

Research in Motion

Empowering Innovation in the Western Balkans through the POLICY ANSWERS Pilot Mobility Scheme for Early-Career Researchers



The Western Balkans Mobility Scheme will be opened **on 28 March 2024**, as part of the pilot programmes of POLICY ANSWERS – R&I POLICY making, implementation ANd Support in the WEsteRn BalkanS project.

By supporting the regional mobility of early-career researchers in the Western Balkans, the regional cooperation and the sustained support in mobility-driven R&I as well as the societal resilience and the convergence of the Western Balkans with the European Union should be enhanced.

The Western Balkans Mobility Scheme will address early-career researchers (PhD Students and Post-Doctoral researchers, who finished their PhDs no longer than seven years before the deadline of the call) from all six Western Balkans economies: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. With a total budget of EUR 100,000 the program will provide each winning project with a grant of up to EUR 5,000 for two weeks until a maximum of six months. The European Commission will provide the funds. A one-stage online application procedure will be used.

For the projects to be considered within this scheme, the applicants must:

- (1) foresee short-term mobility within the Western Balkans
- (2) justify the need for specialised equipment or facilities (research infrastructures) in another Western Balkans economy to conduct research
- (3) conduct research.

All thematic research areas are eligible including Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and arts-based research.

The scheme should build the ground for a follow-up mobility programme funded by regional, national or international stakeholders.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence