities.

This section aims to elucidate these funding opportunities, ranging from broad cooperative programmes such as Interreg or Erasmus, which foster general collaboration, to more specific initiatives centred on digitalisation projects, like Horizon Europe (HE) or the DIGITAL programme. Each presented opportunity is selected based on its potential to drive forward the collective growth of **WB DIHs**, helping them transition from their current roles of offering basic supplementary services to evolving into one-stop solutions for businesses keen on digital transformation.

#### 3.1 INTERREG PROGRAMMES

**Interreg programme** started in 1989 and from its launch it has stimulated cooperation between regions in and out of the European Union. These programmes play a vital role in operating from different perspectives with the common objective of reducing the obstacles of national borders in the European Union. In general, the different programmes structured under Interreg seek to strengthen economic and institutional collaboration, through cooperation projects framed in different thematic areas depending on the characteristics and particularities of each strand of territorial cooperation program. For the 2021-2027 period, Interreg is focused on addressing current challenges through the priorities of smart growth, green transition, social inclusion, territorial development, efficient and sustainable infrastructure.

In general terms, the **eligibility of costs** are **staff cost, office and administration, travel and accommodation** and **external expertise**. Other eligible costs are **equipment expenditure** as well as **costs of infrastructure and works**, where the link with the project must be motivated.

Several Interreg cooperation programmes highlight participation between Western Balkan economies and other European economies, aiming to foster networking and collaboration:

##### **Strand of cooperation: *Interreg B***

Interreg B involves regions from several economies of the EU forming bigger areas. It aims to promote better cooperation and regional development within the Union by a joint approach to tackle common issues. Interreg B supports a wide range of project investment related to innovation, environment, accessibility, telecommunications, urban development etc. The following involve economies on which this service focuses.

- [Interreg DANUBE](#)
- [Interreg Balkan – Mediterranean](#)
- [Interreg EURO-MED](#)

### Strand of cooperation: *IPA*

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) is based on partnerships with the EU candidate economies and potential candidate economies. It supports administrative, social and economic reforms, as well as regional co-operation. The following involve economies on which this service focuses.

- [Interreg IPA ADRION](#)
- [Interreg IPA CBC Bulgaria – Republic of North Macedonia](#)
- [Interreg IPA CBC Bulgaria – Serbia](#)
- [Interreg IPA CBC Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro](#)
- [Interreg IPA CBC Croatia – Serbia](#)
- [Interreg IPA CBC Greece - Albania](#)
- [Interreg IPA CBC Greece – Republic of North Macedonia](#)
- [Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia](#)
- [Interreg IPA CBC Italy – Albania - Montenegro](#)
- [Interreg IPA Romania - Serbia](#)

Following this list, detailed profiles of the most pertinent programmes are presented, as they encompass several economies of the **WB DIHs** and have either upcoming or already published opening dates.

#### 3.1.1 INTERREG EURO-MED

Its cooperation area covers 69 regions in 14 economies: 10 EU Member States and 4 Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) economies: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the Republic of North Macedonia**. Around 25% of the European Union + 4 IPA economies, representing more than 140 million people, can benefit from these funds.

Taking into account **WB DIHs** general scope, funding opportunities under the following priority and specific objective of the programme can be identified:

#### Priority 1: A Smarter Mediterranean (thematic project)

- **Specific objective 1.1:** Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies.

The project shall contribute to the following Programme output indicators:

- Strategies and action plans jointly developed
- Jointly developed solutions
- Organisations *cooperating across borders*

The project should reflect the following Results indicators:

- Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
- Solutions taken up or up scaled by organisations
- Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders

Considering the Western Balkans participation in this programme and that the projects can be developed and managed by public administrations, universities, private and civil society organisations, it can be considered for **WB DIHs** to apply.

The calls for proposal have been announced, however the opening dates may be subjected to change.

Interreg Euro-MED	
	<b>Forthcoming</b>
<b>Programme</b>	Interreg Euro-MED
<b>ID</b>	4th call
<b>Priorities</b>	PO1
<b>Deadline model</b>	One phase
<b>Opening date</b>	1st Semester 2024
<b>Deadline date</b>	1st Semester 2024
<b>Indicative Budget</b>	28 M€
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	2 Million EUR
<b>Call information</b>	Project call is focused on the category of strategic territorial projects. These projects refer to conduct studies, test solutions and transfer results addressing the strategic topics of a specific typology of territories.
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://interreg-euro-med.eu/en/">https://interreg-euro-med.eu/en/</a>
PERSONALISED INFORMATION	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	The Interreg Euro-MED call presents a propitious opportunity for the WB DIHs from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Albania to fortify their objectives of digital innovation. Importantly, with the programme's expansive reach across both EU and pre-accession nations, it bridges the aspirations of the Western Balkans with broader European ambitions.

### 3.1.2 INTERREG DANUBE

The new programme area covers the same **14 economies** that participate in the Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020.

In the EU Member States, the programme area covers Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The neighboring economies that belong to the programme area are **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Moldova, **Montenegro**, **Serbia**, and Ukraine.



Compared to other EU macro-regions, the Danube region has the highest number of economies – and at the same time the highest share of border regions. Apart from Germany and Ukraine, all states are part of the programme area with their entire territory, accounting all together for 70 NUTS2 regions.

Eligible applicants include public authorities, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, research organizations, and other relevant stakeholders from the Danube region. Each project has to involve at least three financing project partners from three different economies of the programme area.

To assist potential applicants with project generation and the application process, they will provide individual consultations and organizing information events and webinars. Details of these events will be shared on their website and social media channels: <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/dtp-archive/about-dtp/new-funding-2021-2027/how-to-apply/second-call>

<b>Interreg Danube Region Programme</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	Interreg Danube Region Programme
<b>Call</b>	Second Call for Poposals
<b>Specific Objective</b>	SO 1.1. Research and innovation SO 1.2. Skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship
<b>Deadline model</b>	One phase
<b>Opening date</b>	End of October 2023
<b>Deadline date</b>	End of March 2024
<b>Indicative Budget</b>	11 247 153,08 EUR
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	From 400.000 to 2.5M
<b>Call information</b>	In order to meet the minimum eligibility criteria, each project has to involve at least three financing project partners from three different economies of the programme area: the lead partner and at least two project partners. At least one project partner has to be located on the territory of an EU Member State of the programme area. Involvement of project partners coming from non-EU economies is strongly supported by the programme and is subject to quality assessment.  Detailed guidelines, and the application form will be available on this page starting from the call opening date.
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://www.interreg-danube.eu/">https://www.interreg-danube.eu/</a>
<b>PERSONALISED INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	Similarly to the previous Programme, with its expansive reach, Interreg Danube presents a good opportunity to synergize with a diverse group of 14 economies, both within and outside the EU, bridging Western Balkan aspirations with broader European objectives. Ensure your projects have a minimum of three financing partners from different economies, but consider expanding this for richer collaborations.  The Interreg Danube programme has robust support mechanisms in place, such as individual consultations, information events, and webinars. Participate

actively in these to gain insights, clarify doubts, and strengthen your application. Regularly check the Interreg Danube's official website and social media channels.

### 3.1.3 INTERREG IPA CBC PROGRAMME CROATIA-BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA-MONTENEGRO

The programme aims to strengthen social, economic, and territorial development of the cross-border area. The area includes 12 counties in Croatia, Brčko District, and 109 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and 12 municipalities in Montenegro. It aims to reduce disparities in development and increase the capacity of the programme area to recover from the economic crisis.

The Programme's strategic objective is to foster smart, green, and inclusive development of the cross-border region by implementing joint projects within the framework of three EU policy objectives: Smarter Europe, Greener Europe, and More Social Europe.

The Interreg programme has four key priorities: smart investments in research, innovation, and competitive entrepreneurship; green investments in environmental protection and efficient risk management; accessible and resilient health services; and sustainable and inclusive tourism and culture.

Cross-border dimension of projects is crucial, and it must involve partners from at least 2 programme economies (one must be from Member State - Croatia).

Applicant/partner must meet all the following criteria:

- be a non-profit-making legal person/entity established by a public or a private law
- profit-making companies are not eligible -unless established and 100% owned by state, regional/local government units
- be established under the domestic law in the respective participating economy
- be registered at least 12 months prior to the deadline for the submission of applications.
- private partner (to be checked the minimal annual income in the last two closed financial years).

Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro	
Forthcoming	
<b>Programme</b>	Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro
<b>Call</b>	Call for strategic proposals
<b>Specific Objective</b>	Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
<b>Deadline model</b>	One phase
<b>Opening date</b>	December 2023
<b>Deadline date</b>	February 2024

<b>Indicative Budget</b>	not available
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	From 400.000 to 2.5M
<b>Call information</b>	<p>The duration of the project is 18-30 months.</p> <p>Each project must fulfil the four cooperation criteria's</p> <p>The EU co-financing rate is max 85%.</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://interreg-hr-ba-me.eu/">https://interreg-hr-ba-me.eu/</a>
<b>PERSONALISED INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	<p>Similarly to the previous programme, the cross-border dimension of the programme promotes collaborative synergies. Since the projects mandate participation from at least two programme economies, this offers the WB DIHs an avenue to consolidate inter-economy relations, aligning both with Croatian entities, an EU member state, and strengthening regional integration.</p> <p>Furthermore, given that the WB DIHs typically operate under non-profit umbrellas or are often aligned with public institutions, they meet the applicant/partner criteria laid out by the Interreg programme. This positions them advantageously to not just apply but also to lead collaborative projects in the realm of digitalisation in the cross-border region.</p>

## ECONET RECOMMENDATION

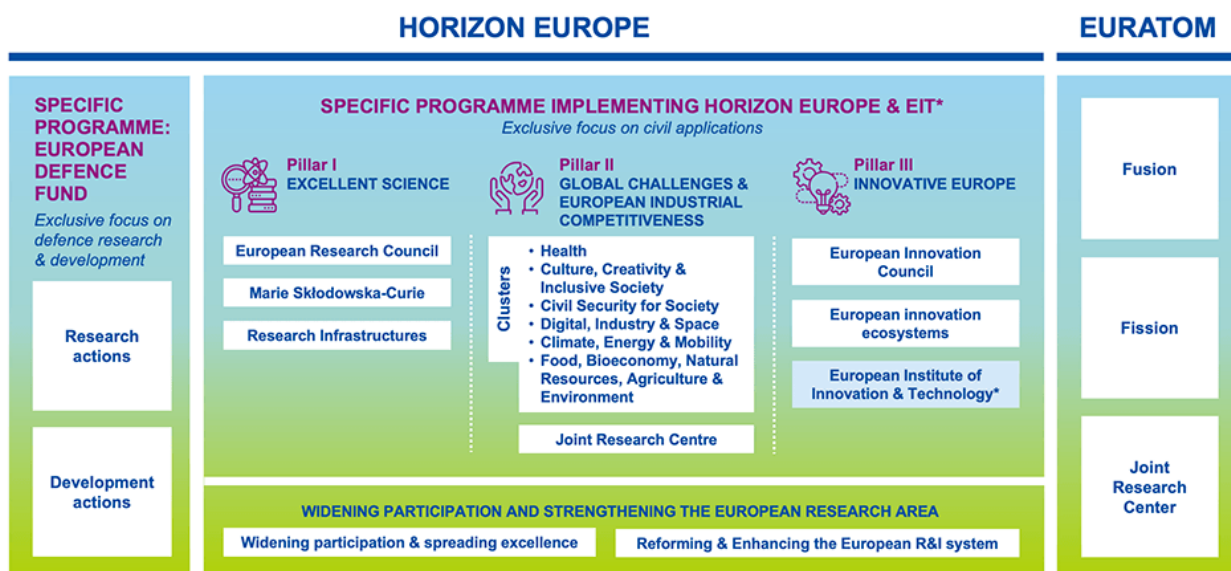


1. A prioritisation approach of multi-economy Interreg programmes is recommended, for the design of projects that can have a broader impact across multiple economies:
  - Interreg DANUBE
  - Interreg EURO-MED
  - Interreg IPA ADRION
2. Consider replicating similar project scopes for different programmes to maximize the chances of securing funding and enabling the sharing of best practices across various projects.
3. Engage with other European partners who regularly participate in these programmes. This information is available at <https://keep.eu/>
4. It is essential to keep up to date with the publication of calls for proposals (in most cases, new calls are expected in 2024, although this varies with each programme). Generally, the programmes have tools for partner search, as well as info days and events, useful for this purpose.

## 3.2 HORIZON EUROPE

The 9th Framework Programme, also known as Horizon Europe, replaced the previous programme Horizon 2020 (H2020), as of January 2021 with a budget of €100 billion.

The structure of Horizon Europe, which can be described as an evolution of H2020, lays under three distinct Pillars, supported by activities to widen participation and strengthening the European Research Area (ERA), each part contributing to the common Horizon Europe objectives:



The description of these pillars is the following one:

- **Pillar 1 Excellent science:** aiming to increase the EU's global scientific competitiveness.
- **Pillar 2 Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness:** supporting research relating to societal challenges and reinforcing technological and industrial capacities through clusters. It sets Missions, that will have specific goals and will be launched from within the pillar, establishing a comprehensive portfolio of projects.
- **Pillar 3 Innovative Europe:** stimulating market-creating breakthroughs and ecosystems conducive to innovation.
- **Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area:** optimising strengths & potential for a more innovative Europe.

The most interesting opportunities for WB DIHs would be found in **Pillar 3 Innovative Europe** and **Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area**. In addition, individual opportunities of potential interest to DIH members are also identified in Pillars I and II.

Please note that, in order to participate in Horizon Europe, any entity should previously do some steps:

- **1. ECCAS Account.** To register an account, each Team Member should go to the EU Login account page
- **2. PIC Number.** You need to register your organization to participate in a proposal or call. Follow the link to register your organisation to get a PIC number
- **3. Follow the next steps required** to assign a LEAR, register and validate your bank account, etc.

### 3.2.1. OPPORTUNITIES IN PILLAR III

This pillar will focus on scaling up breakthrough and market-creating innovation through a new European Innovation Council (EIC) as well as activities aimed at enhancing and developing the overall European innovation landscape. It will also include support to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

Pillar III aims to foster all forms of innovation, including breakthrough innovation, and market deployment of innovative solutions.

**The European Innovation Council** will build on the success of the Enhanced EIC pilot in Horizon 2020 and will serve as a 'one-stop shop' for European innovators. It will channel funding through two main instruments:

Accelerator – this instrument will bridge the financing gap between late stages of innovation activities and market take-up to effectively deploy breakthrough market-creating innovation and scale up companies. The Accelerator is one of the most interesting instruments for the **WB DIHs** because it provides market entry and market deployment support to technology companies in the form of blended finance. EIC blended finance includes part grant or reimbursable advance (to cover innovation activities) and part investment, either via equity or other forms of investment such as convertible notes, loans, guarantees, etc., for the actual market deployment of the company.

Pathfinder – building on the success of the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) Open scheme this instrument will support future and emerging breakthrough technologies.

**European Innovation Ecosystems** will connect with regional and domestic innovation actors and support the implementation of joint cross-border innovation programmes by Member States and Associated Countries, enhancing soft skills for innovation in addition to other types of research and innovation actions. Actions will complement the ERDF support for innovation eco-systems and interregional partnerships around smart specialisation topics.

The calls in this block could be very relevant for **WB DIHs** because it could be used to reinforce actions to build and dynamise the ecosystem surrounding the Hub.

**The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** will continue to fund existing Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), whilst looking to establish new KICs in emerging priority areas, which will help to strengthen sustainable innovation ecosystems across Europe. The Institute will also foster the development of entrepreneurial skills and innovation via

a 'lifelong learning perspective' and support the entrepreneurial transformation of European universities. Finally, the EIT will also bring new solutions for global societal challenges to the market, thus contributing to the objectives of the 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' pillar.

As of the date of this document (November 2022), there are opportunities for **WB DIHs** in the EIC and in the European Innovation Ecosystems.

### 3.2.1.1 European innovation ecosystems

It is possible that the **WB DIHs** itself, could play a role in this Coordination and Support Actions. Participating in them would have the great added value of being able to directly apply methodologies and knowledge from other areas of Europe in the Western Balkans (these projects involve several partners spread across the continent working towards a common goal).

Startup Europe	
	Forthcoming
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-03
<b>Type of action</b>	Coordination and Support Actions
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	6 Jun 2024
<b>Deadline date</b>	19 Sep 2024
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 12.0 million aprox.
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	EUR 1.5 million aprox.
<b>Call information</b>	<p>Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increasing the market footprint of European start-ups in strategic digital technologies and deep tech 35 innovation, notably Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Computing, Cybersecurity, Next Generation Internet, Blockchain, Internet of Things, Metaverse, Energy, Greentech, AgriTech, and Fintech;</li> <li>· Better connection of start-ups, including European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and European Innovation Council (EIC)-supported start-ups and Seal of Excellence holders, to relevant local and/or European ecosystems, communities, and potential new markets;</li> <li>· A scaling up of capabilities in matching technology solutions developed by highly innovative European Union (EU)-funded digital and deep tech start-ups with investment and growth opportunities in collaboration with other initiatives such as: the EIC, the EIT and the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), InvestEU, the Digital Europe Programme, Women TechEU, public and private buyers, or investors and corporate innovation ventures, and start-up villages.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-eie-2024-connect-02-01">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-eie-2024-connect-02-01</a>
PERSONALISED INFORMATION	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	This Call could fit with some WB DIH's strategy, in the case they have partners who are specialists in entrepreneurship and support for start-ups.

### 3.2.2. WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence actions under Horizon Europe contribute to building research and innovation capacity of Member States, Associated Countries and **Outermost Regions that underperform in terms of R&I performance**. This last aspect makes Widening particularly attractive for **WB DIHs**.

The actions will strengthen economies' potential for successful participation in transnational research and innovation projects, promote networking and access to excellence.

Participants in the programme will be able to upgrade their research and innovation systems, making them stronger and allowing the EU as a whole to advance together, in line with the policy objectives of the European Research Area.

Excellence Hubs Open for submission	
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-07-1: Excellence Hubs
<b>Type of action</b>	Coordination and Support Actions
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	28 Sep 2023
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	07 Mar 2024
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	60.0 M EUR
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 2.00 - 6.00 million.
<b>Call information</b>	<p>Consortia must include at least two different place-based R&amp;I ecosystems in at least two different countries eligible to host the co-ordinator under the widening part of Horizon Europe.</p> <p>Projects are expected to contribute to the following <b>outcomes</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Excellent and sustainable place-based R&amp;I ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond in relevant domains of cutting-edge science and innovation;</li> <li>· Long term joint R&amp;I strategies underpinned by concrete action plans of European relevance;</li> <li>· Common investment plans for R&amp;I including infrastructures leveraging domestic, regional and European funds as well as private capital in a synergetic manner;</li> <li>· R&amp;I pilot projects alongside a joint strategy and in line with regional and domestic strategies, notably regional innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) taking into account the new Innovation Agenda for Europe;</li> <li>· New competencies and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&amp;I intensive domains;</li> <li>· Strengthened linkages between science and business;</li> <li>· Improved knowledge transfer and development of entrepreneurial skills;</li> <li>· New business opportunities especially for SMEs, university spin-offs and start-ups, especially deep tech;</li> <li>· Inclusion of emerging innovation ecosystems from rural areas, Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries including Ukraine by optional mentoring module;</li> </ul> <p>Projects should be established around a coherent and well-proportioned package of the following <b>core components</b>:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cross-border joint R&amp;I strategy aligned with regional smart specialisation strategies and/or European policy priorities such as the green and digital transition;</li> <li>· R&amp;I project consolidating academia business linkages and providing evidence for strategy building and investment: The research component should be developed by joint pilot research projects in a domain covered by the joint strategy that should facilitate long-term cross border and inter-sectoral collaborative links between partners notably academia and business and advancement in science and technology development with market potential. In particular R&amp;I projects should serve the purpose to close knowledge gaps and develop evidence to underpin the development of the strategy and the investment plans. The description of R&amp;I content should include a long-term vision beyond the state of the art of the chosen R&amp;I domain;</li> <li>· Action and investment plans for the implementation of the strategy including the development of business models for innovative products, service and processes to ensure the sustainability of the action beyond the project's life time, leveraging domestic, regional and European funds as well as private (venture) capital. Investment plans may include pertinent R&amp;I infrastructures as well as demonstrators and pilots;</li> <li>· Conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots and demonstrators (if applicable) in line with the strategy and if applicable based on the outcome of the R&amp;I component. However, the realisation of such pilots and demonstrators must be financed by other sources in particular programmes co-financed by the ERDF, INTERREG, IPA or similar. The approach how to access such co-funding at a later stage should be sketched out in the proposal;</li> <li>· Accompanying measures are complementary activities that may promote knowledge and technology transfer, visibility, mutual learning and skills development especially in research and innovation management and entrepreneurship for creation of start-ups as well as citizen engagement. Mutual secondments and staff exchange within and between ecosystems should help to build trust and long-term collaborative links.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-access-07-01">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-access-07-01</a>
<b>PERSONALISED INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	This call is of high interest to WB DIHs. Therefore, <u>this is the call that best fits holistically with WB DIH's mission</u> . It can provide support to sustain the projects in a stable and categorical way for the next 4-5 years.

<b>Twining - Bottom up</b>	
<b>Forthcoming</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-01
<b>Type of action</b>	Coordination and Support Actions
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	25 Apr 2023 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Deadline date</b>	28 Sep 2023 / Sep 2024 (forecast)
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	EUR 113.00 million approx.
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	EUR 1.20 million approx.

<sup>2</sup> This call is already closed. However, these dates can be a useful reference for the next call. Although the draft HE Work Programmes 2025-2026 are not yet available, this call has an annual basis.



<b>Call information</b>	<p>Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improved excellence capacity and resources in Widening countries <sup>3</sup>enabling to close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe.</li> <li>· Enhanced strategic networking activities between the research institutions of the Widening countries and at least two internationally-leading counterparts at EU level.</li> <li>· Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness of the coordinating institution from the Widening country and the research profile of its staff.</li> <li>· Strengthened research management capacities and administrative skills of the staff working in institutions from the Widening country.</li> <li>· Improved creativity supported by development of new approaches in R&amp;I collaboration, increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-access-02-02">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-access-02-02</a>
<b>PERSONALISED INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	It could be a relevant call for the research institutions included in the WB DIHs. It is noteworthy that it has a considerable budget. It is expected that around 80 projects will be funded.

<b>ERA Chairs</b> <b>Open for submission</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01
<b>Type of action</b>	Coordination and Support Actions
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	28 Sep 2023
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	7 Mar 2024
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	EUR 107.00 million aprox.
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	EUR 2.00 million aprox.
<b>Call information</b>	<p>Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increase in number of R&amp;I talents moving to host organisations in Widening countries;</li> <li>· Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers</li> <li>· Encouraging institutional reforms in research institutions and in the national R&amp;I system in widening countries;</li> <li>· Strengthening of Widening countries' human capital base in R&amp;I with more entrepreneurial and better trained researchers and innovators;</li> <li>· Better communication of R&amp;I results to society;</li> <li>· Better quality and capacity of research and innovation contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth;</li> <li>· Improved excellence capacity and resources in Widening countries and close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-talents-01-01">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-talents-01-01</a>

<sup>3</sup> Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia are included.

PERSONALISED INFORMATION	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	This call is not of direct interest to WB DIHs. It may be relevant individually for research organisations included in the Hub, to foster brain circulation for researchers and innovators in Widening countries.

Teaming for Excellence		Forthcoming
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-01-two-stage	
<b>Type of action</b>	Coordination and Support Actions	
<b>Deadline model</b>	Two-stage	
<b>Opening date</b>	10 Jan 2023 <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	12 Apr 2023 / Apr 2024 (forecast)	
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	EUR 158.00 million.	
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	The total indicative budget is EUR 8.00 to 15.00 million approx.	
<b>Call information</b>	<p>Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Disparities in R&amp;I performance are due to, among other reasons, the insufficient critical mass of science and lack of centres of excellence having sufficient competence to engage countries and regions strategically in a path of innovative growth. Teaming is responding to this challenge establishing new centers of excellence or modernising existing ones with the help of leading European partnering institutions. This will help countries to increase their R&amp;I intensity and to attain a competitive position in the European R&amp;I system and globally, especially by becoming drivers of change.</li> </ul>	
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-access-01-01-two-stage">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-access-01-01-two-stage</a>	

PERSONALISED INFORMATION	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	This call is not of direct interest to the WB DIHs, although it may be of interest to individual partners for individual improvement, since it supports the creation of new centres of excellence or upgrading the existing ones, and therefore indirectly help to enhance the excellence of the Hubs.

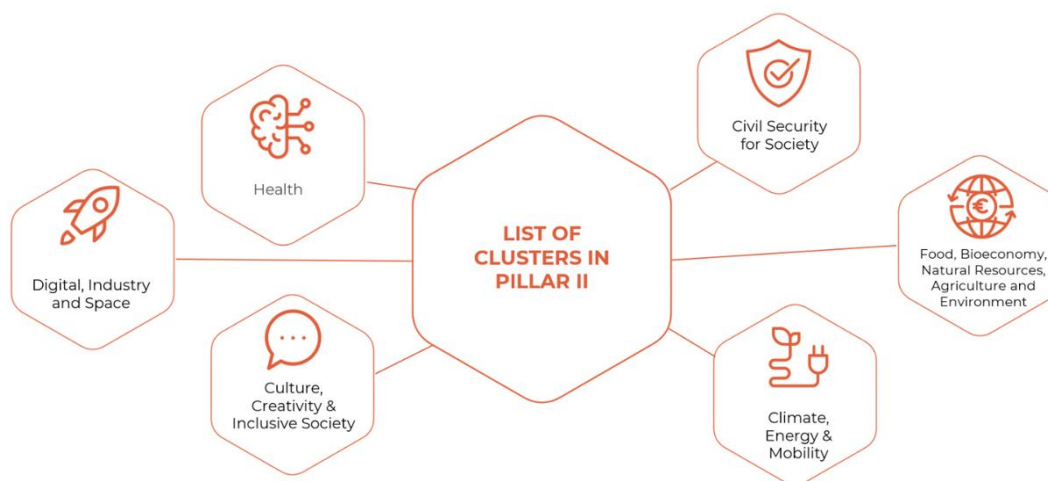
Hop On Facility		Open for submission
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01	
<b>Type of action</b>	Research and Innovation Actions	
<b>Deadline model</b>	Multiple cut-off	
<b>Opening date</b>	10 Jan 2023	
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	28 Sep 2023	
<b>Deadline date 2</b>	26 Sep 2024	

<sup>4</sup> This call is already closed. However, these dates can be a useful reference for the next call.

<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	EUR 40.00 million.
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	The total indicative budget is EUR 0.1 to 0.6 million aprox.
<b>Call information</b>	<p>The Hop On Facility allows for legal entities from low R&amp;I performing countries to join already selected collaborative R&amp;I actions, subject to the agreement of the respective consortium and provided that legal entities from such countries are not yet participating in it. The scheme aims to improve the inclusiveness of Horizon Europe by involving more research institutions from Widening countries under Horizon Europe Pillar 2 and EIC Pathfinder actions.</p> <p>Main selection criteria are excellence and added value of the new partner performing a relevant additional task in the project. All consortium partners need to agree on the accession of the new partner whereas the R&amp;I relevance and complementarity needs to be demonstrated. The accepted application will trigger a GA amendment with the service in charge of the related topic.</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-access-06-01">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-widera-2023-access-06-01</a>
<b>PERSONALISED INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	<p>Proposals must be submitted to the Hop On facility call from the coordinator of a consortium funded under Pillar 2 or EIC Pathfinder of Horizon Europe with a valid grant agreement that does not have any participant from a country eligible to host the coordinator under the Widening component (Widening country). The duration of the “new” Hop On activities will depend on the duration of the ongoing Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Action (RIA) projects which the new partner will join.</p> <p>Hop On Facility is limited to the addition of a single partner to consortia with no participants from widening countries.</p> <p>The matchmaking is primarily left to the initiative of applicants, both coordinators interested in extending their consortia and hop-on candidates seeking suitable host projects. For the latter case, candidates are encouraged to screen the list of eligible projects published on the call web site on the Funding &amp; Tenders Portal, while also using information published under CORDIS.</p> <p>Coordinators may use the partner search tool and also contact NCP organisations, notably the project NCP WIDERANet. List of funded projects under Horizon Europe pillar 2 and the EIC Pathfinder <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon/hop-on">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon/hop-on</a></p>

### 3.2.3. OTHER POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN HORIZON EUROPE: PILLAR 2

Pillar II moves beyond the societal challenges familiar under Horizon 2020, tackling major global challenges and addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim to ‘improve people’s lives and to protect the planet for future generation’. At the same time the calls under Pillar II will address Europe’s competitiveness in technology, embracing challenges which are often complex and require interdisciplinary solutions and activities from research to innovation. Pillar II is organised into six clusters, with a supporting area (JRC activities), and crosscutting ‘Missions’.



### 3.2.3.1 Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive society

This cluster aims to strengthen European democratic values, including rule of law and fundamental rights, safeguarding our cultural heritage, and promoting socio-economic transformations that contribute to inclusion and growth.

This cluster is structured in three intervention areas: democracy; cultural heritage; and social and economic transformations. In some of the calls, technological advances and application of Information and Communication Technologies are required. Although these areas are not aligned with the main focus of **WB DIHs** identified necessities, in certain types of projects, it may be interesting to add a use case in the Western Balkans within a project led from another European country.

Taking into account the Work Programme 2023-2024, Econet has identified this call where there are possibilities for **WB DIHs** members to participate as partners.

<b>Computational Social Science approaches in research on democracy</b> Open for submission	
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-06
<b>Type of action</b>	Research and Innovation Actions
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	04 Oct 2023
<b>Deadline date</b>	07 Feb 2024
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9 million approx.
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	EUR 2.50 million approx.
<b>Call information</b>	Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes: Develop and test methodologies that combine and integrate Computational Social Science (CSS) and other Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) methods

	<p>to study democratic governance, overcoming traditional academic boundaries in the field and producing synthetic data and simulation environments to stage full scale experiments which otherwise are reserved to historical study.</p> <p>Use of critical approaches to data and datafication of social data, the development of alternative approaches to research including critical software studies, and development of clear and concise policy recommendations for harmonising CSS approaches with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) guidelines in order to encourage and facilitate such studies.</p>
Further information	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl2-2024-democracy-01-06">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl2-2024-democracy-01-06</a>
PERSONALISED INFORMATION	
Recommendations for WB DIHs	<p>It might be an ambitious topic for many WB DIHs now. However, for certain members that act as Centres of Competence, it may be worthwhile to seek a consortium to join, given their potential to handle technical tasks within a work package. This might especially resonate with hubs like the Belgrade Robotics Hub and others with advanced capabilities.</p> <p>WB´s political characteristics could make it attractive for testing developments in a case study in the framework of a potential proposal.</p>

### 3.2.3.2 Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society

Cluster 3 has the vision to support wider EU responses to those security challenges while ensuring free movement and protecting the integrity of the Schengen area. This means supporting “a resilient and more stable Europe that protects” as well as for this purpose supporting a competitive European civil security industry sector. As those challenges are rapidly evolving and social and technological developments are making a response increasingly complex, security research can serve as a tool to move from a reactive approach to security to a proactive approach based on foresight, prevention and anticipation.

Cluster 3 will support in particular the Commission policy priority ‘Promoting our European way of life’, as well as ‘European Green Deal’ and ‘Europe fit for the digital age’. It will in particular support the implementation of the Security Union Strategy, the **Counter-Terrorism Agenda**, the border management and security dimensions of the **New Pact on Migration and Asylum**, **EU Disaster Risk Reduction** policies, the **EU Maritime Security Strategy** and the **EU Cybersecurity Strategy**.

In the [Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans](#)<sup>5</sup>, European Commission together with Ministers from six Western Balkan partners — Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia — commit to **Increasing cybersecurity, trust and digitalisation of industry**: The EU and the Western Balkan region have a common objective to improve online security and trust. It is a relevant fact that **Western Balkans are the ones who have experienced the most internet security problems**, especially related to viruses, attacks on networks and illegal access.

<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/es/IP\\_18\\_4242](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/es/IP_18_4242)

Several **WB DIHs** partners could show capabilities for developments in the field of cyber security. In this context and with these facts about Western Balkans' situation and strategy, the opportunities offered by these four calls could be exploited:

<b>Secure Computing Continuum (IoT, Edge, Cloud, Dataspaces)</b> <b>Open for Submission</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01
<b>Type of action</b>	Research and Innovation Actions
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	29 Jun 2023
<b>Deadline date</b>	23 Nov 2023
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 23.00 million approx.
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	EUR 5.00 million approx.
<b>Call information</b>	Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Tools to support cybersecurity resilience, preparedness, awareness, and detection within critical infrastructures and across supply chains.</li> <li>· Cloud infrastructures vulnerabilities mitigation.</li> <li>· Secure integration of untrusted IoT in trusted environments.</li> <li>· Use of Zero-Trust architectures.</li> <li>· Trust &amp; Security for massive connected IoT ecosystems &amp; lifecycle management.</li> <li>· Secure interoperability and integration of systems.</li> <li>· AI-based automation tools for cyber threat intelligence.</li> <li>· Secure infrastructure, secure Identities and usability for a security chain covering communication, data collection, data transport, and data processing.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl3-2023-cs-01-01">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl3-2023-cs-01-01</a>
PERSONALISED INFORMATION	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	WB DIHs and its partners could work on a work package within a large project in collaboration with one of its partners. Universities and digital enablers included in the WB DIHs may find in this Call the opportunity to scale their developments, and establish collaborations with leading entities.

<b>Privacy-preserving and identity management technologies</b> <b>Open for Submission</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02
<b>Type of action</b>	Innovation Actions
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	29 Jun 2023
<b>Deadline date</b>	23 Nov 2023
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 15.00 million approx.

<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	EUR 3.00 million aprox.
<b>Call information</b>	<p>Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improved scalable and reliable privacy-preserving and identity management technologies for federated and secure sharing and for processing of personal and industrial data and their integration in real-world systems.</li> <li>· Improving privacy-preserving technologies for cyber threat intelligence and data sharing solutions.</li> <li>· Contribution to promotion of GDPR compliant European data spaces for digital services and research). Research and development of self-sovereign identity management technologies and solutions;</li> <li>· Provide resource efficient and secure digital identity solutions for Small and medium sized enterprises.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl3-2023-cs-01-02">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl3-2023-cs-01-02</a>
<b>PERSONALISED INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	The EU and the Western Balkan region have a common objective to improve online security and trust. The Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans will support capacity building in trust and security and the digitalisation of industry to ensure that all sectors benefit from digital innovations. WB DIHs members may consider this opportunity relevant, in the case of becoming a reference partner in the Western Balkans to drive a digital transformation that takes into account privacy and identity management of users.

### 3.2.3.3 Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space

The overarching vision behind the proposed investments under Cluster 4 is that of Europe shaping competitive and trusted technologies for a European industry with global leadership in key areas, enabling production and consumption to respect the boundaries of our planet, and maximising the benefits for all parts of society in the variety of social, economic and territorial contexts in Europe.

Efforts will aim to build a digital, low-carbon and circular industry, ensure sustainable supply of raw materials, develop advanced materials and provide the basis for advances and innovation in global challenges to society.

This cluster shares the most synergies with **WB DIHs**, although most calls of interest are currently closed. An opportunity is identified to collaborate within consortia that research and develop emerging enabling technologies.

<b>Piloting emerging Smart IoT Platforms and decentralized intelligence</b>	
<b>Forthcoming</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-CL4-2024-DATA-01-03
<b>Type of action</b>	Innovation Actions
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	15 Nov 2023



<b>Deadline date</b>	19 Mar 2024
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 45.00 million aprox.
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	EUR 22.00 million aprox.
<b>Call information</b>	<p>Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Implementations of edge paradigms in real environments leading to matured and customised IoT and next generation edge computing technologies for adoption in key applications and sectors.</li> <li>· Paving the way to strategic industrial cooperation in data processing required to support future hyper-distributed applications by building open platforms, agreement on common architectures and standards, critical to establishing a mature European supply chain.</li> <li>· Open platforms underpinning an emerging open edge ecosystem including midcaps, SMEs and start-ups that foster edge solutions.</li> <li>· Demonstrating cross-domain standardisation and up-scaling of edge infrastructure solutions</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl4-2024-data-01-03">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl4-2024-data-01-03</a>
<b>PERSONALISED INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	Although the call is likely to be of limited interest to WB DIHs, this call could be relevant to partners who have capabilities in the field of the Internet of Things (IoT).

### 3.2.3.4 Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility

This clusters aims to fight climate change by better understanding its causes, evolution, risks, impacts and opportunities, and by making the energy and transport sectors more climate and environment-friendly, more efficient and competitive, smarter, safer and more resilient.

Although the final objectives of this cluster are not aligned with the core priorities of **WB DIHs**, its partners could have the capacity to work on a cross-cutting project in which digitalisation plays a relevant role. For example, the following call:

<b>Digital solutions to foster participative design, planning and management of buildings, neighborhoods and urban districts</b>	
<b>Forthcoming</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
<b>ID</b>	HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-02-05
<b>Type of action</b>	Innovation Action
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	17 Sep 24
<b>Deadline date</b>	21 Jan 25
<b>Indicative Budget for topic</b>	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million aprox.
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	EUR 3.50 million aprox.
<b>Call information</b>	Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital solutions that facilitate participative design and planning through visualisation, analysis and engagement with data that is directly relevant to building users as well as citizens in the surrounding urban area (including e.g. immersive and interactive technologies, Virtual Reality / Augmented Reality, simulations and scenario modelling).</li> <li>• Digital solutions that allow to analyse and model different scenarios for to-be-renovated buildings, neighbourhoods and / or districts in terms of energy use and generation; users' health and wellbeing; impact on the energy grid; provisions for active and electric mobility, and sustainable delivery solutions; life-cycle environmental and micro-climatic impacts, and; socio-economic impacts for citizens, building users, owners and occupiers.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl5-2024-d4-02-05">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl5-2024-d4-02-05</a>
<b>PERSONALISED INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	<p>The construction sector is one of the most active and necessary in the WB. Interested WB DIHs members could consider joining consortia that are maturing their proposals.</p>

## ECONET RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS



Econet advises WB DIHs to take on the role of coordinator when submitting proposals for "Excellence Hubs" as well as for calls associated with the European Innovation Ecosystem.

For other calls, the general recommendation is for both WB DIHs and its members to participate as partners. It's crucial to recognize that such participation can bolster their Curriculum Vitae (CV) and augment their visibility within the programme:

1. Follow the updates of the new "Funding and tenders" portal and use its tools to search for potential partners: [link](#)
2. Participate in events and Infodays organized at EU level, especially those one with matchmaking and pitches in order to positioning as partners.
3. Identify the National Contact Points (NCPs) of Horizon Europe in your territory. They can offer guidance, from proposal development to networking opportunities. Find them here: [link](#)
4. Express your interest by signing up on the EEN network platform via the [personalised registration alert & follow the registration steps mentioned](#).
5. Search EEN global partnership database based on different criteria (<https://een.ec.europa.eu/partners>)
6. Get in touch with the local node and participate in the activities organized at regional level. The Annex provides a list of EEN contact points.



Next, we select some opportunities that might be of interest of WB DIHs. However, it's important to understand that this enumeration is not exhaustive.

<b>EEN2EIC - Voucher for Local Nodes</b> <span style="color: #27ae60;">Open for submission</span>	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	single stage
<b>Publication Date</b>	24 Jan 2023
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	31 Mar 2025
<b>Budget for Call</b>	The total budget available for FSTP in EEN2EIC (including not only this call, but all of them) is 5 135 646. 40 euros
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	Local Nodes selected might get up to 3.700euros per each eligible company that they support in the EIC application process. The Vouchers are divided as follows: * 1.300euros for the support of eligible companies applying for EIC Short Proposal (EEN2EIC Group A Voucher). * 2.700euros for the support of eligible companies applying for EIC Full Proposal (EEN2EIC Group B Voucher).
<b>Call information</b>	The EEN2EIC aims to establish a stronger cooperation mechanism between the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and the European Innovation Council (EIC), supporting innovation and business scaling-up through financial support. The objective is to empower EEN network offices to support potential EIC applicants with the overall goal of increasing the number of high-quality proposals to the EIC. This call aims at providing support Vouchers to EEN Local Nodes to support submission of proposal under the EIC Accelerator programme from the project's target groups, namely SMEs established in widening and associated Countries and Women-Led SMEs established in all Countries eligible under EIC programme.
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://een2eic.eu/apply/call2/">https://een2eic.eu/apply/call2/</a>

<b>METASTARS- Open Call for Innovation Services</b> <span style="color: #27ae60;">Open for submission</span>	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	single stage
<b>Publication Date</b>	1 Mar 2023
<b>Deadline dates</b>	31 Dec 2023
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	This call for innovation services will support six type of activities: 1. Green technology development (up to euros4.000) * Services to support SMEs willing to develop green solutions, processes or internal activities: processes, manufacturing as well as internally (communication, internal processes, etc.). 2. Digitalisation (up to euros6.000) * Services to support SMEs willing to digitalise activities and/ or processes: processes, manufacturing as well as internally (communication, internal processes, etc.). 3. Upskilling and reskilling (up to euros5.500) * Services to boost the SMEs' skills' development. Training could be focused either technical and/ or soft skills. It is mandatory that the training benefits more than one person working for the company. 4. Internationalisation for Japan (up to euros5.500). Services to: * support the attendance to a conference/ event in Japan to develop business (travel, accommodation and fees can be supported) and/or * get support of a consultancy company to design an internationalisation strategy or reach new clients/ partners to Japan.

	<p>5. Internationalisation for Canada (up to euros5.500). Services to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* support the attendance to a conference/ event in Canada to develop business (travel, accommodation and fees can be supported) and/or</li> <li>* receive the support of a consultancy company to design an internationalisation strategy or reach new clients/ partners to Canada.</li> </ul> <p>6. Information System Security (up to euros15.000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Services to provide the SME with support to adapt against cyber-attack.</li> </ul> <p>Applicants are entitled to apply and benefit from more than one type of activity, reaching a total maximum funding of euros 60.000 per SME. The Applicant SMEs will be allowed to be granted maximum 2 Innovation Services (applying one time for up to 2 services).</p>
<b>Call information</b>	<p>METASTARS aims at supporting SMEs of the European Aerospace &amp; Defence (ASD) ecosystem to reinforce their resilience to potential future shocks.</p> <p>The project will offer SMEs financial support to develop innovative projects and to benefit from services to adapt to new technologies, to develop or strengthen their green and digital transition, their innovation potential, their internationalisation strategy towards Japan and Canada, and the upskilling of their work force.</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<p><a href="https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/metastars-launches-its-call-innovation-services">https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/metastars-launches-its-call-innovation-services</a></p>

<b>AEC Eurocluster call for proposals for Go international</b> Open for submission	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	single stage
<b>Publication Date</b>	30 Apr 2023
<b>Deadline dates</b>	30/12/2023, 30/01/2024, 30/04/2024
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	The Go International call aims to provide reimbursement for travel (transportation, accommodation, and event fees) incurred for attending selected trade fairs in Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Kenya in the form of a lump sum payment of 2 000 euros per SME (max. 3 persons per SME can join the international mission).
<b>Call information</b>	<p>This open call targets SMEs legally registered, at least 6 months prior to submission deadline, in one of the EU27 Member States or country participating in the Single Market Programme (including, Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia) and in the sub-sectors of Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) ecosystem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Circular economy, Green building;</li> <li>* Advanced Building Materials, Bio based materials &amp; 3D Printing;</li> <li>* Construction Robotics;</li> <li>* Workers' safety, Connected construction site; or</li> <li>* BIM &amp; Construction monitoring.</li> </ul> <p>SMEs in IT and related deep-tech sectors (AI, AR/VR, sensors, robotics, drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles, advanced materials, nanotechnology, photonics) will also be eligible if the project proposal will have an impact on the AEC sectors. Only individual applications will be considered.</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<p><a href="https://www.sgg.si/eng-aec-eurocluster/">https://www.sgg.si/eng-aec-eurocluster/</a></p>

<b>RESIST-2-3033 - Networking and Marketing FSTP</b> Open for submission	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	single stage
<b>Publication Date</b>	4 May 2023

<b>Deadline date 1</b>	20 Dec 2024
<b>Budget for Call</b>	€15,000. It's expected to select up to 45 beneficiaries (Up to 30 for marketing activities, including exhibitions, forums and conferences, and up to 15 for networking activities).
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	The financial support will be up to 500 euros for networking activities and up to €250 for marketing activities (one person maximum per applicant and service). Companies can receive funding for both services, but they will need to submit independent applications.
<b>Call information</b>	RESIST eurocluster aims to help SMEs from the Mobility, Transport and Automotive ecosystem (MTA) in their green and digital transformation process, as well as to increase their level of resilience in the face of upcoming challenges. This call provides financial support to European SMEs, start-ups and very-small businesses (VSBs) working in the Mobility, Transport and Automotive (MTA) ecosystem, so they can participate in international networking and marketing activities organized inside the European Union. The financed networking and marketing activities should facilitate the participation of applicants in different kind of events, so they can enter new markets, discover technological solutions for their needs, exchange best practices and experiences, identify potential partners, as well as meet new customers or suppliers.
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://clustersubmissionplatform.eu/eurocluster_post/resist-networking-open-call/">https://clustersubmissionplatform.eu/eurocluster_post/resist-networking-open-call/</a>

<b>INGENIOUS Training Grants</b> Open for submission	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	single stage
<b>Publication Date</b>	22 May 2023
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	31 Sep 2024
<b>Budget for Call</b>	€ 25.000
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	INGENIOUS is offering 100 training grants each worth € 250, to help SMEs improve their digital skills, green transition, resilience preparedness and reskilling and upskilling of the workforce.
<b>Call information</b>	The INGENIOUS Euroclusters project fosters SMEs operated in energy intensive industry to develop innovative projects. The INGENIOUS Training Grants will serve to expand the knowledge and skills of SMEs that want to stay competitive. The call is open to SME which are established in EU Member States, EEA countries or countries associated to the COSME part of the Single Market Programme (or in negotiations to be associated), including including Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/ingenious-internationalisation-grants">https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/ingenious-internationalisation-grants</a>

<b>AIBC EUROCLUSTERS OPEN CALL FOR PARTICIPATION TO INTERNATIONAL EVENTS</b> Open for submission	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	multiple cut-off
<b>Publication Date</b>	6 Jun 2023
<b>Deadline dates</b>	16 Jan 2024

<b>Budget for Call</b>	It is foreseen that at least 20 SMEs will receive financial support under this call (i.e. 10 for each cut-off date).
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	Each beneficiary of this call can receive up to 15 000 euros in the form of a lump-sum. All services/activities financed by this call must have a duration of maximum 6 months starting from the signature of the contract.
<b>Call information</b>	<p>The call is open to SMEs from the manufacturing, mobility, logistics and energy sectors working on the Artificial Intelligence (AI) &amp; Blockchain (BC) technologies and interested in adopting AI &amp; BC solutions to become more digital, resilient and green.</p> <p>Applications for this call must be submitted by a single company officially founded before 31.12.2021 and registered in an EU Member State or a country participating in the SMP, including, Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia</p> <p>Activities must tackle the planning phase of the digital transformation involving AI/BC/twin transition.</p> <p>Funding will be provided to SMEs for activities related to services and Product Development such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Technology transfer</li> <li>* Use of infrastructures</li> <li>* Proof of Concept (PoC)</li> <li>* Business model development</li> <li>* Innovation development services</li> <li>* Resilience continuity plans</li> <li>* Product/solution development</li> </ul> <p>These activities must include Artificial Intelligence / Blockchain technologies, support Green transition and address at least one challenge among the ones included in the guidelines of the open call.</p> <p>Only one application per applicant will be evaluated under this specific call.</p> <p>Beneficiaries can participate to the different AIBC EUROCLUSTERS Open Calls (project proposals, training, participation to international events, digitalisation services and product development) but a single beneficiary cannot receive more than 60 000 euros overall.</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/aibc-euroclusters-open-call-participation-international-events">https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/aibc-euroclusters-open-call-participation-international-events</a>

<b>AIRISE Open Call for Ambassadors</b> <b>Open for submission</b>	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	multiple cut-off
<b>Publication Date</b>	1 Jun 2023
<b>Deadline dates</b>	31 Oct 2023
<b>Budget for Call</b>	€ 120 000
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	<p>AIRISE will empower these entities with the knowledge, tools and financial support to address a wide basis of manufacturing SMEs.</p> <p>The AIRISE Ambassadors may receive financial support for personnel resources and consumables to get trained and to implement reach out and screening activities that will prepare an assessment of an application case. A lump sum for the support is being calculated from 70% of the total cost (direct cost plus 25% flat rate to cover overhead cost), but no single entity may receive more than 30k€ from the AIRISE consortium per call.</p> <p>The duration of the participation in the programme is 12 months.</p>

<b>Call information</b>	<p>AIRISE aims to support European SMEs and midcaps to create AI applications that support their manufacturing lines in being more sustainable.</p> <p>To meet the targets laid out, AIRISE aims to engage external "AIRISE Ambassadors". Overall, the call aims to empower AIRISE Ambassadors as a whole, to reach out to a large number of SMEs (&gt;600) and screen &gt;200 application ideas throughout the project duration.</p> <p>Ambassadors are legal entities, represented by one or more of their staff, that support AIRISE in promoting its ambition, creating awareness on AI in manufacturing and performing AI application screening among SMEs. They should be entities that bring together SMEs and/or provides those SMEs with capacity-building &amp; business-related services from specific industrial sectors or with a specific interest, such as SME clusters, technological associations or business registers.</p> <p>The goal is to create awareness and facilitate the assessment of potential AI application ideas for a wide SME base. Applying legal entities that are selected are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Appoint 1-2 people for upskilling on the topic of AI-in-manufacturing by receiving a 2-day training from AIRISE.</li> <li>* Reach out to SMEs, inform them about AIRISE and discuss potential applications of AI-in-manufacturing.</li> <li>* Screen application ideas of your SME members with the help of the AIRISE screening tools for AI-in-manufacturing.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://airise.eu/calls/oc-ambassador-submission">https://airise.eu/calls/oc-ambassador-submission</a>

<b>Transform 2023 - EIT Manufacturing support for manufacturing corporates or SMEs and startups collaboration.</b> <b>Open for submission</b>	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	multiple cut-off
<b>Publication Date</b>	7 Aug 2023
<b>Deadline dates</b>	1 Dec 2023
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	The available financial support is 20 000 euros per pilot project for activities which are in line with the overall EIT Manufacturing objectives.
<b>Call information</b>	<p>EIT Manufacturing seeks to support the application of innovative technologies in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), mid-cap companies and corporates, horizontally along existing supply chains, but also vertically, by integrating them into existing systems.</p> <p>TRANSFORM Call 2023 focuses on addressing the innovation needs of well-established companies, such as manufacturing corporates and SMEs. It aims to support manufacturing corporates and SMEs in solving industrial and innovation challenges by implementing new technologies from startups that could be further co-developed and integrated into their business operations and production.</p> <p>Applicants must be a legal for-profit entity with a dedicated team of at least two (2) full-time equivalent employees and registered headquarters in one of the European Union Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe at the time of their application to the call.</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/aibc-euroclusters-open-call-participation-international-events">https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/aibc-euroclusters-open-call-participation-international-events</a>



TrialsNet: Open Call #1	
Forthcoming	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Publication Date</b>	16 Oct 2023
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	19 Jan 2024
<b>Budget for Call</b>	-
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	up to 200.000 € per applicant or up to 300.000 € for multiple-applicant (i.e. independent trial)
<b>Call information</b>	<p>TrialsNet will support proposals to undertake a set of new or complementary 5G use cases to further enrich the main areas of interest and to perform related large-scale trials.</p> <p>The proposed use cases should address one of the main areas identified by the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Infrastructure</li> <li>* Environment</li> <li>* Security &amp; Safety</li> <li>* eHealth and emergency relief.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://trialsnet.eu/open-call/">https://trialsnet.eu/open-call/</a>

FOODITY 2 <sup>nd</sup> Open Call	
Forthcoming	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	single stage
<b>Publication Date</b>	5 Sep 2023
<b>Deadline dates</b>	8 Nov 2023
<b>Budget for Call</b>	€ 120 000
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	Selected proposals will get value-added services (e.g. one-to-one mentoring, training on technical, business, and legal matters) and technical and financial support (up to 187,500 euros per beneficiary) for developing their pilots.
<b>Call information</b>	<p>The main goal of FOODITY is to create a European ecosystem of digital solutions that contributes to a more sustainable and healthy food and nutrition system - respecting citizens' rights to personal data sovereignty.</p> <p>FOODITY will run a 2M euros pilot development programme for creating 12 data-driven solutions to demonstrate the potential of data-driven innovation in food and nutrition while guaranteeing the user's full control and ownership over their personal data.</p> <p>Eligible beneficiaries will be research and technology organisations (RTOs) and universities, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social innovation actors and training organisations</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://foodity.eu/open-calls/">https://foodity.eu/open-calls/</a>

AI REDGIO 5.0: Open calls for third-parties support	
Forthcoming	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding



<b>Deadline model</b>	single stage
<b>Publication Date</b>	1 Dec 2023
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	1 Apr 2024
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	The maximum amount allowed per proposal will be 60,000 euros
<b>Call information</b>	<p>The overall objective of AI REDGIO 5.0 project is to enable competitive AI-at-the-Edge digital transformation of Industry 5.0 Manufacturing SMEs. The project will support the transition towards sustainability, through the ecosystem development and replication to SMEs. Total budget for the two open calls for third parties is €1.2M</p> <p>The call will be addressed to SMEs eligible for Horizon Europe</p> <p>All successful applicants will benefit from AI REDGIO 5.0 unique ecosystem and will find complementary funding for the full implementation of their experiments. SMEs or for-profit entities will be funded 70% of their respective eligible cost, while non-profit organizations may receive funding 100% of their cost. The eligible costs are related to personnel, subcontracting and indirect costs.</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://www.airedgio5-0.eu/open-calls">https://www.airedgio5-0.eu/open-calls</a>

<b>NGI SEARCH Open Calls #4, #5</b> <span style="color: #27ae60;">Open for submission</span>	
<b>Type of action</b>	Open Call – Cascade Funding
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Publication Date</b>	1 Dec 2023
<b>Deadline dates</b>	31 Jan 2024/30 Apr 2024
<b>Budget for Call</b>	-
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	150 000 EUR
<b>Call information</b>	<p>NGI Search is designed to help beneficiaries, such as start-ups, scale-ups, SMEs, and mid-sized companies to adopt and develop digital innovation in the domain of searching and discovering data and generally resources on the internet. It will launch five open calls and distribute up to 150, 000 euros to each project, with the support of a dedicated team, an Advisory Board and 10 added-value services. Each call will onboard a new cohort of projects to join the mentoring programme which helps implementing and adopting their projects, through the following added-value services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Technology Services: Mentoring and Advice, Beta Testing Campaigns, Link to Standards and Foundation</li> <li>· Business Services: Market Readiness, Pitching Training, Business Modeling and Coaching</li> <li>· Innovation Services: Open Source Licensing, Market Landscaping and Research, Open Science Advice, Content Creation Support for Showcasing Results network.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://www.ngisearch.eu/view/Main/OpenCalls">https://www.ngisearch.eu/view/Main/OpenCalls</a>

## ECONET RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS



1. Periodically check the EC portal for opportunities. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls>
2. WBDIHs can also periodically check the FundingBox portal as we anticipate news about the Open Calls managed by FundingBox. <https://fundingbox.com/money-box/>

### 3.4 DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME

The Digital Europe Programme aims to accelerate economic recovery and drive the digital transformation of Europe by boosting investments in supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society, including through Digital Innovation Hubs. With a planned overall budget of €7.6 billion (in current prices), its goal is to improve Europe's competitiveness in the global digital economy and increase its technological autonomy, bringing benefits to everyone, but in particular to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Commission signed on 30 June 2023 partnership agreements for the Digital Europe Programme with **Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania and Serbia**, on the margins of the Regulatory Dialogue with the Western Balkans.

In particular, participants from these four economies will be able to take part in projects that deploy digital technologies across the EU in specific areas such as artificial intelligence, and advanced digital skills. They will also be able to set up Digital Innovation Hubs in their own regions.

DIGITAL Programme priorities are:

- 1) Supercomputing €2.2 billion to:
  - Build up and strengthen the EU's supercomputing and data processing capacities by buying world-class exascale supercomputers by 2022/2023 and post exascale facilities by 2026/2027.
  - Increase accessibility and broaden the use of supercomputing in areas of public interest such as health, environment and security, and in industry, including small and medium-sized enterprises.
- 2) Artificial intelligence €2.1 billion to:
  - Invest in and open up the use of artificial intelligence by businesses and public administrations.
  - Set up a true European data space and facilitate safe access to and storage of large datasets and trustworthy and energy-efficient cloud infrastructure.
  - Strengthen and support existing artificial intelligence testing and experimentation facilities in areas such as health and mobility in Member States and encourage their cooperation.
- 3) Cybersecurity €1.6 billion to:
  - Strengthening cybersecurity coordination between Member States tools and data infrastructures.
  - Support the wide deployment of cybersecurity capacities across the economy.
- 4) Advanced digital skills €580 million to:
  - Support the design and delivery of specialized programmes and traineeships for the future experts in key capacity areas like data and AI, cybersecurity, quantum and HPC.
  - Support the upskilling of the existing workforce through short trainings reflecting the latest developments in key capacity areas.
- 5) Ensuring the wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society €1.1 billion to:

- Support high impact deployments in areas of public interest, such as health (complemented by EU4Health programme), Green Deal, smart communities and the cultural sector.
- Build up and strengthen the network of European Digital Innovation Hubs, aiming to have a Hub in every region, to help companies benefit from digital opportunities.
- **Support the uptake of advanced digital and related technologies by the industry, notably small and medium-sized enterprises.**

Below is a table with the main characteristics of a call that has been key to shaping the current map of European Digital Innovation Hubs, and where the Hubs based in Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania and Serbia will be able to participate once the new call is launched, expected in January 2024. Kosovo\* is also under negotiations to join the programme so Hubs can also participate in the future.

<b>European Digital Innovation Hubs</b> <i>Forthcoming</i>	
<b>Programme</b>	DIGITAL PROGRAMME
<b>Type of action</b>	Simple Grants — 50% funding rate
<b>Deadline model</b>	Single-stage
<b>Opening date</b>	January 2024
<b>Deadline date</b>	<b>May 2024 (tentative date)</b>
<b>Expected Budget per project</b>	between EUR 1 000 000 and EUR 3 000 000 per project.
<b>Call information</b>	Upgrade EDIH to provide the complete set of services of an EDIH, including the necessary infrastructure, in a specific geographical area, covering the needs of the local SMEs, small mid-caps and/or public sector organisations with respect to their digital transformation.
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/edih">https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/edih</a>
<b>PERSONALISED INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	<p>This is the most important call for DIHs aspiring to fund their transformation into European Digital Innovation Centres (EDIHs) and align with the wider European digital network.</p> <p>It is recommended to initiate your preparations now. Iterate your proposal, seek feedback, and perfect it well ahead of the submission deadline.</p> <p>At FundingBox, we've had the privilege of supporting 11 DIHs in their application process for the 2022 EDIH network call. With a success rate of 73%, our experience and best practices from this endeavor can be leveraged to increase the chances of success in the forthcoming call.</p>

## ECONET RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS



To participate in this call, WB DIHs must be included in a national list therefore, WB DIHs should foresee to apply first to a national call in order to be able to apply to the European call. These calls should be launched in the short term. **Between September and December 2023, Member States are expected to prepare their lists of potential EDIHs to be sent to the EC.**

Stay tuned checking periodically the Digital Area in the F&T Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/digital>

In addition to the EDIHs call, within the DIGITAL Programme, other calls are identified within the scope of Advanced Digital Skills that, although a priori would not have a focus of interest for WB DIHs, it is recommended to explore their interest: [The DIGITAL Europe Programme – Work Programmes](#)

### 3.5 Erasmus +

Erasmus+ is the EU programme supporting education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget is estimated at €26.2 billion. This is almost double that of its predecessor programme from 2014 to 2020. Between 2021 and 2027, the programme places particular emphasis on social inclusion, green and digital transformation and promoting young people's participation in democratic life.

For most actions in Erasmus+, organisation will need to be located in a programme country. Programme countries are the EU member states and a short list of other economies associated to the Programme, including **Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania and Serbia.**

**Kosovo\*** is among the “non-associated third countries (Partner Countries)”. Third countries not associated to the Programme may participate in certain Actions of the Programme, subject to certain criteria or conditions. Therefore, the mode of participation must be review in detail, in order to ensure the eligibility of the proposed activities.

The Commission launched the call for proposals for 2023 under the Erasmus+ programme. With an annual budget of €4.2 billion, Erasmus+ is increasing its support for inclusion, active citizenship and democratic participation, and green and digital transformations in the EU and internationally.

The latest work programme available as of today is 2023, with no open calls identified at this stage. However, calls of interest are expected in WP 2024. Tentative information on the most interesting actions for **WB DIHs** are shown in the following tables.

Capacity building in VET	
Forthcoming	
<b>Programme</b>	Erasmus+
<b>ID</b>	EDUCATION AND TRAINING - KEY ACTION 2 - Capacity building in VET
<b>Type of action</b>	Erasmus Lump Sum Grant
<b>Deadline model</b>	-
<b>Publication Date</b>	December 2023 (forecast)
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	February 2024 (forecast)
<b>Budget for Call</b>	Not available
<b>Call information</b>	<p>This action in the field of <b>V</b>ocational <b>E</b>ducation and <b>T</b>raining (VET) supports international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member State, <b>third countries associated to the Programme and third countries not associated to the Programme.</b></p> <p>Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· reinforce the links between the VET system and its labour market so as to better align VET to (emerging) local labour market opportunities;</li> <li>· increase the link between VET profiles and local/regional/ domestic strategies and priorities impacted by skills, in particular those supported by other European Union actions, in order to ensure coherence;</li> <li>· increase the capacities of VET providers especially in the fields of management, governance, inclusion, quality assurance, innovation; and internationalisation;</li> <li>· support the exposure of staff, managers, policy makers and senior teachers to approaches bringing the labour market and VET closer (dual learning, curriculum development with private sector partners..);</li> <li>· improve the knowledge, technical, managerial and pedagogical skills of VET teachers and trainers;</li> <li>· integrate the input from teachers/trainers, VET learners and employers, from private sector in particular, into curriculum, profile design and training reform;</li> <li>· improve the level of competences, skills and employability potential of VET learners by developing new and innovative VET education programmes, especially those delivering key competences, such as languages and ICT skills;</li> <li>· foster cooperation across different regions of the world through joint initiatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/capacity-building-vet">https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/capacity-building-vet</a>
PERSONALISED INFORMATION	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	There is a wide variety of entities that can take part in Erasmus calls. In particular, this call could be of interest to help the entities that participate in the Hub and are focused in training in technological fields, since they help to improve the labor insertion of young people in fields that, like the technological one, have a high demand for professional profiles.

Alliances for Innovation	
<b>Forthcoming</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	Erasmus+
<b>ID</b>	Lot 1. Alliances for Education and Enterprises. Lot 2. Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills.
<b>Type of action</b>	Erasmus Lump Sum Grant
<b>Deadline model</b>	-
<b>Publication Date</b>	February 2024 (forecast)
<b>Deadline date 1</b>	May 2024 (forecast)
<b>Budget for Project</b>	Lot 1. EUR 1 million (2-year project); 1.5 million (3-year project). Lot 2. 4 million (4-year project)
<b>Call information</b>	<p><u>Lot 1: Education and Business Partnerships</u>. A wide range of activities are funded (a detailed list of activities is specified in the 2023 programme guide, which serve as a reference for the 2024 call). Of potential interest to entities of the WB DIHs. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· creation of incubators in education and training institutions across Europe, in close cooperation with the business sector;</li> <li>· opening up new learning opportunities through practical experiences, as well as entrepreneurial competences and skills that can involve or lead to the implementation of new services, products and prototypes, and the creation of start-ups and spin-offs. spin-offs, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Lot 2: Partnerships for Sectoral Cooperation on Capacities</u>. A wide range of activities are funded (see 2023 programme guide for details, as a reference for the 2024 call). For instance, of potential interest to entities of the WB DIHs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· establishment of sustainable cooperation mechanisms on skills development between key industry stakeholders, in particular social partners, education and training providers and public authorities (at economy and regional level).</li> </ul> <p>Organisations from third countries not associated to the Programme may also participate as full partners but not as coordinator.</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<a href="https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/alliances-innovation">https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/alliances-innovation</a>
PERSONALISED INFORMATION	
<b>Recommendations for WB DIHs</b>	<p>Members of WB DIHs could fit well within a consortium in these calls. The Lot 1 constitute transnational projects that bring together businesses and providers of higher education and vocational training to collaborate with the aim to drive innovation in higher education, vocational training, and business, cultivate entrepreneurial spirit and competencies and stimulate the flow and exchange of knowledge between higher education, vocational training, and businesses.</p> <p>On the other hand, entities could be particularly interested in Lot 2 would be positioned: Partnerships for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills, aiming to address skills deficits in the labour market within a specific industrial ecosystem defined by the call.</p> <p>Proposals within Lot 2 should include the design of continuous professional training programmes that address the urgent skills needs of the working-age population. They should also include the development of emerging professional profiles and the qualifications associated with these, covering up to higher and post-secondary levels of vocational education and training (levels 3 to 5 of the EQF) and tertiary level (levels 6 to 8 of the EQF). Furthermore, proposals should encompass the design of related core curricula and education and training programmes leading to these qualifications. Each project should have among its partners both vocational education and training (VET) organisations and higher</p>

education institutions, as well as labour market stakeholders. If possible, they should also include policy-making bodies, certification agencies, and European sectoral associations, along with industry representatives.

## ECONET RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS



It is recommended to follow the news on the portal: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/opportunities>

Attend webinars, workshops, and partner search forums associated with Erasmus+ to strengthen your network, gain insights, and enhance your applications.

As the 2024 dates are a forecast, watch out for the calls foreseen in the 2024 Work Programme. Plan and prepare your proposals in advance to adapt them to the expected areas of interest.

For further information, it is recommended to contact the Erasmus+ offices in each country: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/contacts/national-erasmus-offices>.



## 4. CALLS CALENDAR<sup>6</sup>

Programme	Call	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
HORIZON EUROPE Pillar II	HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-06																
	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01																
	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02																
	HORIZON-CL4-2024-DATA-01-03																
	HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-02-05																
HORIZON EUROPE Pillar III	HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-03																
Widening	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02-01																
	HORIZON-WIDERA-ACCESS-07-1: Excellence Hubs																
	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01																
	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01-01-two-stage																
	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01																
Interreg	Interreg Euro-MED																

<sup>6</sup> Cascade Funding is not included in this calendar, given the aforementioned consideration of not identifying any with a specific focus on DIHs at the present time.

Programme	Call	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
	Interreg Danube																
	Interreg IPA Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro																
DIGITAL	EDIHs Network Call																
ERASMUS+	Capacity building in VET																
	Alliances for Innovation																

Calls with confirmed dates are indicated in **dark gold**, as they have already been called or announced, and calls awaiting publication or confirmation of definitive dates are indicated in **light gold**.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS. ACTION PLAN

There are several grants from the European Commission that may fit **WB DIHs**, as we have already introduced and are presented in the previous calendar.

These calls for proposals stand out above the others. The reasons for this are described in the recommendations on the previous pages of this document, located at the end of each of these call blocks:

For WB DIHs as coordinators/partners:

- HORIZON-**WIDERA**-ACCESS-07-1: **Excellence Hubs** (March 2024)
- DIGITAL- **EDIHs Network Call** (March 2024)
- Interregs **Danube, Euro-MED** and Interregs **IPA** (February/June 2024)
- HORIZON-EIE-**CONNECT** (September 2024)
- HORIZON-**WIDERA**-2023-ACCESS-06-01: **Hop On Facility** (September 2023/2024)

For WB DIHs through its partners:

- HORIZON-**WIDERA**: Twinning - Bottom up (September 2024)
- HORIZON-**WIDERA**: ERA Chairs (March 2024)
- HORIZON-**WIDERA**: Teaming for Excellence (April 2024)
- HORIZON-CL2-2024-**DEMOCRACY**-01-06 (February 2024)
- HORIZON-CL3-2023-**CS**-01-01 (November 2023)
- HORIZON-CL3-2023-**CS**-01-02 (November 2023)
- HORIZON-CL4-2024-**DATA**-01-03 (March 2024)
- Erasmus Education and Training - Key Action 2 - **Capacity building in VET** (February 2024)
- Erasmus Education and Training - Key Action 2 – **Alliances for Innovation** (April 2024)
- Cascade Funding-**All the opportunities listed in section 3.3.**

Taking into account **WB DIHs** needs, and in order to be aware of the different calls for proposals and to search for partners, it is recommended as an action plan:

A) For EU Programmes, Ordinary Calls:

- Prepare a Partner Profile with **WB DIHs** information and expertise.
- Get the PIC number and be sure all steps for its validation will be done.
- Upload profile in topics of interest. Each call topic has a specific section “Partner Section”, where you can showcase your interest in participating by adding your organisation profile.

B) For Cascade Funding

- Register in the different Contact Lists and newsletters of the projects identified in this document, in order to receive regularly updated information,
- Follow them on social networks.
- Go to the partner search sections of the calls/programmes pages to identify partners that could be of interest in the case of calls that require a partnership.
- Periodically check the EU Portal for new projects providing cascade funding.
- Register on the [www.fundingbox.com](http://www.fundingbox.com) platform where all existing cascade funding opportunities are collected.

At the same time, it is very important to keep updating the funding opportunities because, as mentioned at different points in the document, there are interesting calls for proposals for **WB DIHs** and its partners to be published in the coming months.

As a final recommendation as many programmes/ projects require partnership (consortia) to apply for funding we recommend in order to become a part of those consortia to search take the following steps:

- Sign up to the different contact lists and newsletters from the different programmes and projects in order to receive updated information about them.
- Follow the different programmes and projects on social networks.
- Refer to the different programmes to the “partner search” sections in order to identify potential partners.

Sign up to Fundingbox platform where you can have access to the different cascade funding opportunities and also a space for partner search.

## 6. ANNEX

### European Enterprise Network (EEN)

In addition to the specific funding opportunities mentioned in the previous sections, it is necessary to highlight the role that the EEN could play in providing advice on European funding, and in particular advice and support in building European consortia to participate in the suggested calls for proposals.

The EEN helps businesses innovate and grow on an international scale. It is the world's largest support network for SMEs and is active in more than 60 economies worldwide and it brings together 3,000 experts from more than 600 member organisations.

The EEN manages Europe's largest online database of business opportunities - it provides an opportunity to search for business or academic partners to manufacture, distribute, co-develop and supply products, ideas, and services.

The national contact points by economy are set out below:

### Albania

#### DURRES

DHOMA E TREGTISE DHE INDUSTRISE DURRES			
<b>Address</b>	Lagjia 11, Rr. 'Aleksander Goga', Pallti Borova, Durres DURRES 2001, Albania	<b>Email</b>	info@ccdir.al
<b>Telephone</b>	+355 694050542	<b>Website</b>	http://www.ccidr.al

#### TIRANA

DHOMA EKONOMIKE E GRAVE TE SHQIPERISE			
<b>Address</b>	Rr. 'Andon Zako Cajupi', TIRANA 1001 Albania	<b>Email</b>	info@weca.al
<b>Telephone</b>	+355 69 802 1111	<b>Website</b>	http://www.weca.al
AGJENCIA KOMBETARE E KERKIMIT SHKENCOR DHE INOVACIONIT			
<b>Address</b>	Rruga "Naim Frashëri", Nr.37, Tiranë, Shqipëri TIRANA 1001 Albania	<b>Email</b>	info@nasri.gov.al
<b>Telephone</b>	+ 355 4 222 24 09	<b>Website</b>	http://www.nasri.gov.al
FONDACIONIT AGJENCIA RAJONALE E ZHVILLIMIT SME			
<b>Address</b>	FONDACIONIT AGJENCIA RAJONALE E ZHVILLIMIT SME	<b>Email</b>	rrembecil06@gmail.com
<b>Telephone</b>	+355 692086323	<b>Website</b>	http://www.rdatirana.al
QENDRA PER PROMOVIMIN E KONKURRUESHMERISE			

<b>Address</b>	Rruga e Durresit, P. 7, Sh. 1, Ap.1, Tirana, Albania TIRANA 1001 Albania	<b>Email</b>	info@ccp.al
<b>Telephone</b>	+355 692141920	<b>Website</b>	http://www.ccp.al

## **Bosnia And Herzegovina**

### **BANJA LUKA**

<b>CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Branka Copica 6 Banja Luka 78000 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	info@komorars.ba
<b>Telephone</b>	+387 51 493 121	<b>Website</b>	http://www.komorars.ba
<b>UNIVERZITET U BANJOJ LUCI</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Bulevar Vojvode Petra Bojovica 1 A Banja Luka 78000 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	info@unibl.org
<b>Telephone</b>	+387 51 321 171	<b>Website</b>	http://www.unibl.org/
<b>FOUNDATION INNOVATION CENTRE BANJA LUKA</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Dr. Mladena Stojanovica 4 Banja Luka 78000 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	info@icbl.ba
<b>Telephone</b>	+387 51 340 600	<b>Website</b>	http://www.icbl.ba/
<b>DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Trg jasenovackih žrtava Banja Luka 78000 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	een@rars-msp.org
<b>Telephone</b>	+387 51 222 120	<b>Website</b>	http://www.rars-msp.org/en-US/o-nama/o-age
<b>QENDRA PER PROMOVIMIN E KONKURRUESHMERISE</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Rruga e Durresit, P. 7, Sh. 1, Ap.1, Tirana, Albania TIRANA 1001 Albania	<b>Email</b>	info@ccp.al
<b>Telephone</b>	+355 692141920	<b>Website</b>	http://www.ccp.al

### **ISTOCNO SARAJEVO**

<b>UNIVERZITET U ISTOCNOM SARAJEVU</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Vuka Karadzica 30 Istocno Sarajevo 71123 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	Not available
<b>Telephone</b>	+387 57 320 330	<b>Website</b>	http://www.ues.rs.ba

### **MOSTAR**

<b>ZAKLADA ZA INOVACIJSKI I TEHNOLOSKIRAZVITAK</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Bisce Polje Bb Mostar 88000 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	info@intera.ba
<b>Telephone</b>	+387 36 327 972	<b>Website</b>	http://www.intera.ba

#### **SARAJEVO**

<b>UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Obala Kulina Bana 7/li Sarajevo 71000 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	Not available
<b>Telephone</b>	38733565123	<b>Website</b>	http://www.unsa.ba

<b>VANJSKOTRGOVINSKA/SPOLJNOTRGOVINSKA KOMORA BIH</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Branislava Djurdjeva 10 Sarajevo 71000 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	een@komorabih.ba
<b>Telephone</b>	387 (0)33 566241; 387(0) 33 56 6242	<b>Website</b>	http://www.komorabih.ba

#### **TUZLA**

<b>JAVNO PREDUZECE BIT CENTAR DOO U TUZLI</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Trg Slobode 16 Tuzla 75000 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	info@bit.ba
<b>Telephone</b>	+387 35 304 650	<b>Website</b>	http://www.bit.ba

#### **ZENICA**

<b>ZENICKA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA ZEDA DOO</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Ul. Poslovna Zona Zenica 1, Zmaja Od Bosne Bb, Zgr Technopark-A Zenica Zenica 72000 Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>Email</b>	info@zeda.ba
<b>Telephone</b>	+387 32 449 410	<b>Website</b>	http://www.zeda.ba

#### **Kosovo\***

#### **PRISTINA**

<b>THE ENTERPRISE AGENCY OF PRISHTINA REGION UDRUZENJE</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Str. Zagrebi Hyrja 23 Kati li Nr 8 Priština 10000 Kosovo	<b>Email</b>	Not available
<b>Telephone</b>	+38 138244951	<b>Website</b>	Not available
<b>SHOQATA PER TEKNOLOGJI TE INFORMACIONIT DHE TE KOMUNIKIMIT TE KOSOVES</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Rexhep Mala 28a Priština 10000	<b>Email</b>	Not available

	Kosovo		
<b>Telephone</b>	+38 138771180	<b>Website</b>	Not available

## **Montenegro**

### **BAR**

<b>FONDACIJA BIZNIS START - UP CENTARBAR</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Bulevar Revolucije Bb Poslovni Centar Kula A5 Bar 85000 Montenegro	<b>Email</b>	info@bscbar.org
<b>Telephone</b>	382 30686380	<b>Website</b>	http://www.bscbar.org

### **PODGORICA**

<b>JAVNA USTANOVA UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE PODGORICA</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Cetinjska 2 Podgorica 81000 Montenegro	<b>Email</b>	mf@cg.ac.me
<b>Telephone</b>	382 20 245 116	<b>Website</b>	http://www.mf.cg.ac.me
<b>MINISTARSTVO EKONOMIJE</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Rimski Trg 46 Podgorica 81000 Montenegro	<b>Email</b>	info@euroinfo.me
<b>Telephone</b>	+382 20482335	<b>Website</b>	http://www.euroinfo.me
<b>PRIVREDNA KOMORA CRNE GORE PODGORICA</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Novaka Miloseva 29 II Podgorica 81000 Montenegro	<b>Email</b>	pkcg@pkcg.org
<b>Telephone</b>	382 20 230 545	<b>Website</b>	http://www.komora.me/

## **North Macedonia**

### **SKOPJE**

<b>Ss. CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE</b>			
<b>Address</b>	Blvd Goce Delcev 9 Skopje 1000 North Macedonia	<b>Email</b>	info@een.mk
<b>Telephone</b>	389 2 3293 204	<b>Website</b>	http://www.ukim.edu.mk



## Serbia

### BELGRADE

DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF SERBIA			
Address	Kneza Milosa 12 Belgrade 11000 Serbia	Email	een@ras.gov.rs
Telephone	+381 11 3398900	Website	http://www.ras.gov.rs
INSTITUT MIHAJLO PUPIN			
Address	Volgina 15 Belgrade 11060 Serbia	Email	cirnt@pupin.rs
Telephone	+381 11 6774 452	Website	http://www.pupin.rs/cirnt
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia			
Address	Resavska 13-15 Belgrade 11000 Serbia	Email	een@pks.rs
Telephone	+ 381 11 4149 448	Website	http://www.pks.rs

### NIS

UNIVERZITET U NISU			
Address	Univerzitetski Trg 2 Niš 18000 Serbia	Email	een-srbija@eknfak.ni.ac.rs
Telephone	+381 18 257970	Website	http://www.ni.ac.rs

### NOVI SAD

POSLOVNI INKUBATOR NOVI SAD - BUSINESS INCUBATOR NOVI SAD DRUSTVO SA OGRANICENOM ODGOVORNOSCU NOVI SAD			
Address	Vojvodjanskih Brigada 28 Novi Sad 21000 Serbia	Email	een-srbija@uns.ac.rs
Telephone	+381 18 257 970	Website	http://www.inkubator.biz

Furthermore, Enterprise Europe Network can provide business advice for market expansion and innovation support services. The Network offers access to a range of advisory services such as: financial, intellectual property, CE marking, access to market, innovation strategy etc. The full areas of expertise are can be found on each EEN Contact Point [webpage](#).