



# REGIONAL DIASPORA FORUM

## AGENDA

HYBRID MEETING - BELGRADE, 24 FEBRUARY 2022

Venue: Hotel Metropol Palace

23 February 2022

Arrival of participants in the afternoon

20:00

### Networking Dinner

24 February 2022

09:30 • 10:30

### Registration & Coffee

10:30 • 11:00

### Welcoming remarks

**Tanja Miscevic**, *Regional Cooperation Council, Deputy Secretary General*  
**Maria Asenius**, *Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission*  
**Arno Guyon**, *Office for the Cooperation with the Diaspora and the Serbs in the Region, Serbia*

*Moderator: Milena Lazarevic, Programme Director, European Policy Centre, Belgrade*

11:00 • 11:20

### Diaspora success stories from the Western Balkans

The Regional Cooperation Council created a Compendium of Best Practices in Diaspora Engagement in the Western Balkans to identify the most successful models of cooperation with the diaspora. Some of these best practices could be scaled regionally or assist the Western Balkan economies design similar programmes.

**Olga Mitrovic** – *Outbox Consulting*

11:20 • 12:10

### Diaspora knowledge transfer back to home communities

In 2020, 164.382 individuals from the Western Balkans have received first residence permits in EU Member States for foreigners. Average costs of higher education per person in the region range between 18,283 EUR (Albania) to 34,139 EUR (Serbia). The panelists will discuss ways of knowledge transfer (science, education, businesses, investments) between the diaspora and their home communities.

**Ana Cukic** – *AIM Cube Limited, Founder and a FinTech entrepreneur*  
**Alma Jani** – *International Organisation for Migration Office Albania, Head of Office*  
**Danica Santic** – *Associate Professor, University of Belgrade, Serbia*

12:10 • 12:30

### Coffee break



Regional Cooperation Council



Co-funded by  
the European Union

12:30 • 13:20

## Getting cooperation with the diaspora on the right tracks

Do we really know what the diaspora needs and how to assist their efforts to give back to their home communities? The panel will encourage discussion about the real needs and wants of the region's diaspora. It will attempt to uncover key challenges that stand in the way of diaspora's deeper involvement in their home communities' development and making a tangible impact.

**Ivan Brkljac** - *Returning Point (Tačka povratka) Initiative, Serbia*

**Marjan Icoski** – *Association for social innovation ARNO, Program Manager, North Macedonia*

**Vilma Tunjic-Juzbasic** – *Mozaik Foundation, Chief Operations Officer, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

13:20

## Networking lunch

14:20 • 15:10

## Scientific Diaspora and Brain Circulation: An untapped potential

What are the advantages of engaging scientific diaspora? How can we tap into the diaspora's enormous innovation and entrepreneurship potential in the future? The panel will look into the role of the academic community abroad and their integration into the region's innovation ecosystem.

**Blerjana Bino**, *Center Science and Innovation for Development – SCIDEV, Co-founder & Executive Director*

**Radenka Krsmanovic-Whiffen**, *Head of Project Proposals Unit - STRENEX ERA Chair Project, University of Novi Sad and Visiting Professor at the University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro*

**Suzana Gotovac Atlagic**, *University of Banja Luka, Associate Professor, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

15:10

## Conclusions and recommended practical actions

*Regional Cooperation Council*

## Departure of participants