



European
Commission

Joint Research Centre

Agenda

High-Level Event

Fostering New Avenues of Innovation and Growth

Smart Specialisation Strategies
in the EU Enlargement Process

Brussels,
Charlemagne Building
(Sicco Mansholt room)

2 December 2025

09:30 Registration and welcome coffee

10:00 **Opening addresses**

Marta Kos, EU Commissioner for Enlargement ^(TBC) and
Bernard Magenhann, Director-General, JRC, European Commission

10:15 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Smart Specialisation Strategies: Place-based approaches for innovation, growth and prosperity

Mikel Landabaso, Director for Fair and Sustainable Economy, JRC, European Commission

10:25 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

New avenues for competitiveness and cooperation in the EU Enlargement region

- Manuel Palazuelos Martinez, JRC, European Commission
- Maria Alessandra Rossi, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- Lazar Živković, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia
- Laura Resmini, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy

Moderation:

Paolo Canfora, Head of the Territorial Development unit, JRC, European Commission

11:05 Coffee break

11:15 **SPEECH**

Smart Specialisation and the EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans

Valentina Superti, Director for Western Balkans, DG ENEST, European Commission

11:30 **HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Smart Specialisation processes in the Western Balkans: key achievements and experiences

- Zoran Zeljko, Director of Directorate for Economic Planning, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Rozeta Hajdari, Minister of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade, Kosovo*
- Anđjela Jakšić Stojanović, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro
- Vesna Janevska, Minister of Education and Science, North Macedonia
- Marija Gnjatović, State Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation, Serbia

Moderation:

Sabine Henzler, Director for Strategy and Impact, JRC, European Commission

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

12:30 Lunch break

14:15 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Katarína Mathernová, Ambassador of the EU to Ukraine ^(TBC)

14:30 **HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

The road to Smart Specialisation Strategies in the Black Sea region

- **Adriana Cazacu**, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Research, Republic of Moldova
- **Mehmet Fatih Kacı**, Minister of Industry and Technology, Republic of Türkiye ^(TBC)
- **Andrii Teliupa**, Deputy Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine
- **Signe Ratso**, Deputy Director-General, DG RTD, European Commission

Moderation:

Mikel Landabaso, Director for Fair and Sustainable Economy, JRC, European Commission

15:25 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Innovation and Smart Specialisation in Ukraine's EU accession journey

- **Peter Polajnar**, Deputy Head of Unit, Economic and Sectoral Policies, Ukraine Service, DG ENEST, European Commission
- **Luca Menesini**, Member of the Committee of the Region's Working Group on Ukraine
- **Michela Pellegatta**, Cabinet Office of the Italian Ministry of University and Research
- **Yulia Bezvershenko**, Senior Officer, Ukraine Programmes, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine

Moderation:

Paolo Canfora, Head of the Territorial Development unit, JRC, European Commission

16:15 **CONCLUSIONS**

Sabine Henzler, Director for Strategy and Impact, JRC, European Commission

16:30 Networking drinks



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