



Regional Workshop Western Bakans

Grant Holders Meeting – CBHE 2024



I-Outline of the cooperation background in the region and political context

Nicolas Vuitton, DG NEAR

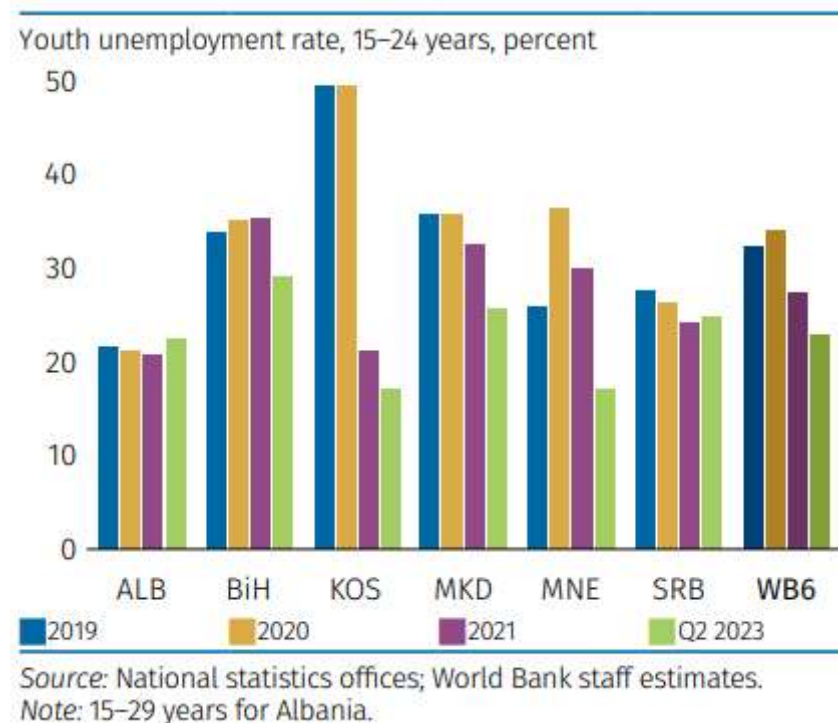
Antoaneta Irikova, DG EAC

Context

Young people are **vital** for the Western Balkans.

BUT many challenges are persisting, in particular:

- lack of opportunities and skills mismatch
- high unemployment (22,7%, World Bank)
- brain drain



Reinforcing the access to education, training and employment opportunities, is therefore a strong priority.

Strategies and flagships

- Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Western Balkans: 10th flagship, Western Balkans Youth Guarantee
- Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
- Growth Plan for the Western Balkans
- **NEW** Youth Action Plan in EU external action (October 2022)



The WB Agenda and its Action Plan build on three main pillars: Political, Thematic, and Regional

POLITICAL AGENDA

Towards a sustainable future by stimulating an economy that supports the recovery and helps to create jobs

- Reflecting the strategic importance of the region and supporting its integration process through an increased EU engagement;
- Nurturing knowledge-based societies and evidence-informed policy making;
- Supporting the association to all the Union programmes covering Research, Innovation, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport;
- Supporting the implementation of systemic changes and reforms.

THEMATIC AGENDA

Towards closer alignment with the EU strategic priorities

- Transforming the national research and innovation eco-systems;
- Counteracting climate change and supporting the digital transformation;
- Promoting the implementation of the EU Green Deal in the Western Balkans.

REGIONAL AGENDA

Towards a closer regional economic integration through planned investments in human capital development and digital transformation

- Enhancing the quality of education and training;
- Boosting human capital development;
- Reducing the gender and digital divide;
- Improving mobility and connectivity;
- Fostering cultural and regional cooperation.

Strategies and flagships

Key strategies:

- Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Western Balkans: 10th flagship, Western Balkans Youth Guarantee
- Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
-  Growth Plan for the Western Balkans
- Youth Action Plan in EU external action (October 2022)



Objectives

In providing opportunities for youth in the Western Balkans, COM focuses in particular on three objectives:

Education and skills

Regional
cooperation and
exchanges
(including on youth
participation)

Increasing
employment and
financing
opportunities

Education, skills

Investing in education and skills is a priority for the region.

- A situation in decline according to latest 2022 OECD's PISA results, in all domains
- Some WB partners are among the lowest ranked economies
- Skills mismatches hinder access to employment opportunities and economic growth



Education, skills

Erasmus+, 2021-2027

For over 20 years, the Western Balkan region has been benefiting from the EU assistance in education.

North Macedonia and Serbia are associated to Erasmus+, having access to all actions of the Erasmus+ Programme on equal footing as EU Member States.

The four other partners are benefitting from EU (IPA) funding to have access to the following Erasmus+ actions.

Erasmus+ 2021-2027, IPA funding for 4 partners in WB: € 374m

- International Credit Mobility
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
- Capacity Building Higher Education
- Capacity building in the field of youth
- "Jean Monnet" activities
- Capacity Building VET
- Capacity Building Sport
- Virtual Exchanges

Regional cooperation and youth participation

Examples of regional programmes

- Western Balkans Youth Labs (based on the model of the European Youth Dialogue)
- Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) and “Superschools exchange scheme”
- College of Europe, Tirana campus
- CSO networks



Job creation and access to finance



Giving young people access to job opportunities is crucial to their future prospects as well as the economy of the region.

- European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE)
- Western Balkans Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (EDIF)

Education – area where the EU and the WB have huge potential for further strengthening their relationship

European Education Area

Removing barriers to learning and improving access to quality education for all

- improving quality and equity in education and training
- teachers, trainers and school leaders
- digital education
- green education
- the EEA in the world

Digital Education Action Plan

An EU policy initiative that sets out a common vision of high-quality, inclusive and accessible digital education.

It sets two strategic priorities:

- fostering the development of a high-performing digital education ecosystem
- enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation

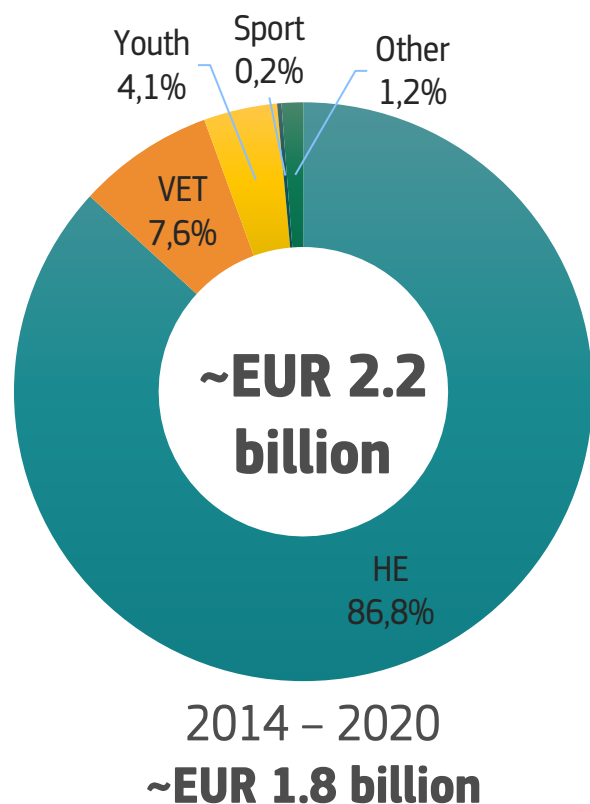
European Strategy for Universities

The European strategy for universities aims to support and enable universities to adapt to changing conditions, to thrive and to contribute to Europe's resilience and recovery.

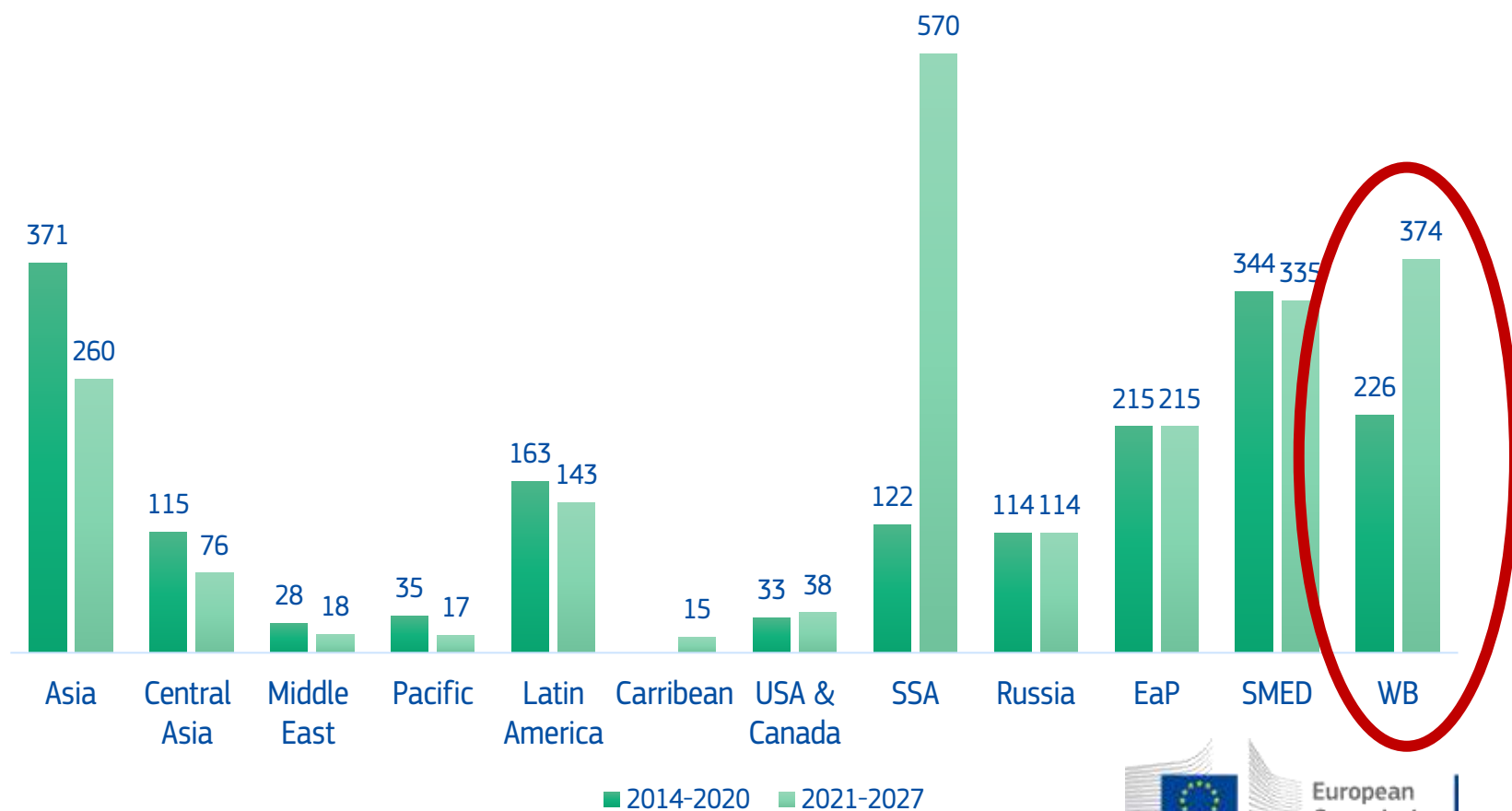
It has 4 objectives, the first one being to strengthen the European dimension of HE and research. One of the flagship initiatives to support the achievement of this objective is the European Universities initiative.

International dimension of Erasmus+: funding

International actions budget (H6)
per sector 2021-2027



H6 budget per region (in million EUR)



What is available for Western Balkans - Overview

HIGHER EDUCATION

- International Credit Mobility
- European Outgoing mobility (KA131)
- European Universities (as of call 2023)
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters & Erasmus Mundus Design Measures
- **Capacity Building for Higher Education**
- Jean Monnet activities
- Cooperation Partnerships*
- Alliances for Innovation*

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- European outgoing VET mobility
- Capacity Building in VET
- Centers of Vocational Excellence*
- Alliances for Innovation*
- Cooperation Partnerships*

YOUTH

- Youth exchanges and youth workers mobility
- Capacity building in Youth
- Erasmus Virtual Exchanges (Youth/ HE)
- Cooperation Partnerships*


SPORT

- Capacity building in Sport

* Conditional access - partners from non-associated countries must prove added value to the project



European
Commission



Deep level of
inter-university cooperation
with a joint long-term
strategy

Structural, Systemic and
Sustainable impact

EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES

European Universities call 2023 results

- 6 HEIs from the WBs
 - University of Belgrade (Circle U.)
 - University of Arts Belgrade (IN.TUNE)
 - University St Kliment Ohridski Bitola (COLOURS)
 - University of Mostar (EUPeace)
 - Aleksandr Moisiu University (STARS EU)
 - University of Montenegro (ULYSSEUS)

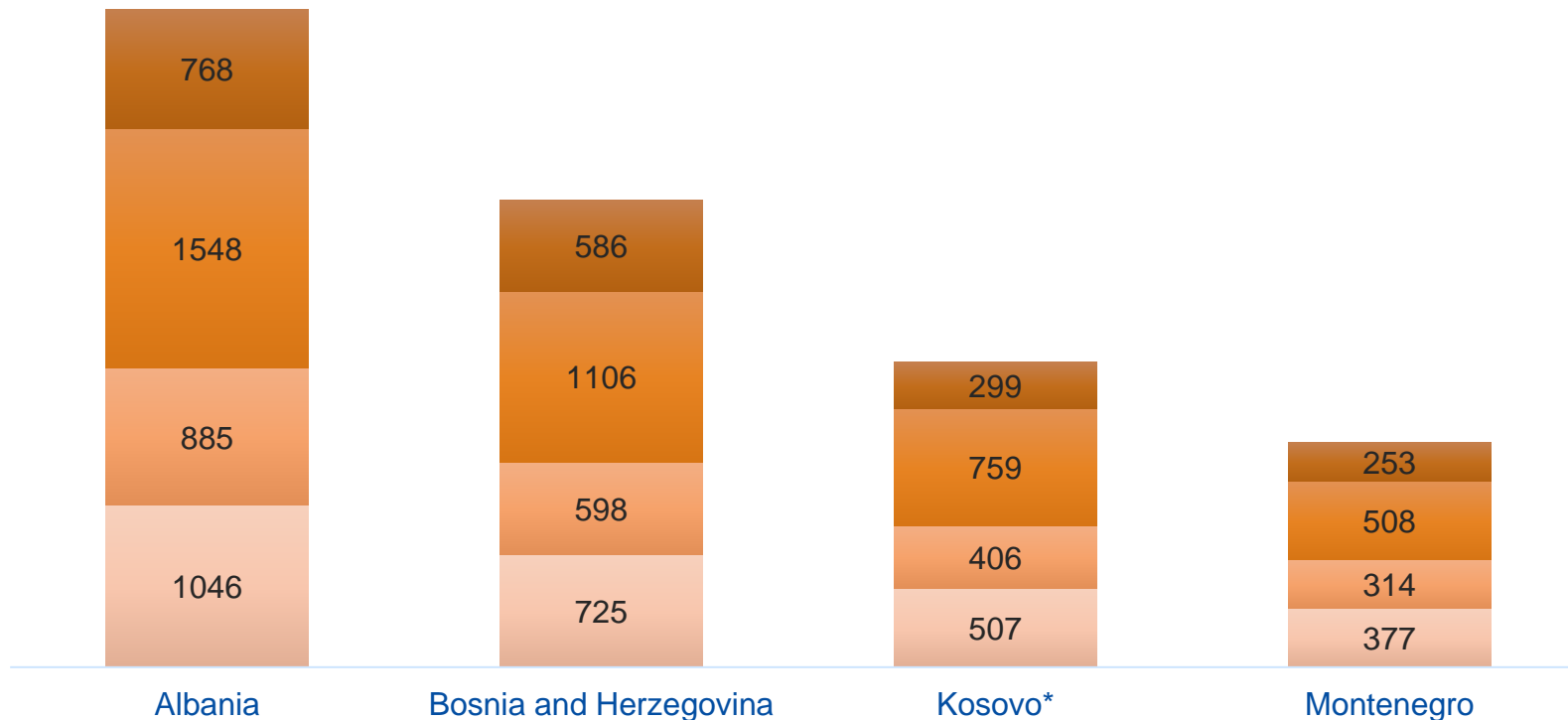


ICM selection 2023 – mobility for around 52 000 students and staff worldwide

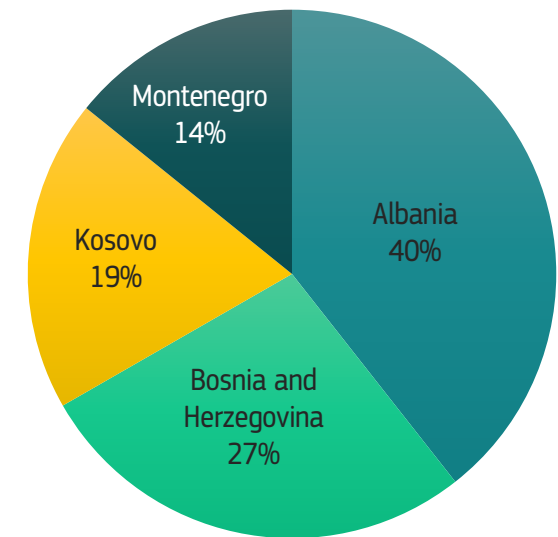
WB: over 10 500 mobilities of students and staff awarded

Awarded mobilities in call 2023

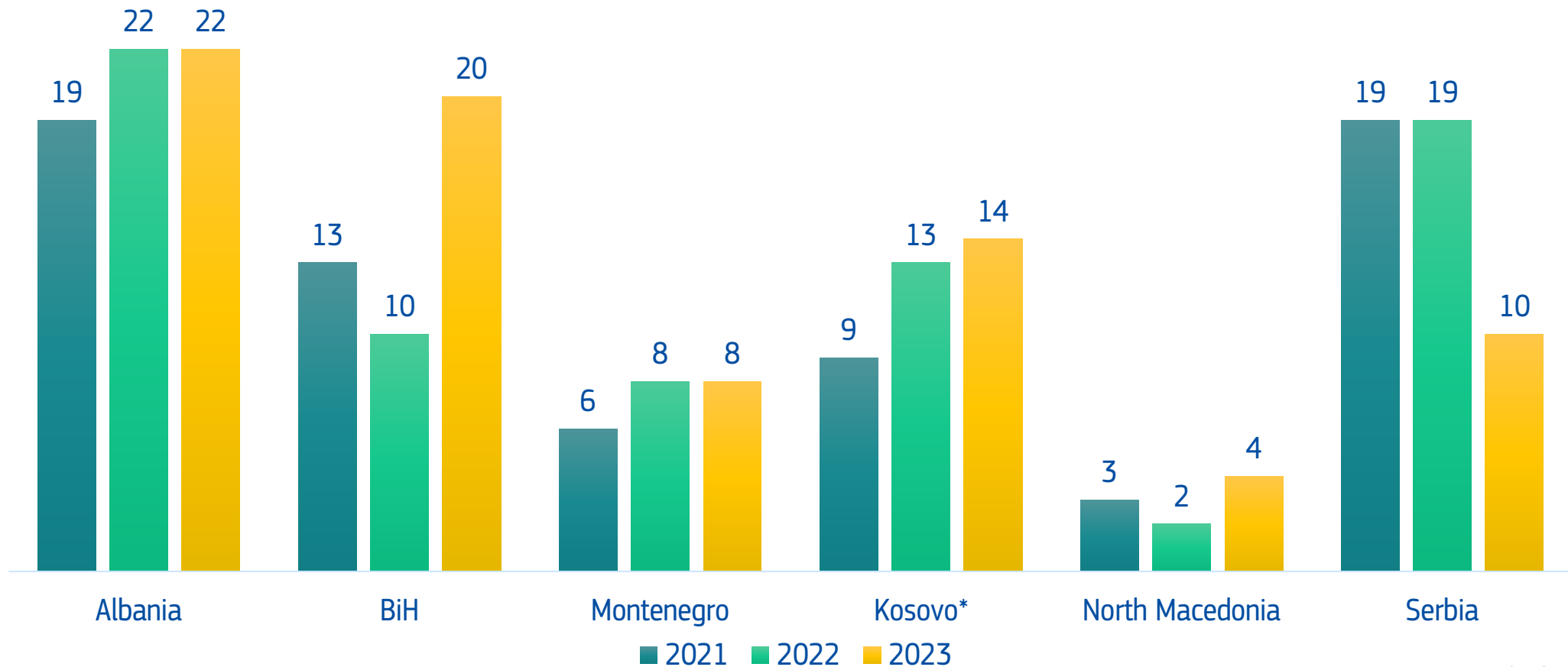
Incoming staff Outgoing staff Incoming students Outgoing students



Share of regional mobilities call 2023



Erasmus Mundus scholarships awarded in 2021-2023



Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM)

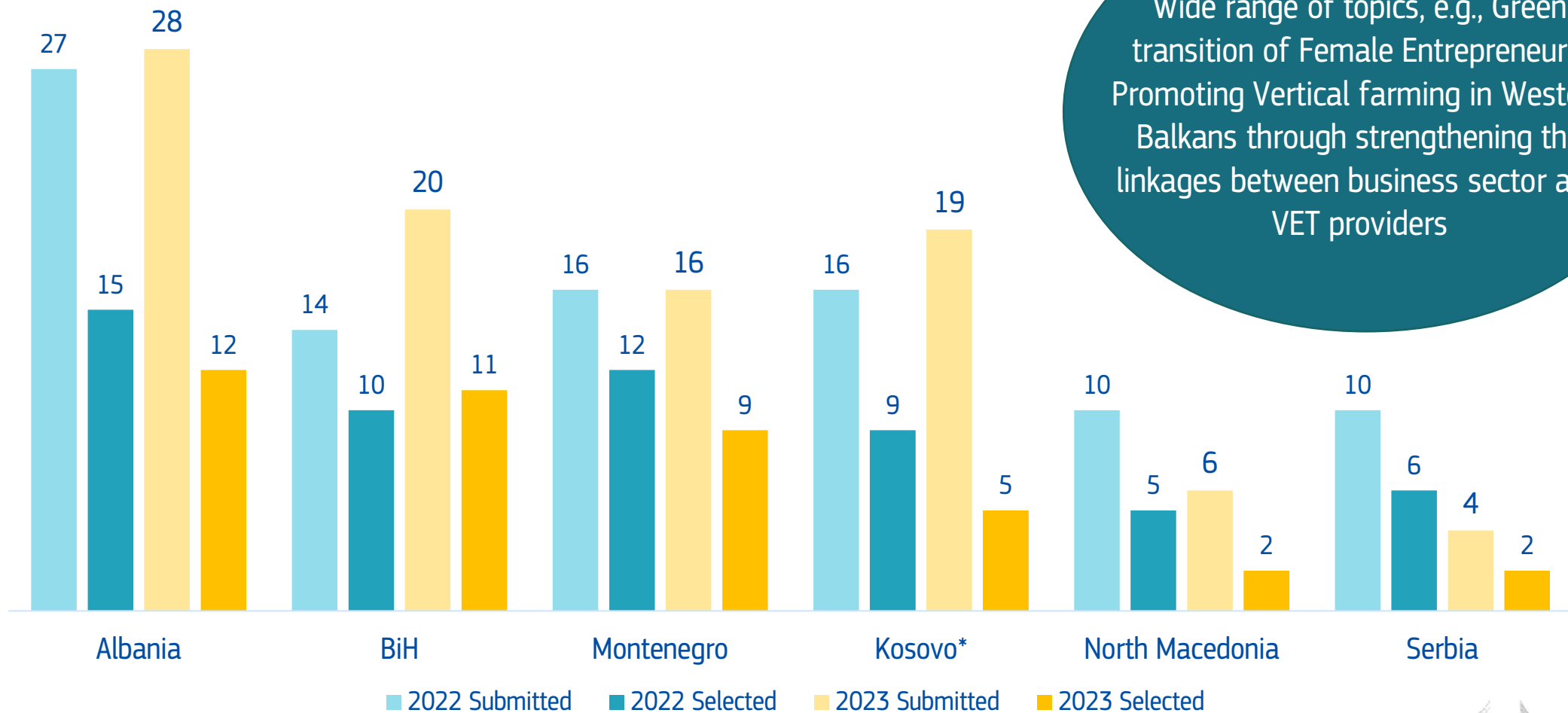
EMSSE - European Master in Sustainable Systems Engineering	CyberMACS - Master of Applied Cybersecurity	DAFM - Sustainability in Agriculture, Food Production and Food Technology in the Danube Region - Danube AgriFood Master	MASS - Master in Astrophysics and Space Science
Project Status: Ongoing End date: 30 November 2029	Project Status: Ongoing End date: 30 November 2028	Project Status: Ongoing End date: 31 January 2028	Project Status: Ongoing End date: 31 December 2027
Action Type: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master EU Grant: 4.908.000,00 € Partners: 3 Countries covered: FR France AL Albania ES Spain IT Italy	Action Type: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master EU Grant: 5.484.000,00 € Partners: 2 Countries covered: TR Türkiye MK North Macedonia DE Germany	Action Type: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master EU Grant: 5.174.400,00 € Partners: 6 Countries covered: HU Hungary RO Romania SK Slovakia RS Serbia HR Croatia AT Austria CZ Czechia	Action Type: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master EU Grant: 4.742.400,00 € Partners: 3 Countries covered: IT Italy RS Serbia DE Germany FR France
Project details	Project details	Project details	Project details

Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM)

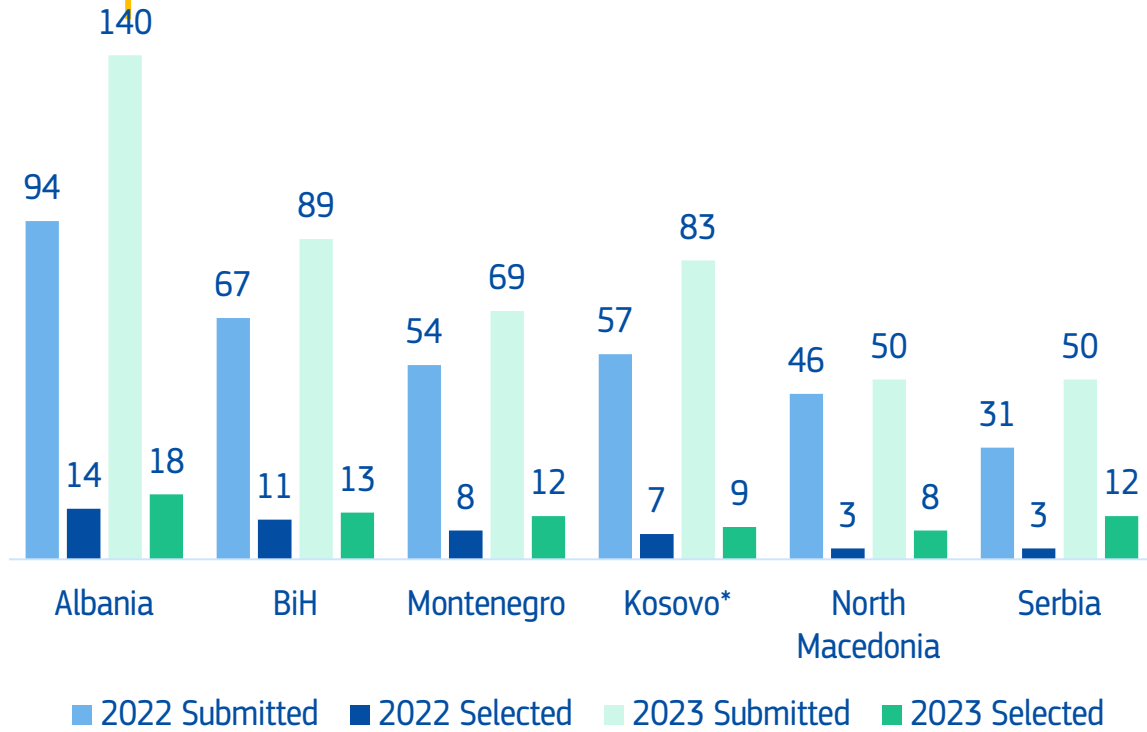
MBAA - MBA in Aviation Project Status: Ongoing End date: 31 January 2025 Action Type: Erasmus Mundus Design Measures EU Grant: 55.000,00 € Countries covered: RS Serbia Project details	DMDE - Design Measure in Digital Entrepreneurship Project Status: Ongoing End date: 31 December 2024 Action Type: Erasmus Mundus Design Measures EU Grant: 55.000,00 € Countries covered: AL Albania Project details	DSGN COM-DL - Design of Computational Mechanics and Deep Learning Joint Master Programme Project Status: Ongoing End date: 31 January 2025 Action Type: Erasmus Mundus Design Measures EU Grant: 55.000,00 € Countries covered: BA Bosnia & Herzegovina Project details	Master in Leadership, Innovation, Evaluation, and Quality in Education (LIEQE) Project Status: Completed End date: 30 April 2023 Action Type: Erasmus Mundus Design Measures EU Grant: 55.000,00 € Countries covered: 🇰🇲 Kosovo NaN Project details	IMVRP - International Master in Virtual Reality Production Project Status: Completed End date: 30 April 2023 Action Type: Erasmus Mundus Design Measures EU Grant: 55.000,00 € Countries covered: BA Bosnia & Herzegovina Project details
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CB in VET 2023 selection: country involvement in

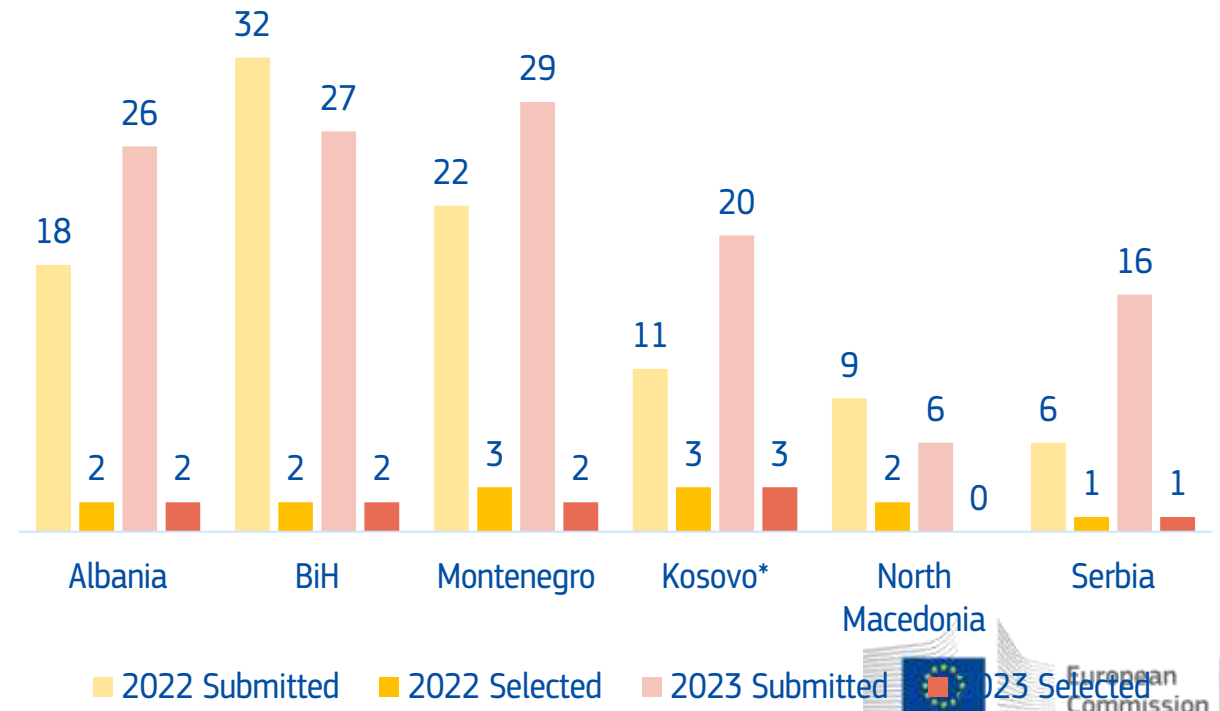
14 CB in VET projects selected



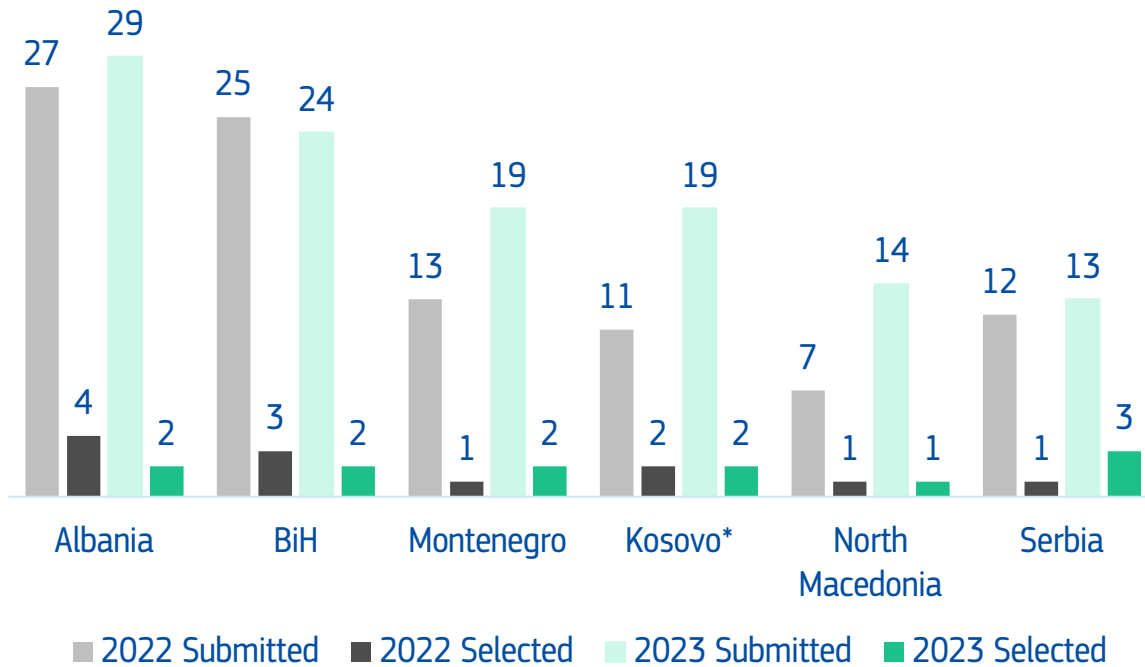
CB in Youth



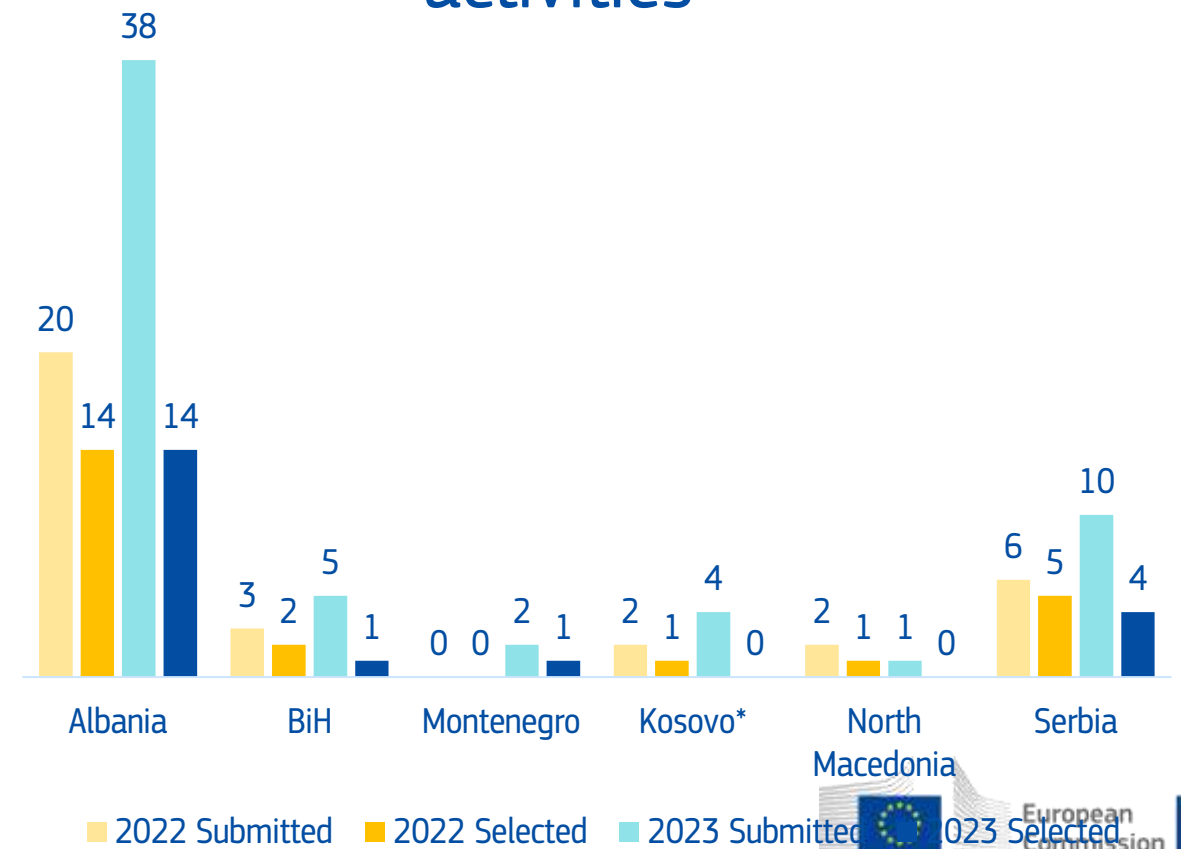
CB in Sport



Erasmus Virtual Exchanges



Jean Monnet activities



More information



[Erasmus+ Programme guide](#)



[Erasmus+ Call for proposals](#)



[ErasmusPlus Facebook](#)



[ErasmusPlus Twitter](#)

II-Results of the 2023 CBHE selection-number and type of projects

Eduardo Luceno Carracedo- EACEA

Selection 2023 - 22 winners

SPHERE

EduGame

ESN-AIR

MORIN

SHAPE

COUTURE

GreenWB

WBNET

NEST4WB

e-PHYSIO

LAIA

QA-SURE

reZEB

SMEQA

GEAR

DERHE

ME-Study in English

TCCWB

HAWKING

VALUED

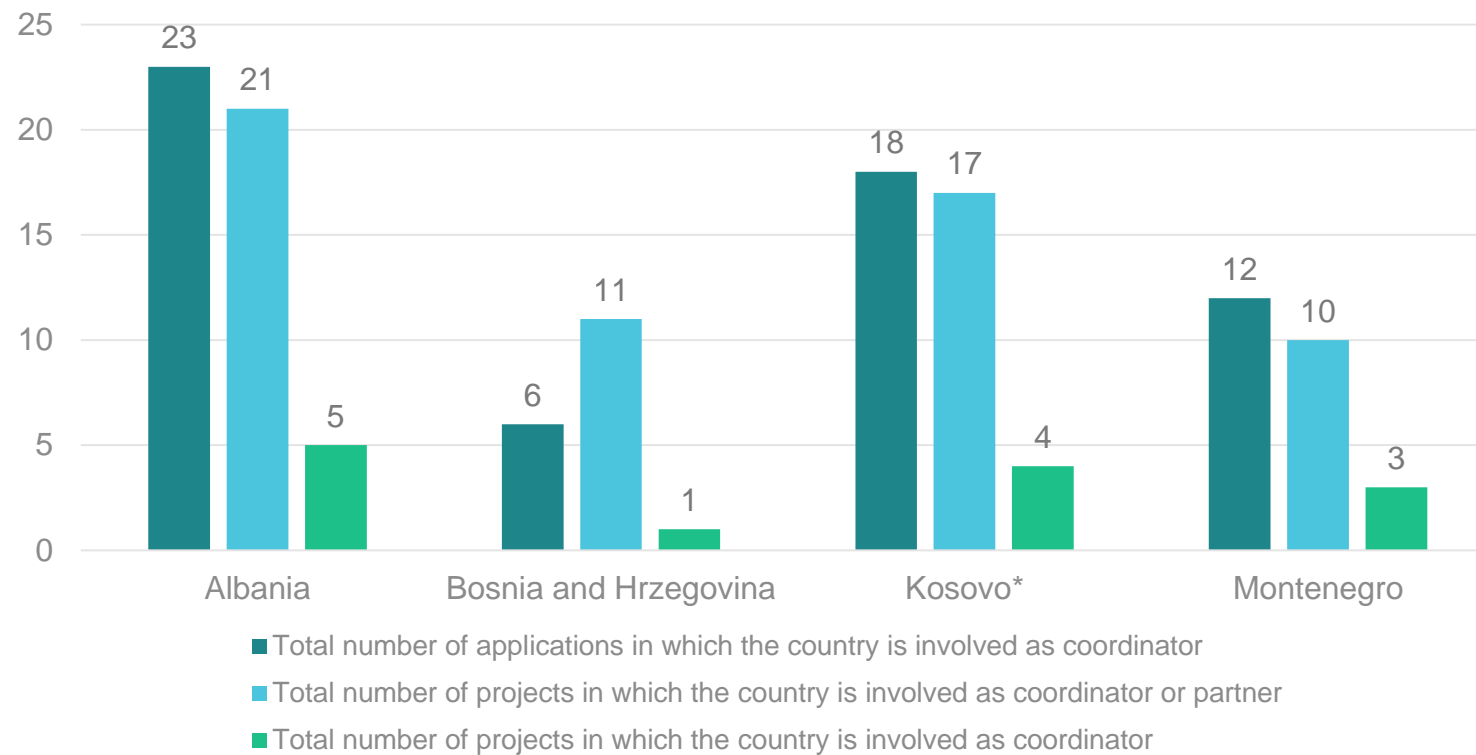
Zero C

Homo Digitalis

WB Selection 2023

94
applications

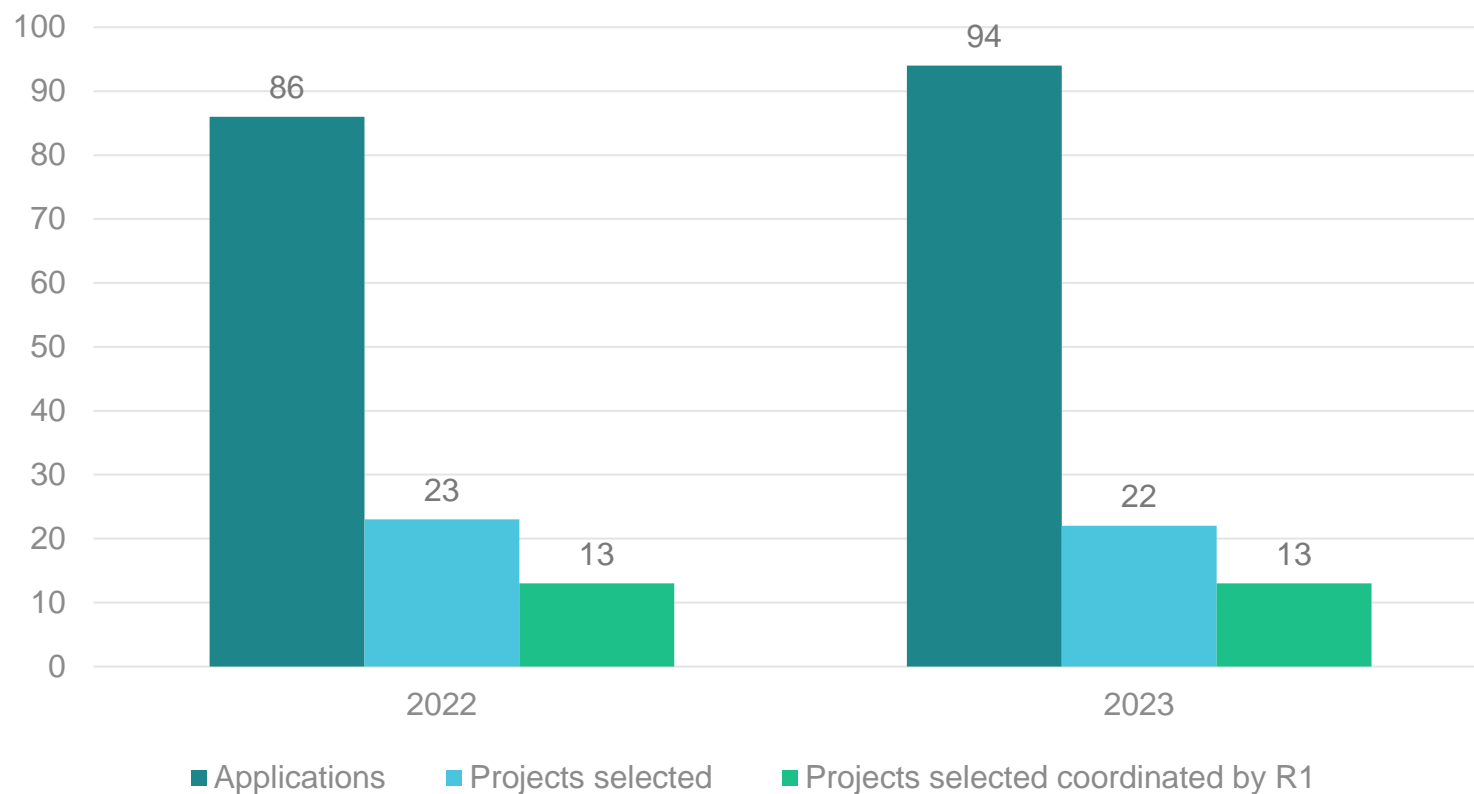
22
selected projects



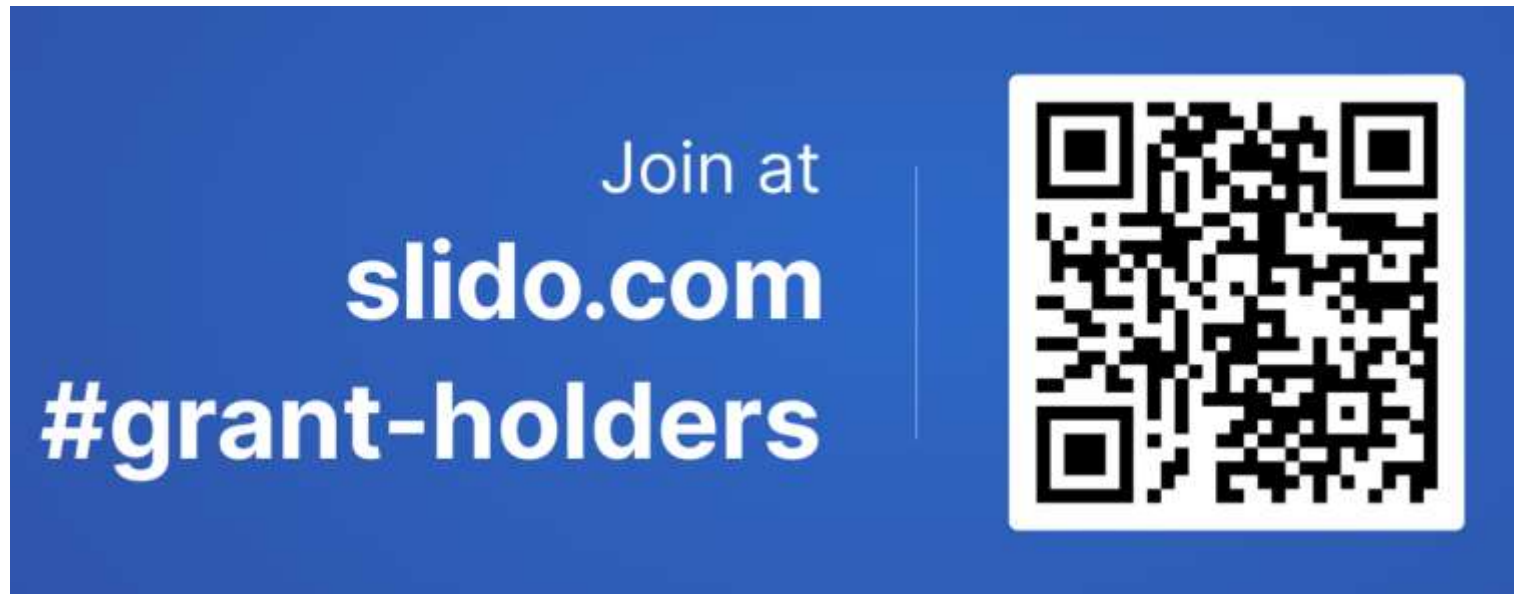
Features of selected projects 2023

22 Projects		
3 National Projects	17 Regional Projects	2 Cross-regional projects
8 projects Strand 1	Overarching priorities	6 Digital transformation
		1 Governance, peace, security and human development
11 projects Strand 2		8 Green Deal
		1 Migration and mobility
3 projects Strand 3		6 Sustainable growth and jobs

CBHE Results Western Balkans 2022-2023



Q. Which emoji best describes your current state of mind?



III-Some foundations for implementing your project smoothly

Xavier Flament- EACEA

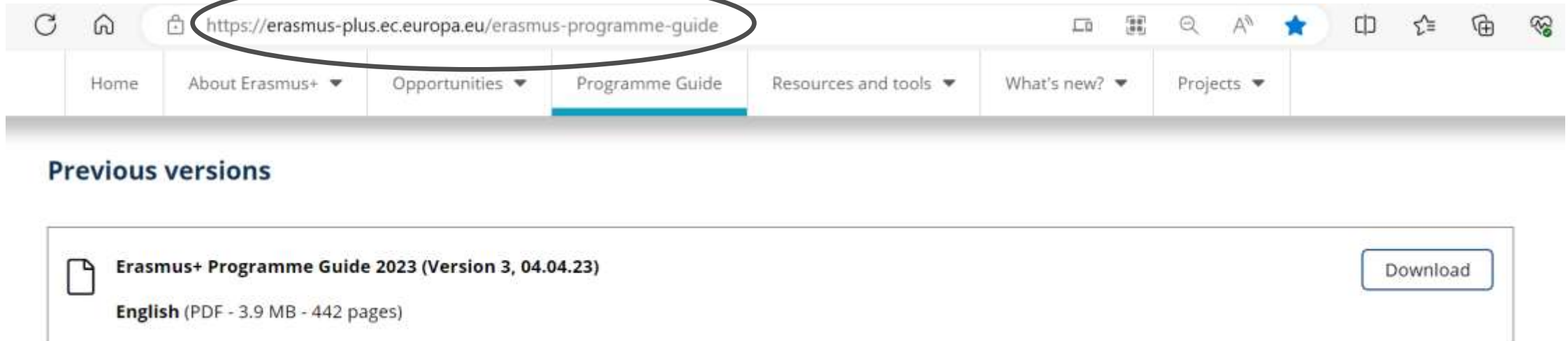
Legal framework

Grant Agreement (lumpsum based)

Please read these documents carefully!

The signed grant Agreement is composed of: Preamble, Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet), Annex 1 Description of the action, Annex 2 Estimated budget for the action, Annex 3 Accession forms (if applicable), Annex 3a Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable), Annex 4 Model for the financial statements, Annex 5 Specific rules (if applicable).


Erasmus+ Programme Guide



The screenshot shows the Erasmus+ Programme Guide webpage. The browser's address bar displays the URL <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-programme-guide>, which is circled in black. The navigation menu includes links for Home, About Erasmus+, Opportunities, Programme Guide (which is highlighted with a blue underline), Resources and tools, What's new?, and Projects. Below the navigation menu, the section 'Previous versions' is visible. It contains a single entry for the 'Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023 (Version 3, 04.04.23)' in English, which is a PDF file of 3.9 MB and 442 pages. A 'Download' button is located to the right of this entry.

Home About Erasmus+ Opportunities **Programme Guide** Resources and tools What's new? Projects

Previous versions

Document	Download
 Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023 (Version 3, 04.04.23) English (PDF - 3.9 MB - 442 pages)	Download

e-Grants/Online Manual

Online Manual / Grants

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual>

Grant management

Keeping records

Amendments

Deliverables &
milestones

Reports & payment
requests

Acknowledgement of
EU funding

Dissemination &
exploitation of
project results

Checks, audits,
reviews &
investigations

Communication with
the granting authority



Principles and guidelines



GET TO KNOW YOUR PARTNERS



**GET YOUR PARTNERS AND
STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED**



**RESPECT THE PROJECT
MANAGEMENT LIFE CYCLE PHASES**



**MONITOR THE PROJECT'S PROGRESS
AND ENSURE THAT IT ADHERES TO
THE ESTABLISHED PLAN**

Internal arrangements and working plans



Consortium Agreement



Quality Assurance Plan



Dissemination Plan



Sustainability Plan

Reminders



Teaching of the new or updated **courses** must start **during the lifetime of the project** and take place during at least **one third of the project duration**

Study programmes **accredited before the end of the project** implementation/ grant agreement

Procurement plan set up with anticipation (**equipment** and **subcontracted** services)

**Any idea about other foundations / tools
for a smooth implementation?**

Join at
slido.com
#grant-holders



IV-Challenges and risks

Eduardo Luceno Carracedo and Xavier Flament- EACEA

**If you can make one thing easier in your life:
what would it be?**

Join at
slido.com
#grant-holders




Challenges and risks

Considering your experience, which are the **main challenges** during the project implementation?
Please select one or more of the following options. (Slido)

- A. Courses are not cost-efficient nor sustainable on the long run
- B. Delayed accreditation process
- C. Lack of students' involvement
- D. Equipment budget allocation is too limited
- E. Low commitment at institutional level
- F. Lack of non-academic partners' Involvement
- G. Impact on students' employability
- H. Project management and coordination challenges
- I. Lack of competence/differences in skills output
- J. Grant management (operational/financial)
- K. Other challenges

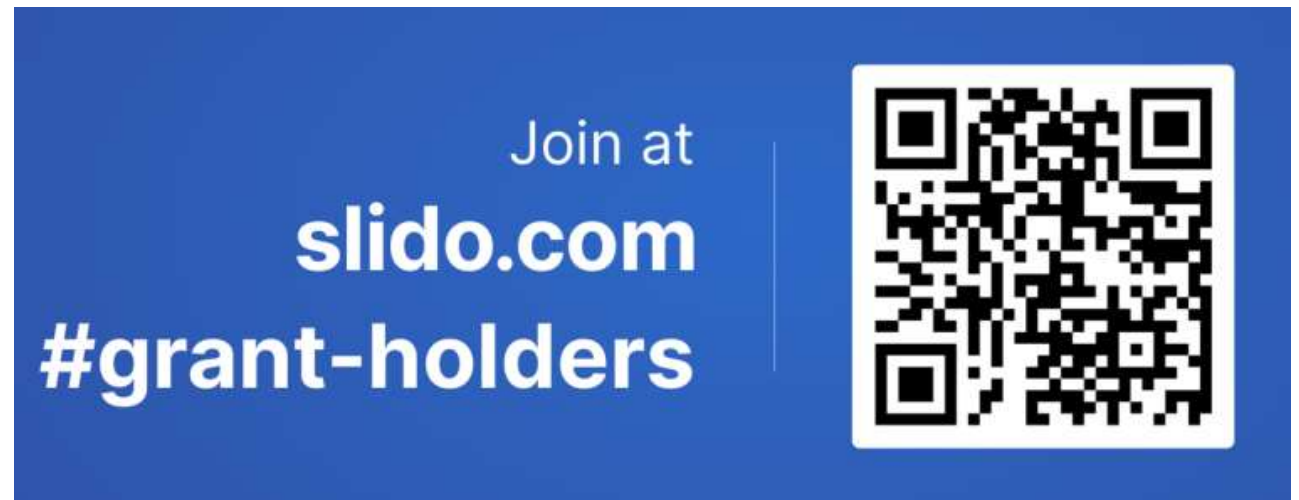
Join at
slido.com
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Challenges and risks

Considering your experience ,which are the **main risks** you expect to face during the project implementation?
Please select one or more of the following options. (Slido)

- A. Covid pandemic / another pandemic situation
- B. Geopolitical/security threats
- C. Rising costs
- D. Resources mismanagement
- E. Procurement of equipment complications/delays
- F. Underperforming project management methodology
- G. Missed deadlines and deliverables
- H. Lack of HR resources
- I. Changing legal framework
- J. Other risks





Thank you



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Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. Fotolia.com; Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. iStock.com