

EUTOPIA Western Balkans Workshop organized as part of the 6th Rectors' Forum of South East Europe and Western Balkans

EVENT REPORT

W P 5

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Date of the event: **September 12 - 13**

Place of the event: **University of Belgrade**

Please upload the report together with attachments (if any) to the SharePoint.

1 Description of the event

Please describe the event – purpose, relevant work package, and other details. If possible, paste the event agenda at the end of the document.

As all the workshops within the WP 5.2 the 6th one addresses the inclusion topic, in this case the inclusion of the Western Balkans universities into the European higher education and research areas. After addressing some specific issues in the previous workshops, such as research, curricula design, autonomy, internationalisation and inclusiveness of the universities the 6th workshop focused on the organisational means that would enable regional universities their better inclusion. Therefore rectors, vice rectors and other universities' representatives discussed how to organise the network of regional universities in order to speak with one voice in Europe and to enhance their cooperation in the fields of research, education, students and staff exchange, university management etc.

2 Before the event

Describe the activities undertaken prior to the event – organisation, communication of the event, dissemination, and any other activity done before the event.

For the organisation of the event an organisational team composed of representatives of universities of Ljubljana, Rijeka and Belgrade was set up. The team designed the programme of the meeting, invited speakers and other participants from all the universities of the region. It also informed and invited participants from the EUTOPIA university alliance. The communication was primarily electronic in addition to the two on-site meetings of the organisational team.

3 Themes/ Guest speakers

If applicable, describe the theme(s) of the event, together with the topics discussed by each guest speaker.

NOTE: If you have attached the even agenda, only fill in the first two columns (topic not necessary).

Name	Institution/ Role	Topic
Prof. Vladan Đokić	University of Belgrade	Welcome and introductory address Experiences and challenges of interuniversity cooperation within CIRCLE U
Prof. Miroslav Vesković	EC DG Joint Research Centre	Welcome and introductory address

Prof. Snježana Prijic Samaržija	University of Rijeka	Experiences and challenges of interuniversity cooperation within YUFE
Prof. Boštjan Markoli	University of Ljubljana	Experiences and challenges of interuniversity cooperation within EUTOPIA Rector's Forum Structure and Functionality Proposals for the preparation of an action plan for 3 years period
Prof. Ivan Svetlik	University of Ljubljana	Recent experiences of Western Balkans region interuniversity cooperation: Regional Platform for Benchmarking and Cooperation
Prof. Sanja Bojanić	University of Rijeka	Recent experiences of Western Balkans region interuniversity cooperation: Centre for Advanced Studies
Ms. Darinka Vrečko	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia	Recent experiences of Western Balkans region interuniversity cooperation: Supporting interuniversity cooperation: national strategic goals
Stijn Delaure	EC	Implementing the European strategy for universities and the ERA Policy Agenda: empowering higher education institutions
Dr. Gazela Pudar Draško	University of Belgrade	Rector's Forum Structure and Functionality Proposals for the preparation of an action plan for 3 years period

4 Participants

Provide short overview of your target audiences, approximate number(s) of participants (viewers in case of online event), their countries and institutions (if applicable).

Day #	Number of viewers (max.)	Comments/remarks on participation
12. 9. 2022	46	Participants were rectors, vice-rectors and experts from 26 regional universities, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and US embassy
13. 9. 2022	44	Participants were rectors, vice-rectors and experts from 26 regional universities and Ministry of Education, Science

5 Post-event dissemination and communication

Describe the plans after the event – communication with participants, surveys, dissemination plans, etc.

During the meeting/ workshop the following conclusions were accepted: to integrate the two regional networks of universities, e.i., The Rectors' Forum and The Regional Platform of South East and Western Balkans Universities, to prepare new network's rules of conduct (membership, management, governing bodies etc.), to elaborate an action plan for the network activities (student and staff exchange, joint research activities: seminars, workshops, projects, postdoc programmes, joint degrees, database of experts, database of research equipment etc.) and to set up working groups that will deal with specific issues, such as policy, research, education, institution development, students' activities etc.

Please fill in the table with news, articles and other dissemination material for the event, if applicable.

Title	Channel (Twitter, EUTOPIA, LinkedIn, etc.)	Type of publication (news, interview, etc.)	Link
6. REKTORSKI FORUM JUGOVZODNE EVROPE IN ZAHODNEGA BALKANA		Website (in Slovene)	https://www.uni-lj.si/studij/novice/rektorski-forum/
6TH RECTORS' FORUM OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE AND WESTERN BALKAN		Website (in English)	https://www.uni-lj.si/study/news/rectors-forum/

6 Conclusions

Write down your conclusions from the event or any additional comments.

The event rounded up the topics and activities of the previous Western Balkans workshops tracing the activities that will enhance the cooperation between the regional universities, and increase their strength in and inclusion into the European Higher Education and Research Areas. In this respect the 6th Western Balkans workshop can be evaluated as successful.

7 Agenda (if applicable)



12 th September 2022
9.00 – 9.30 Registration
9.30 – 10.00 Welcome and introductory address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Prof. Vladan Đokić, PhD, Rector of the University of Belgrade ⇒ Prof. Marijana Dukić Mijatović, PhD, State Secretary, Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development ⇒ Prof. Miroslav Vesković, PhD, EC DG Joint Research Centre (<i>online</i>) Moderator: Sanja Lubardić, University of Belgrade
10.00 – 11.00 Experiences and challenges of interuniversity cooperation within three networks: CIRCLE U, YUFE and EUTOPIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Prof. Snježana Prijić-Samaržija, PhD, Rector of the University of Rijeka ⇒ Prof. Vladan Đokić, PhD, Rector of the University of Belgrade ⇒ Prof. Boštjan Markoli, PhD, Vice-Rector of the University of Ljubljana Moderator: Gazela Pudar Draško, PhD
11.00 – 11.45 Coffee break
11.45 – 12.30 Recent experiences of Western Balkans region interuniversity cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Regional Platform for Benchmarking and Cooperation, Prof. Ivan Svetlik, PhD ⇒ Centre for Advanced Studies, Prof. Sanja Bojanić, PhD ⇒ Supporting interuniversity cooperation: national strategic goals, Ms. Darinka Vrečko, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia Moderator: Prof. Ratko Ristić, PhD

<p>12.30 – 14.00 Rector's Forum Structure and Functionality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Organization scheme ⇒ Extension of the term of office of the president /election of the president ⇒ Membership fees ⇒ Some ideas on how to deepen Western Balkans interuniversity cooperation <p>Moderator: Prof. Boštjan Markoli, PhD</p>
<p>14.00 – 15.00 Lunch</p>
<p>15.00 Visit to the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering University of Belgrade – National Platform for AI Reception at the venue</p>

<p>13th September 2022</p>
<p>9.00 – 9.30 Implementing the European strategy for universities and the ERA Policy Agenda: empowering higher education institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Stijn <i>Delauré</i>, European Commission, Policy Officer (online) <p>Moderator: Sanja Lubardić, University of Belgrade</p>
<p>9.30 – 11.00 Proposals for the preparation of an action plan for 3 years period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Student and staff exchange ⇒ Joint research activities, seminars, workshops, projects ⇒ Postdoc programmes ⇒ Joint degrees, joint doctoral studies, Co-tutelle model ⇒ SEE database of experts ⇒ SEE database of research equipment <p>Moderator: Prof. Boštjan Markoli, PhD</p>
<p>11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break</p>
<p>11.30 – 12.30 Ambassadors panel on regional university cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia ⇒ Ambassadors of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Slovenia <p>Moderator: Gazela Pudar Draško, PhD</p>
<p>13.00 – 14.30 Ceremony on the Day of the University of Belgrade</p>
<p>14.30 Reception cocktail</p>