



Regional Cooperation Council



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Working Group Meeting on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Co-hosted by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Background and context

The Western Balkan Six (WB6) are responding to the rapid emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) while advancing EU integration. At the same time, the European approach to AI is evolving through initiatives and policies such as the Apply AI Strategy, the AI Continent Action Plan, and the EU AI Act.

The Common Regional Market (CRM) Action Plan 2025–2028, adopted by the Leaders of the WB6, provides a regionally-owned framework aligned with EU rules and standards. Under its digital pillar, the WB6 committed to developing a regional AI policy roadmap, supported by activities led by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC).

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Regional Program for Europe and the CIS 2026–2029 positions digital and AI transformation as a cross-cutting accelerator across all priorities and identifies the CRM framework as a strategic platform for regional cooperation.

Building on these frameworks, the aim is to bring together AI policy leads from the WB6 for a first structured exchange on shared priorities and approaches for the responsible and sustainable use of AI.

Objectives

- Develop a shared understanding of AI adoption across the Western Balkans, drawing on firsthand knowledge of developments in each WB6.
- Identify the priority issues that need to be addressed across the region in the next period, to enable responsible and sustainable AI adoption, recognising priorities which may differ across the WB6.
- Agree on an approach for the development of AI and ideas for specific activities, which are best implemented regionally, and which can improve each WB6. Regional actions will support the development of the regional AI policy roadmap, envisaged under the CRM Action Plan 2025–2028.
- Strengthen working-level connections among AI leads across the WB6 and set the basis for continued cooperation after the meeting.



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DRAFT AGENDA

Regional meeting on Working Group Policy Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence

Day 1: Wednesday, 13 May 2026

Venue: UNDP, Podgorica

09.00 - 09.30 Registration and welcome coffee

09.30 - 09.45 Welcome address

Moderated by: Regional Cooperation Council

- *Silke Hollander, Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*
- *Giada Trucco, Policy Officer, DG ENEST, European Commission (EC)*
- *Tanja Maraš, Expert on Digital Connectivity, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)*

09.45 – 10.15 Presentation of the objective of the meeting and tour the table

Moderated by: Regional Cooperation Council

The sessions aim to present the main objectives of the meeting. The Western Balkan Six (WB6) representatives are invited to introduce themselves and provide an overview of the key aspects, priorities, and activities related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) within their respective institutions.

- *All participants*

10.15 - 11.15 Key findings of the regional AI Landscape mapping

Moderated by: Regional Cooperation Council

This panel aims to present the preliminary results of the AI mapping exercise conducted across the WB6 by RCC and UNDP, covering the main relevant aspects. The participants are kindly invited to review the findings and provide any views, updates, or comments, as well as to verify the accuracy and completeness of the information related to their respective authority.

- *RCC*
- *UNDP*
- *WB6*

11.15- 11.40 EU initiative - AI tool

Moderated by: Regional Cooperation Council

This session aims to present the EU initiatives, the implementation of which has begun in the WB6.

- *Thibault Charlet and Willi Stieger, DG ENEST, EC*
- *Tomas Norbutas, EU4Digital East project*

11.40 - 12.30 **EU AI framework**

Moderated by: Regional Cooperation Council

This session aims to present EU AI frameworks; AI across the EU accession, and a perspective on AI in the WB6.

- *Colin van Noordt, Lecturer at KU Leuven University*

12.30 - 14.00 **Lunch break**

14.00 – 15.15 **Workshop session - Ecosystem and issues mapping (first thematic round)**

Moderated by: United Nations Development Programme

This session represents the start of a series of thematic group work aimed at identifying systematic issues and obstacles affecting the adoption and use of AI across the WB6. In addition, it will serve as a platform for consolidating the key findings and identifying, prioritising, and discussing potential steps and activities to address the challenges within the specific topic.

- *All participants*

15.15 - 15.30 **Coffee break**

15.30 - 16.30 **Workshop session - Ecosystem and issues mapping – cont's (second thematic round)**

Moderated by: United Nations Development Programme

This panel is a continuation of the workshop on mapping systematic issues and obstacles related to AI, the second thematic group work. In addition, it will serve as a platform for consolidating the key findings and identifying, prioritising, and discussing potential steps and activities to address the challenges within the specific topic.

- *All participants*

16.30 – 17.00 **Summary of the discussion and closing of Day 1**

19.00 – **Networking dinner**

Day 2: Thursday, 14 May 2026

Venue: UNDP, Podgorica

09.00 - 09.30 Recap of Day 1 and framing of the Day 2*Moderated by: Regional Cooperation Council*

This session aims to present the key insights, discussions, and outcomes from the previous day. This recap will briefly revisit the main themes explored on Day 1, highlight important takeaways, and connect them to the objectives ahead. The session will also frame the focus of Day 2. The WB6 are kindly invited to reflect on prior discussions, clarify outstanding questions, and align expectations before moving into the next stage of the program.

- *All participants*

09.30 – 11.00 Workshop session - Synthesis of inputs to the regional AI agenda*Moderated by: United Nations Development Programme*

This session represents the start of a series of thematic group work aimed at supporting in defining and prioritising activities on a concrete issue/challenge that WB6 faces, defined during Day 1.

- *All participants*

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee break**11.15 – 12.30 Workshop session - Synthesis of inputs to the regional AI agenda***Moderated by: United Nations Development Programme*

This session is a continuation of the previous session for thematic group work aimed at supporting in defining and prioritising activities on a concrete issue/challenge that WB6 faces, defined during Day 1.

- *All participants*

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch break**14.00 - 15.30 Workshop session - Synthesis of inputs to the regional AI agenda***Moderated by: United Nations Development Programme*

This panel is a continuation of the workshop for thematic group work aimed at supporting in defining and prioritising activities on a concrete issue/challenge that WB6 faces, defined during Day 1.

- *All participants*

15.30 - 15.45 **Coffee break**

15.45 – 16.00 **Follow-up and next steps**

Moderated by: *Regional Cooperation Council*

This session aims to elaborate, explore and agree on the next steps and milestones for the AI Roadmap, with particular focus on the Roadmap content.

- *All participants*

16.00 – 16.15 **Conclusions of the meeting**

- *RCC*
- *UNDP*