

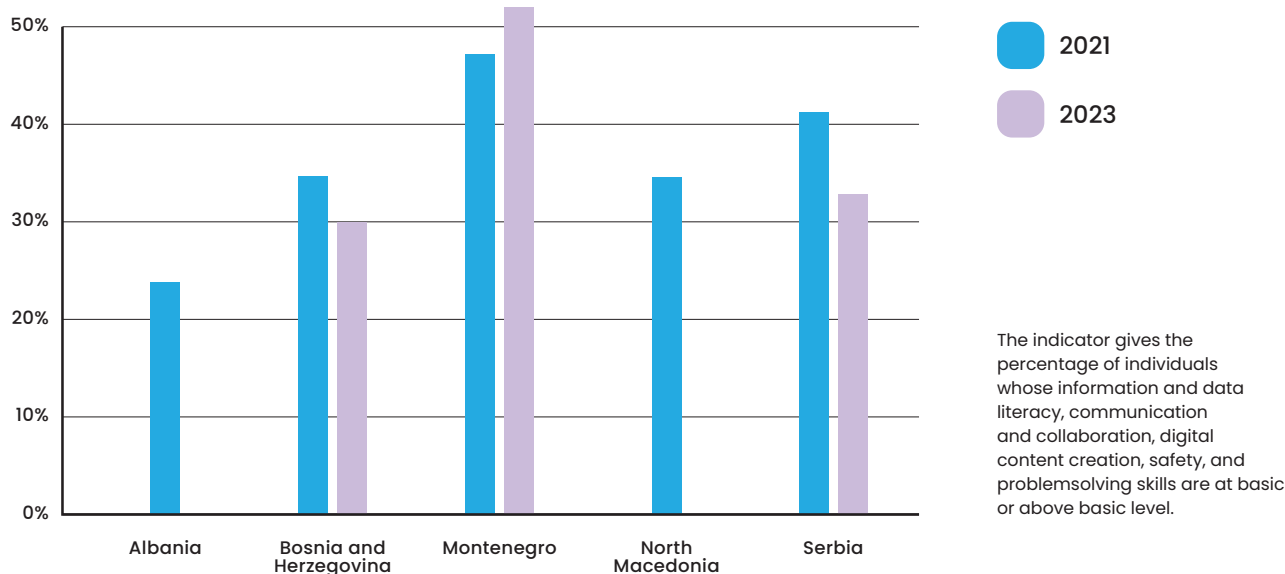
The Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport is a long-term strategy from the EU and the Western Balkans (WB) for cooperation with the region. It will contribute to the region's economic and societal development and builds on three main pillars: Political, Thematic, and Regional.

The implementation of the Western Balkans Agenda is monitored by the project POLICY ANSWERS, and the wider context, progress and achievements are summarised in regular reports. In this brief report card, you find the results of the second round of data collection during 2023 and the first months of 2024 and a comparison with the baseline data collected in the previous round.

In terms of Digital, the monitoring focuses on the context indicator "Individuals with basic or above basic overall digital skills in 2021 and 2023" and on a variety of achievements outlined in the WB Agenda (see next page).

Achievements in a wider context of the Western Balkans Agenda

Individuals with basic or above basic overall digital skills in 2021 and 2023 (in percent)





Note
Data for Albania (2023), Kosovo* and North Macedonia (2023) not available

Source
Eurostat, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tepsr_sp410/default/table?lang=en (accessed 6 February 2024).

* 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.

Western Balkans Economy Indicators

Rapid transformative technological development for a competitive Western Balkans region
A Europe fit for the digital age

	Development and linking of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) 	Digital education communities of practice/ Digital Edu Hub 	Digital skills development and virtual learning 	WB economies joining EuroHPC JU 	Participation in Digital Europe Programme 
Albania	No new digital hubs created No partnerships reported 	No involvement and/or activities 	No publicly funded initiative at central level 	No participation in the EuroHPC JU 	Negotiation process started 
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Increased number of hubs and partnerships 	No new BIH partners involved Large and increased number of activities implemented 	Increased number of publicly funded initiatives 	No participation in the EuroHPC JU 	Moderately improving, challenges remain 
Kosovo*	No new digital hubs created Information on partnerships not provided 	No new partners involved Information on implemented activities not provided 	No new publicly funded initiative Considerable and increased number of beneficiaries 	No participation in the EuroHPC JU 	Negotiation process started 
Montenegro	No new digital hubs created Information on partnerships not provided 	No involvement and/or activities implemented 	Increased number of publicly funded initiatives 	Joined 	Joined 
North Macedonia	Increased number of hubs and partnerships 	Involvement in few groups reported Several activities implemented 	Increased number of publicly funded initiatives 	Joined 	Joined 
Serbia	No new hubs established Increased number of partnerships 	No new partners involved Information on implemented activities not provided 	No new publicly funded initiative Considerable and increased number of beneficiaries 	Joined 	Joined 

Legend:  On track or maintaining achievement |  Moderately improving, Challenges remain |  Stagnating, Significant challenges |  Decreasing, Major challenges |  Information not available

* 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.

Highlights

Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia have joined the Digital Europe Programme and can participate in calls for proposals

DIH are being established across the Western Balkans and increasing their operation, supported by the RCC programme capacity building for digital innovation hubs

