

Erasmus+ Networking Forum

TCA “Western Balkans in the focus: Promoting and deepening cooperations in the Erasmus+ Programme”

Bologna Hub Peer Support Plus Regional Hub Event

13-15 October 2026, Hotel Crowne Plaza,
Podgorica/Montenegro

Agenda

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TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 2026

18.30 – 19.00 Foyer Hotel Crowne Plaza

Registration Part I

19.30 Hotel Crowne Plaza

Dinner for all participants

WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER, 2026

8.30 – 9.30 Foyer Hotel Crowne Plaza

Registration Part II

9.30 – 10.15 Plenary Hall

Welcome and Introduction

Beate Körner, NA DAAD, Germany

Vanja Drljevic, NEO Montenegro

Tatjana Calasan, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro

Dr. Ralf Reusch, German embassy

Liselotte Isaksson, EU Delegation to Montenegro

10.15 – 11.15 Plenary Hall

Panel discussion

Strengthening of cooperation in the Western Balkans: visions, ideas and challenges

Focus on past experiences & outlook to the future for candidate countries

Vanja Drljevic, NEO Montenegro

Tatjana Calasan, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro (tbc)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mentor Alishani, University of Prizren, Kosovo

Christa Koppensteiner, Hochschule Burgenland University of Applied Sciences, Austria

Dr. Mareike Fröhlich, University of Saarland, Germany

Moderation : Beate Körner, NA DAAD

11.15 – 11.45

Coffee break

11.45 – 12.00 Plenary Hall

Getting to know each other

12.00-12.30 Plenary Hall

Overview of Erasmus+ funding opportunities in cooperation with Western Balkan countries

Mimika Dobroshi, NEO Kosovo

Geron Kamberi, NEO Albania

12.45 – 14.15

Group photo & Lunch break

14.15 – 15.45

Workshop Sessions (see description at the end of this programme)

1. Bologna Hub Peer Support Plus: Skills development: individual learning pathways and Micro Credentials

Session room 3

2. Chances and Challenges – unlock the potential of Blended Intensive Programmes (Mobility KA1)

Session room 2

3. Boosting Mobility and Impact – New Networking concepts for European Educational Cooperation in the Western Balkans (Mobility KA171)

Plenary Hall

4. Cooperation Projects (KA2/KA3) – How to Successfully Manage a Project Consortium with a Focus on Southeastern Europe

Session room 1

5. How to build up a joint programme with the Western Balkan countries (Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters)

Session room 4

15.45 – 16.15

Coffee break

16.15 – 17.30

Part I Networking of all participants:

Exchanging of ideas for Erasmus+ projects

Counselling for HEIs on Bologna related topics

Presentation of Erasmus+ project ideas by participants followed by networking of all participants to discuss and exchange these ideas

18.30 Foyer Hotel Crowne Plaza

Bus to Restaurant Imanje Knjaz for dinner

19.00 **Dinner at Imanje Knjaz on the invitation of DAAD**

Mareza bb, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro

21.30 & 22.00 **Bus transfer back to the hotel**

THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2026

9.00 – 9.15

Icebreakers & short feedback from Day 1

9.15 – 10.00

National funding possibilities for cooperation between Germany, Austria, Czechia, Poland and Western Balkan accession countries

Julia Schrey, DAAD, Germany

Johanna Halbmayr, NA OEAD, Austria

Tereza Vondrášková, NA DZS, Czechia

Sylwia Iżyniec, NA FRSE, Poland

Geron Kamberi, NEO Albania

Rina Muhaj, NEO Montenegro

10.00 – 10.30

Coffee break

10.30 – 12.00

Workshop Sessions (see description at the end of this programme)

6. How to create impact and synergies between Erasmus+ projects and other initiatives

Session room 2

7. Bologna Hub Peer Support Plus: Recognition of qualifications and learning outcomes from stays abroad

Session room 4

8. KA171/ICM session with best practices, highlights and challenges

Plenary room

9. Entrepreneurship

Session room 3

10. Cooperation Projects (KA2/KA3) – How to initiate a project and how to write a competitive proposal

Session room 1

12.00 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 15.00

**Part II Networking of all participants:
Exchanging of ideas for Erasmus+ projects
Counselling for HEIs on Bologna related topics**

Presentation of Erasmus+ project ideas by participants followed by networking of all participants to discuss and exchange these ideas

15.00 – 15.45

**An outlook on the new programme generation especially with regards to the Western Balkan countries as accession countries
(Online)**

Tine Delva, European Commission, EAC.C.3 International Cooperation,

Questions from the audience

15.45 – 16.00

Conclusions and farewell

Beate Körner, NA DAAD Germany

Vanja Drljevic, NEO Montenegro

17.00 – 18.30

Walking Tour of Podgorica (optional)

Meeting point: Hotel lobby

Ending point: Clock tower

Workshop descriptions:

Round I (14 October):

WS1: Bologna Hub Peer Support Plus: Skills development (individual learning pathways, Micro-Credentials)

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Robert Wagenaar, University of Groningen, Netherlands & Martina Maier, NA DAAD

Speakers: Dr. Milica Popovic, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria; Fernando Galán, University of Granada, Spain

Rapporteur: Dr. Irine Darchia, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Description:

This workshop explores how individual learning pathways and Micro-Credentials can be designed and implemented in line with Bologna principles learning outcomes, student-centred learning, ECTS, qualifications frameworks and QA).

Participants work with generic scenarios to design flexible pathways that combine mobility, modular learning and transparent documentation, and to exchange approaches between institutions in Erasmus+ Programme Countries and partners in the Western Balkans.

Goal/learning outcome: Participants should be able to link individual learning pathways and Micro-Credentials to Bologna tools (LOs, ECTS, NQF/EQF, QA), outline a Bologna-compatible flexible pathway including mobility, and identify key institutional steps and areas for exchange between Programme Countries and Western Balkans partners.

WS2: Chances and Challenges – unlock the potential of Blended Intensive Programmes (Mobility KA1)

Moderation: Sylwia Iżynec, NA Poland

Speakers: Piotr Bialas, University of Białystok, Poland; Ewa Szczawińska, University of Humanities and Economics in Łódź, Poland; Yvona Vyhnánková, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic; Natalie Hungate, University of Applied Sciences Koblenz, Germany; Arba Merhori, Aleksander Moisiu' University Durrës, Albania

Rapporteur: NA/NEO

Description:

Blended Intensive Programs (BIPs) were introduced in 2021 to expand access, promote inclusion and support innovation in teaching and learning, including challenge-based, transdisciplinary and collaborative online learning focused on societal challenges. The number of blended mobility participants has sharply risen, from 3.8% in 2022 to about 20% in 2025.

The session will provide an opportunity to learn what BIPs are and how higher education institutions can benefit from this offer. We will exchange practices, share experiences, hear reflections from those who have already implemented such initiatives, and discuss the role of Blended Intensive Programmes as a tool for promoting participation in Erasmus+ mobility activities, particularly among students. Through Erasmus+ requirements and structure (quick introduction), practical examples from HEIs and networking, you'll be inspired and gain basic knowledge on how to kick-start your own BIP in the future.

Goal/learning outcome: understand BIPs requirements, exchange experiences. The session will also help institutions understand how to position Blended Mobility strategically. The E+ Programme Guide expects each BIP to offer added value over already existing courses and programmes, so we will look at how Blended Mobility can function as a genuine complement within a wider mobility offer, reaching students and purposes traditional exchange does not.

WS3: Boosting Mobility and Impact — New Networking Concepts for European Educational Cooperation in the Western Balkans (Mobility KA171)

Moderation: Mimika Dobroshi, NEO Kosovo & Michaela Lanaro, NA DAAD

Speakers: Alketa Daka, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague;
Dr. Nermin Palić, University College "CEPS - Center for Business Studies"
Kiseljak, Franziska Gradkowska, DAAD lecturer in Montenegro

Rapporteur: Johanna Halbmayr, NA OEAD, Austria

Description:

This workshop addresses both current and future perspectives on mobility for higher education institutions in the Western Balkans. The first half focuses on present-day challenges to KA1 mobility, featuring an expert input on regional barriers and a group discussion on solutions and capacity gaps. In the second half, participants explore the implications of association status, including expanded Erasmus+ opportunities, increased institutional responsibility, and strategies for sustaining partnerships. Attendees will work collaboratively to identify urgent readiness issues and shape a roadmap for programme country success, balancing immediate needs with future ambitions.

WS 4: Cooperation Projects (KA2/KA3) – How to Successfully Manage a Project Consortium with a Focus on Southeastern Europe

Moderation: Dr. Mareike Fröhlich, Saarland University, Germany

Speakers: Alex Semba, Bonn Rhein Sieg University of Applied Sciences, Germany; Dr. Joost Kleuters, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Rapporteur: Carina Fazius, NA DAAD, Germany

Description:

International cooperation projects funded under Erasmus+ (Key Actions 2 and 3) bring together institutions with different structures, working cultures, resources and expectations. Building a strong consortium is therefore only the first step – making it work effectively throughout the project lifecycle is often the greater challenge.

The interactive workshop will explore key stages of consortium management: building the consortium, organising roles and responsibilities, working and communicating effectively, solving problems and sustaining cooperation. Particular attention will be paid to cooperation with partners from Southeastern Europe and to the different perspectives of coordinators and project partners.

Short experience-based inputs will be combined with interactive discussions and practical exercises addressing typical challenges such as partner selection, consortium structures, decision-making and communication, different institutional and working cultures, non-performance and conflicting expectations. By sharing their own experiences and working on practical scenarios, participants will learn from each other, identify possible solutions and good practices, and develop practical approaches that can be transferred to their own projects. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to strengthen networks and exchange experiences among participants involved in international cooperation projects.

WS5: How to build up a joint programme with the Western Balkan countries (Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters)

Moderation: Yvonne Schnocks, NA DAAD, Germany

Speakers: Jelena Starčević, University of East Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina; Prof. Maja Drakić-Grgur, University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro

Rapporteur: Geron Kamberi, NA Albania

Description:

The Erasmus Mundus action supports the development and delivery of high-quality transnational master's programmes by international university consortia. This workshop provides an overview of the main participation requirements and highlights key success factors for developing a competitive EMJM proposal.

The workshop will also address quality assurance and accreditation aspects of joint and multiple degrees involving partners from the Western Balkan countries. A Bologna Expert will explain the specific accreditation requirements and discuss how existing joint and multiple degree models relate to the emerging European Degree (Label) initiative and its future implications for transnational programme development.

Goal/learning outcome: Understand EMJM requirements, identify success factors for joint programme development, navigate accreditation requirements, explore the European Degree (Label), exchange experiences.

Round II (15 October):

WS 6: How to create impact and synergies between Erasmus+ projects and other initiatives

Moderation: Beate Körner, NA DAAD

Speakers: Sandra Tinaj, University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro, Dr. Mattis Altmann, TU Dresden, Germany;

Rapporteur: Julia Schrey, DAAD

Description:

This session aims to examine success stories in which Erasmus projects have sparked or had an impact on other local, regional, national or international initiatives. Two examples of good practice will serve as input. Participants will discuss how to create such synergies and how to deepen cooperation with initiatives beyond Erasmus+. They will also look at chances and challenges when the funding runs out.

Goal/learning outcome: participants will learn how to create synergies between national and EU-projects and how they can complement each other.

WS7: Bologna Hub Peer Support Plus: Recognition of qualifications and learning outcomes from stays abroad

Moderation: Dr. Irine Darchia, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia & Martina Maier, NA DAAD

Speakers: Fernando Galán, University of Granada, Spain; Jelena Starčević, University of East Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina; Prof. Dr. Robert Wagenaar, University of Groningen, Netherlands

Rapporteur: Dr. Milica Popovic, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

Description:

This workshop addresses fair and transparent recognition of learning outcomes and qualifications gained abroad, based on core Bologna principles (LO-based recognition, ECTS, NQF/EQF, QA, recognition of prior learning). Using generic mobility scenarios, participants analyse recognition decisions and processes, and exchange practices between Erasmus+ Programme Countries and Western Balkans partners.

Goal/learning outcome: Participants can apply Bologna principles and tools to recognize learning outcomes from abroad, structure typical recognition cases from a learning outcome/ECTS perspective and identify common challenges and good practices in recognition across Programme Countries and Western Balkans partners.

WS 8: KA171/ICM session with best practices, highlights and challenges

Moderation: Michaela Lanaro, NA DAAD & Johanna Halbmayer, NA OEAD

Speakers: Stefanie Ritter, FU Berlin; Adnan Rahimić, U of Sarajevo and other speakers

Rapporteur: Tereza Vondrášková, DZS, Czech Republic

Description:

In this interactive workshop, we will explore how to make KA171/ICM mobilities and partnerships truly successful – from first contact with partners to long-term impact at institutional level.

Experienced HEIs from programme and partner countries will share how their cooperation started, what has worked particularly well, and where they encountered unexpected challenges.

Participants then will work in small groups on key topics such as building sustainable partnerships, organising successful mobilities in practice, and creating impact beyond individual stays (e.g. strategic cooperation, monitoring, follow-up). Together, you will collect success factors, concrete good-practice tips and ideas that can be transferred to your own institution.

Goal/learning outcome:

WS9: Entrepreneurship

Moderation: Suad Muhibic, NEO Bosnia and Herzegovina

Speakers: Dr. Piotr Wolejsza, Maritime University Szczecin; Assoc. Prof. Elma Avdagic-Golub, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Rapporteur: Mimika Dobroshi, NEO Kosovo

Description: This session explores how entrepreneurship can be fostered in higher education through innovative teaching, institutional development, and international collaboration within Erasmus+. Participants will exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and identify good practices for embedding entrepreneurship within institutional strategies and academic structures. The session aims to inspire new approaches that strengthen the entrepreneurial capacity of higher education institutions and their staff.

WS10: Cooperation Projects (KA2/KA3) – How to initiate a project and how to write a competitive proposal

Moderation: Carina Fazius, NA DAAD

Speakers: Prof. Assoc. Dr. Ketrina Cabiri Mijo, European University of Tirana, Albania; Dr. Stefanie Waterstradt, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany

Rapporteur: Yvonne Schnocks, NA DAAD

Description:

Writing a project proposal does not only require professional expertise and a good project idea. It is also important to meet the formal requirements of an EU application. The session will show which criteria are important in the context of an EU application to increase the chances of EU selection and funding. Furthermore, experiences on initiating a project and applying successfully for cooperation projects in higher education will be shared.

Goal/learning outcome: Expand knowledge on project initiation and writing a successful project proposal, learn about the award criteria in the evaluation process, exchange experiences and lessons learned with other participants.

Contact

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