



Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility Specific Support to Montenegro

“Towards Entrepreneurial Innovation Ecosystems in Montenegro” Conference on the occasion of the finalisation of the project

25 March 2019
Hotel “Podgorica”, Podgorica, Montenegro

AGENDA	
9.30 – 10.00	Registration of participants
10.00 - 10.30	Opening and Welcome <u>Duško Marković</u> , Prime Minister of the Government of Montenegro <u>Signe Ratso</u> , Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
10.30 - 11.00	Keynote speakers <u>Daria Tataj</u> , the Chair of Policy Support Facility (PSF) expert panel <u>Nebojša Nakićenović</u> , Deputy Director General and CEO of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Vienna (IIASA)
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 - 12.15	Panel discussion: Entrepreneurial and Innovation Ecosystems – results of the project <i>Introduction and moderation</i> by <u>Sanja Damjanović</u> , Minister of Science of Montenegro; <i>Panellists:</i> <u>Signe Ratso</u> , Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission <u>Daria Tataj</u> , the Chair of PSF expert panel <u>Domen Bole</u> , PSF expert, Slovenia <u>Totti Könnölä</u> , PSF expert, Finland / Spain
12.15 – 12.20	Technical setting break
12.20 – 12.30	Inspiration Session – Fleka.Me – <u>Miloš Milošević</u>
12.30 - 13.30	Panel discussion: Building capacities for an effective start-up ecosystem <i>Moderator:</i>

	<p><u>Predrag Lešić</u>, Digitalizuj.Me hub co-founder, ESIL Montenegro</p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <p><u>Dragan Čabarkapa</u>, Start-up from Montenegro, <u>Aleksandar Dlabač</u>, Angle4, Montenegro <u>Mirsad Hadžalić</u>, Daktilograf.me <u>Branka Zizic</u>, Ministry of Science of Montenegro <u>Saša Vujošević</u>, University of Montenegro, Faculty of Economics <u>Roberta Malee Basset</u>, Global Lead for Tertiary Education, World Bank</p>
13.30 – 14.30	<p>Panel discussion: Let's Make the Innovations Grow</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p><u>Radivoje Drobnjak</u>, business consultant, Tehnopolis Nikšić</p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <p><u>Nenad Novović</u>, Amplitudo, Montenegro <u>Domen Bole</u>, PSF expert, Slovenia <u>Totti Könnölä</u>, PSF expert, Finland / Spain <u>Tomo Popović</u>, University Donja Gorica, Montenegro <u>Aleksandar Đuričković</u>, Commission for the Capital Market of Montenegro <u>Nemanja Katnić</u>, Ministry of Finance of Montenegro <u>Andrej Mihailović</u>, King's College, London</p>
14.30 – 14.45	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Dragica Sekulic, Minister of Economy of Montenegro -tbc</p>
14.45 - 16.00	<p>Family photo and Lunch</p>

General information

The Ministry of Science requested support from the European Commission through the instrument “Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility”¹, in August 2017. The project entitled “Towards Entrepreneurial Innovation Ecosystems in Montenegro” was kicked-off in June 2018. During the second half of 2018 intensive work has been done both at the side of the EU experts engaged and the project team in Montenegro. This event is marking the finalisation of the project and it is the opportunity to present the results but also to discuss with stakeholders from Montenegro and abroad about the implementation of the recommendations and creation of an effective entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem.

Entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems for an efficient transition to knowledge society

The Government of Montenegro has started developing the innovation policies just recently. The Law and Strategy related to innovation were adopted in 2016. The first funding instrument aimed for commercial innovations carried out by the Ministry of Science in 2018, showed very optimistic results. The joint work of the EU experts and the Montenegrin *Partnership for creation of the innovation ecosystem* resulted in the adoption of the “Programme for supporting innovative start-ups in Montenegro 2019-2021” by the Government in December 2018. Innovation actors in Montenegro that were previously left to themselves, unconnected and without state support have responded very well to the new Government policies and instruments.

However, as the PSF analysis has shown, innovation policy in Montenegro needs to be set in a wider context and become fully integrated with entrepreneurship policies since the meagre entrepreneurial culture provides limited inflow of people into the system, to start with. Other elements of the system, such as favourable legislation, new funding opportunities and better higher education and research environment need to follow and become much friendlier and open for innovation actors. These changes can increase attractiveness for foreign innovators and researchers, provide better internal and outward connectivity and increase foreign investment.

The situation in Montenegro is similar to other countries in Europe that are too slow in creating vibrant innovation ecosystems. However, Montenegro needs to learn and follow the leaders and thus be quick and pro-active in introducing mechanisms that will first slow down the outflow of entrepreneurial and innovation talent and later reverse it. Montenegro being a small country and potentially quick to change the framework conditions, is now in the position to create a turning point in its economy and base it on the grounds of knowledge, innovation and internationalisation.

The policy of smart specialisation should be conducive to this change as well, by defining a commonly agreed focus of research and innovation activity in connection to the business activities, and by aligning priorities with those determined at the EU trans-regional scale in order to provide for better global positioning of Montenegrin economy. The Smart Specialisation Strategy of Montenegro (S3) is expected to be adopted by mid-2019 in Montenegro.

Profile of participants:

The event will host high-level speakers: the Prime Minister of the Government of Montenegro, Deputy Director-General of the DG Research and Innovation, European Commission, Minister of Science, Minister of Economy, EU experts engaged in the project, distinguished guests. They will have the chance to openly discuss about the topic with the most active stakeholders in the innovation community in Montenegro, in order to arrive to conclusions, which will help in the implementation of the recommendations from the „Horizon2020 Policy Support Facility“ project.

¹ <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-support-facility/specific-support-montenegro-towards-entrepreneurial-innovation-ecosystems>