



# MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN BALKANS PLATFORMS ON

CULTURE  
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**27 — 28 June 2022**  
**Tirana, Albania**

# Monday, 27 June 2022

Venue: Hotel Maritim Plaza Tirana, Rruga Abdi Toptani 18, Tirana 1001, Albania

## Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkans Platform on Culture

(Meeting upon invitation only)

**11:30 - 20:00** **Registrations** (Hotel lobby – Floor 0)

**12:00 - 14:00** **Lunch** (Served at the restaurant on Floor 2. Coffee and light refreshments will be additionally served between sessions)

### Ministerial Meeting on Culture

(Queen Geraldine Meeting Room, Floor 3, upon invitation)

**14:20 - 14:25** **Opening of the Ministerial Meeting on Culture**

Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU, Director General, EC DG for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

**14:25 - 14:35** **Welcome Addresses**

Elva MARGRITI, Minister of Culture, Albania

Elisabeth BARSACQ, Ambassador of France to Albania, French Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**14:35 - 14:45** **Keynote**

Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

**14:45 - 16:15** **Ministerial Round Table Discussion on Culture**

**“The role of young people in protecting and promoting cultural heritage in the context of the European Year of Youth”**

Moderation: Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU, Director General, EC DG for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

**16:15 - 16:25** **Conclusions**

Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Elva MARGARITI, Minister of Culture, Albania

### Official Launch of the Western Balkans Platform on Culture

(Public event, Jeronim De Rada Meeting Room, Floor 23)

**16:15 - 16:45** **Arrival of Participants and Press Accreditation**

**16:45 - 17:30** **Family Photo**

**Press Conference**

**Addresses**

Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Elva MARGARITI, Minister of Culture, Albania

### Regional Cooperation Council - Butterfly Innovation Awards Ceremony

(Public event, Jeronim De Rada Meeting Room, Floor 23)

**18:30 - 19:00** **Arrival of Participants and Registrations**

**19:00 - 20:00** **Awards Ceremony**

**Welcome Addresses**

Majlinda BREGU, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council

Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Awards given to the winners of the 2022 competition by Majlinda BREGU, Mariya GABRIEL and Erion VELIAJ,

Mayor of Tirana, during a cocktail reception

### Gala Dinner

**20:30 - 22:30** **Official Gala Dinner**

Co-hosted by Elvis KUSHI, Minister of Education and Sports, and Elva MARGARITI, Minister of Culture of Albania

The dinner is upon invitation only and will take place at the Presidential Palace, Rruga Elbasani 58, Tirana 1019.

Dress code required is business attire. A transfer service by bus is organised, with departure from the Hotel at 20:15

# Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Venue: Hotel Maritim Plaza Tirana, Rruga Abdi Toptani 18, Tirana 1001, Albania

## High-Level Launch Event of the Science for Policy Report “Status of Environment and Climate in the Western Balkans”

(Public event, Jeronim De Rada Meeting Room, Floor 23)

**07:45 - 08:15** **Arrival of Participants and Press Accreditation**

**08:15 - 08:45** **Launch of the Science for Policy Report**

**“Status of Environment and Climate in the Western Balkans”**

Moderation: Besnik BARAJ, University of Tirana

**Welcoming and Introduction**

Mirela KUMBARO FURXHI, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Albania

Sabine HENZLER, Director Strategy, Work Programme and Resources, EC DG Joint Research Centre

### **Presentation of the Report**

Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

### **Next Steps**

Sabine HENZLER, Director Strategy, Work Programme and Resources, EC DG Joint Research Centre  
After a break, the discussion will continue for experts until 10:15

## **Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkans Platforms on Research and Innovation & Education and Training**

*(Meeting upon invitation only)*

**07:30 - 14:30 Registrations**  
(Hotel lobby – Floor 0)

### **Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkans Platform on Research and Innovation**

*(Queen Geraldine Meeting Room, Floor 3, upon invitation only)*

**09:00 - 09:05 Opening of the Ministerial Meeting on Research and Innovation**  
Signe RATSO, Deputy-Director General, EC DG for Research and Innovation

**09:05 - 09:20 Welcome Addresses**  
Evis KUSHI, Minister of Education and Sports, Albania  
Delina IBRAHIMAJ, Minister of Finance and Economy, Albania  
Sylvie RETAILLEAU, French Minister of Higher Education and Research, French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (video message)

**09:20 - 09:30 Introductory Presentation**  
**“Directionality and prioritisation of Research and Innovation in the Western Balkans”**  
Sabine HENZLER, Director Strategy, Work Programme and Resources, EC DG Joint Research Centre

**09:30 - 09:40 Keynote**  
Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

**09:40 - 10:45 Ministerial Round Table Discussion on Research and Innovation**  
**“Academia-Business cooperation for synergies in the knowledge triangle”**  
Moderation: Signe RATSO, Deputy-Director General, EC DG for Research and Innovation  
With the participation of:  
Majlinda BREGU, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council  
Ronald DE BRUIN, Director, COST Association (online)

**10:45 - 11:00 Conclusions**  
Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth  
Evis KUSHI, Minister of Education and Sports, Albania  
Edona BILALI, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship Protection, Albania

**11:00 - 11:10 Family Photo**  
(Queen Geraldine Room, Floor 3)

**11:10 - 11:30 Coffee Break**  
(Served in the Foyer in front of the Queen Geraldine Room, Floor 3)

### **Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training**

*(Queen Geraldine Meeting Room, Floor 3, upon invitation only)*

**11:30 - 11:35 Opening of the Ministerial Meeting on Education and Training**  
Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU, Director General, EC DG for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

**11:35 - 11:45 Welcome Addresses**  
Evis KUSHI, Minister of Education and Sports, Albania  
Elisabeth BARSACQ, Ambassador of France to Albania, French Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**11:45 - 11:55 Keynote**  
Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

**11:55 - 13:00 Ministerial Round Table Discussion on Education and Training**  
**“Learning for environmental sustainability”**  
Moderation: Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU, Director General, EC DG for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

**13:00 - 13:10 Conclusions and Closing**  
Mariya GABRIEL, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth  
Evis KUSHI, Minister of Education and Sports, Albania

**13:15 - 14:30 Lunch**  
(Served at the restaurant on Floor 2)

After lunch, participants have the possibility to attend the Launch of the 11<sup>th</sup> Round of the European Social Survey. This public event is organised in the Jeronim De Rada Meeting Room, Floor 23, from 14:45 to 16:30.

