



CBHE Regional Workshop

Western Balkans

8 February 2023

Present yourself in Slido

Indicate the acronym of your project and the EU overarching priority in which it fits

Civic Engagement and participation

Digital Transformation

Environmental Sustainability

Growth & Jobs

Inclusion and diversity

QUESTION

What is your main expectation from this regional workshop?

Outline

I-Cooperation background and political context in the region

II-Results of the 2022 CBHE selection–number and type of projects

III-How to ensure a smooth implementation of your project

IV-Challenges that your project might face

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

Karolina Buzaljko, DG NEAR
Antoaneta Irikova, DG EAC

Context

Young people – **vital for the prosperity of the Western Balkans** fostering economic development, digital opportunities, green transformation and regional cooperation.

BUT they face many challenges:

- high unemployment,
- corruption,
- skills mismatch.

Context

- Providing opportunities for young people high on the COM agenda:
 - European Year of Youth 2022
 - EU Policy Dialogues
 - EU4Youth Days
 - Tirana – European Capital of Youth 2022
 - Year 2023 – European Year of Skills

- Key Strategies:
 - Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Western Balkans
 - Western Balkans Agenda on Innovation, Research, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
 - Youth Action Plan

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.

Context

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

Regional Cooperation and participation

Education and Skills

Increasing employment opportunities and facilitating access to finance for young entrepreneurs and SMEs that employ young people

Regional Cooperation & Youth Participation

- More attractive place for young people to live and work
- Development
- Fostering greater tolerance
- Strengthening of the cohesion of society
- Meet, connect, share ideas
- In the heart of European policy-making process (e.g., European Youth Dialogue)

Job Creation and Access to Finance



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

Skills

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

- Basic skills (PISA 2018)
- Lack of job opportunities and “skills mismatches”
- Transition from school to work

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.**

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

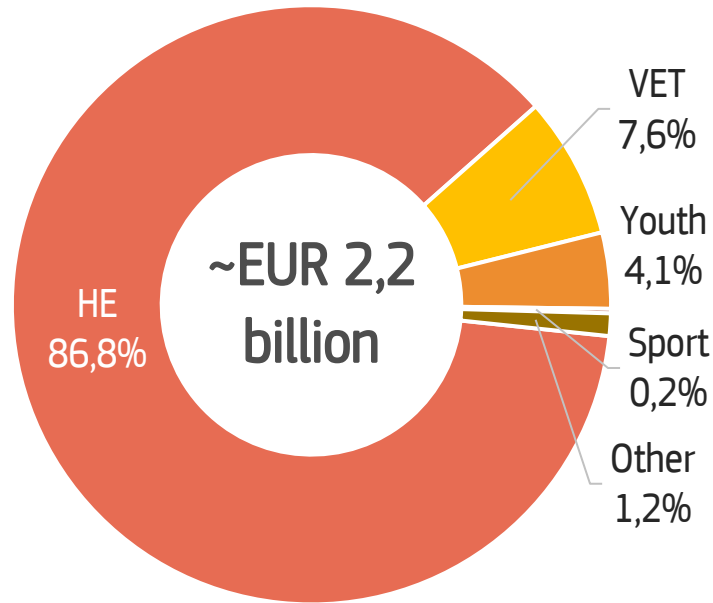
- International Credit Mobility
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
- Capacity Building Higher Education
- Youth mobility actions
- Capacity building in the field of youth
- "Jean Monnet" activities
- Capacity Building VET
- Capacity Building Sport
- Virtual Exchanges

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

- European Education Area
- Digital Education Action Plan
- European Strategy for Universities

International dimension of Erasmus+: funding

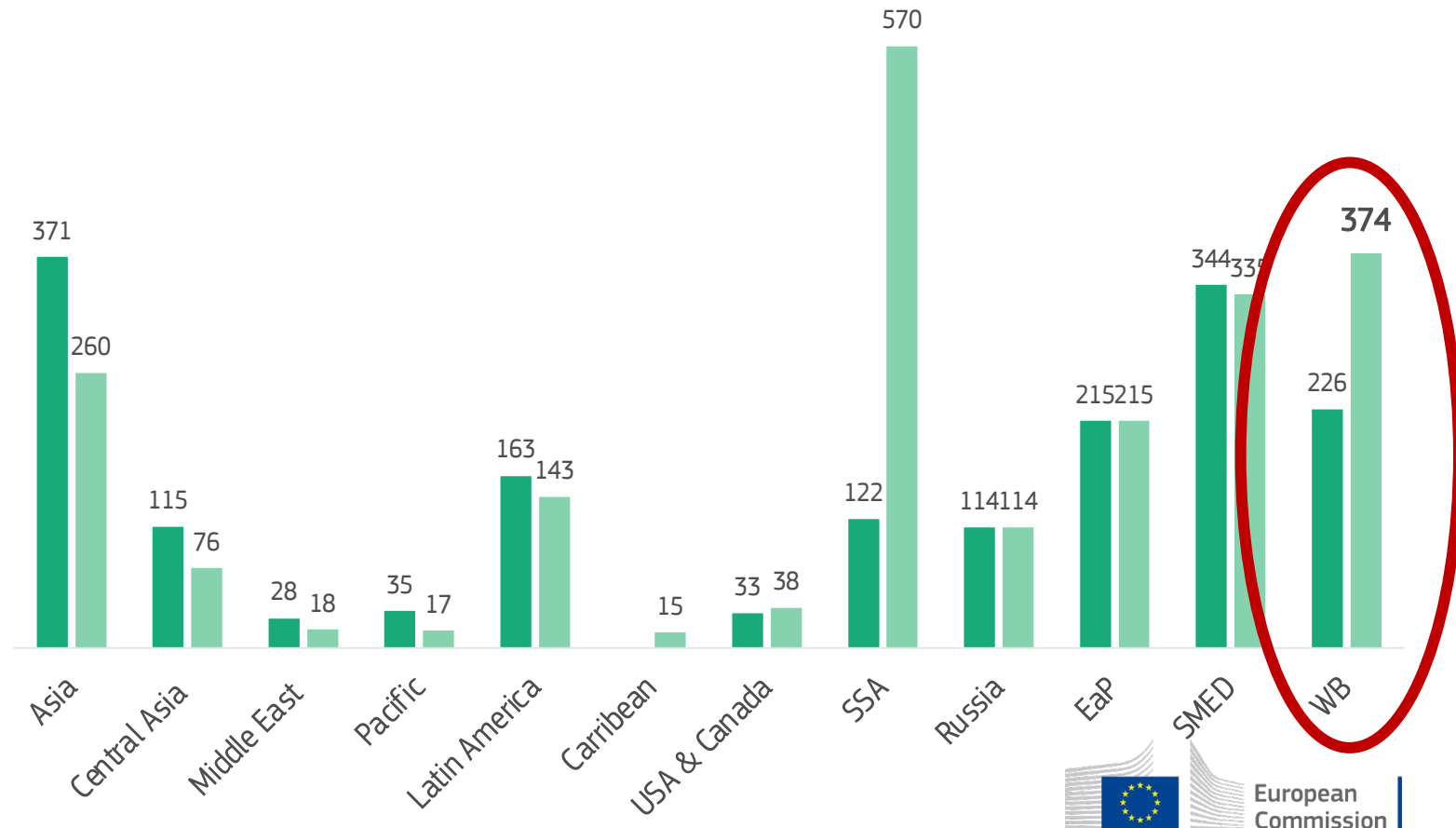
International actions budget (H6) per sector
2021-2027



2014 – 2020
~EUR 1,8 billion

H6 budget per region (in million EUR)

■ 2014-2020 ■ 2021-2027



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*

NEW

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



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

Structural, Systemic and
Sustainable impact

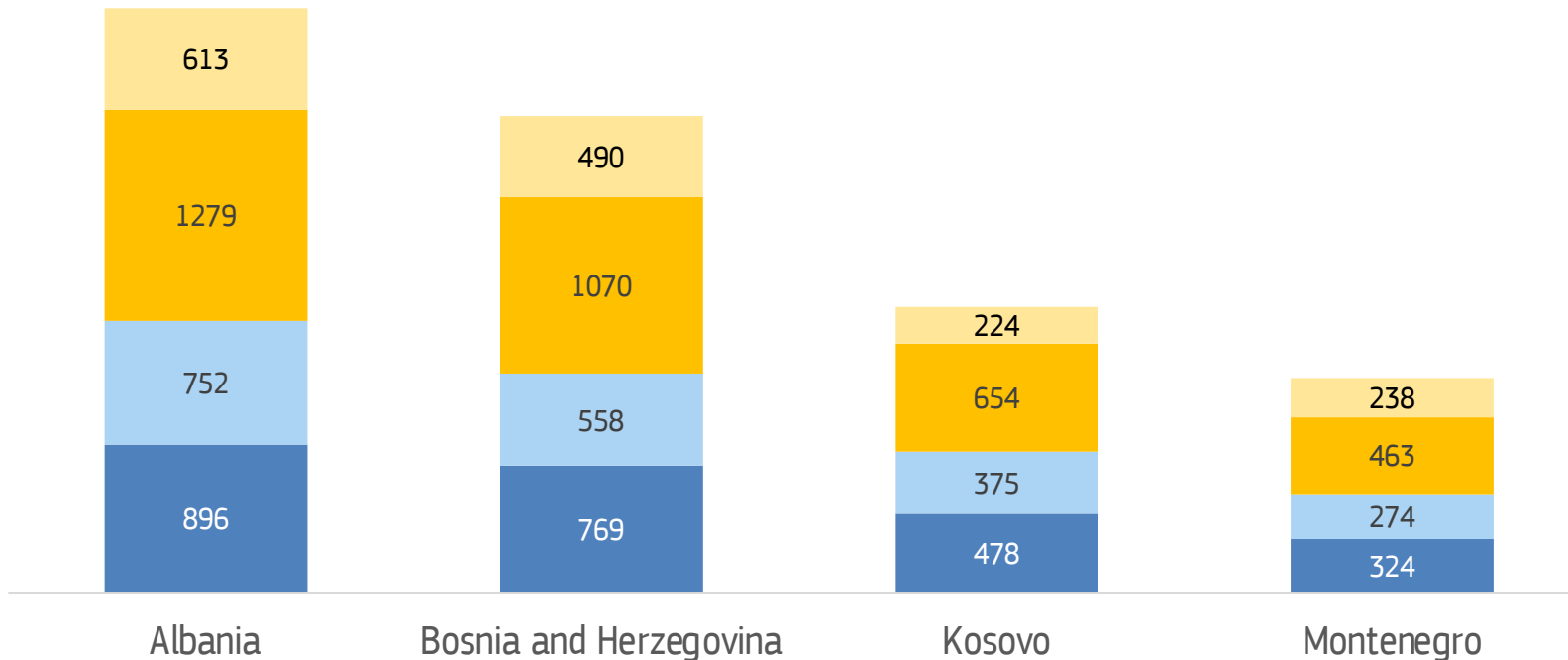
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

ICM selection 2022 – mobility for around 50 000 students and staff worldwide

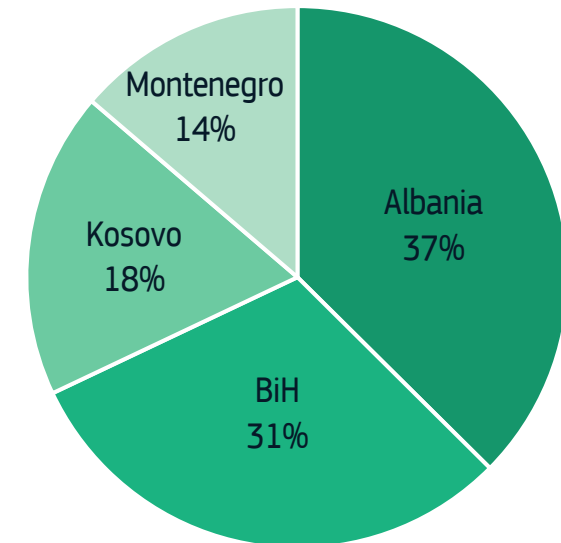
WB: ~ 9 500 mobilities of students and staff awarded

Awarded mobilities in ICM call 2022

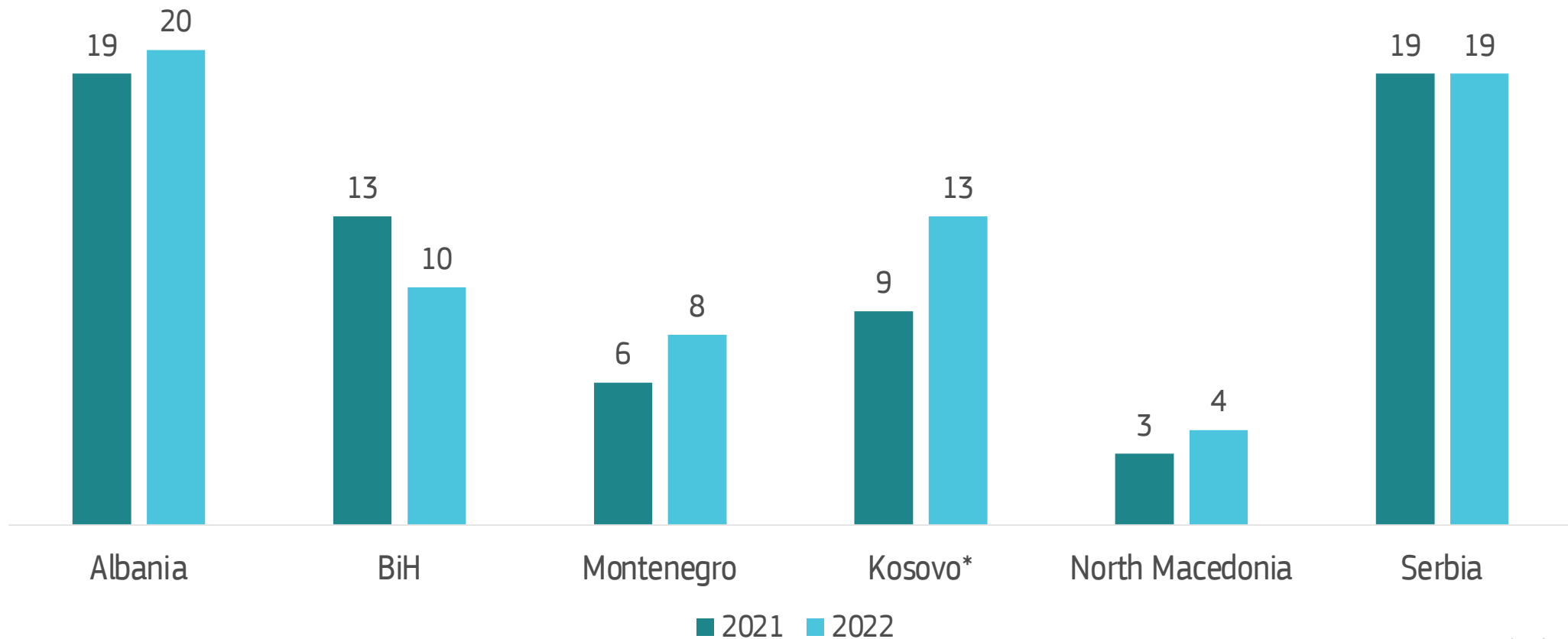
- Incoming Staff Mobilities
- Outgoing Staff Mobilities
- Incoming Student Mobilities
- Outgoing Student Mobilities



Share of regional mobilities call 2022



Erasmus Mundus scholarships awarded in 2021 and 2022



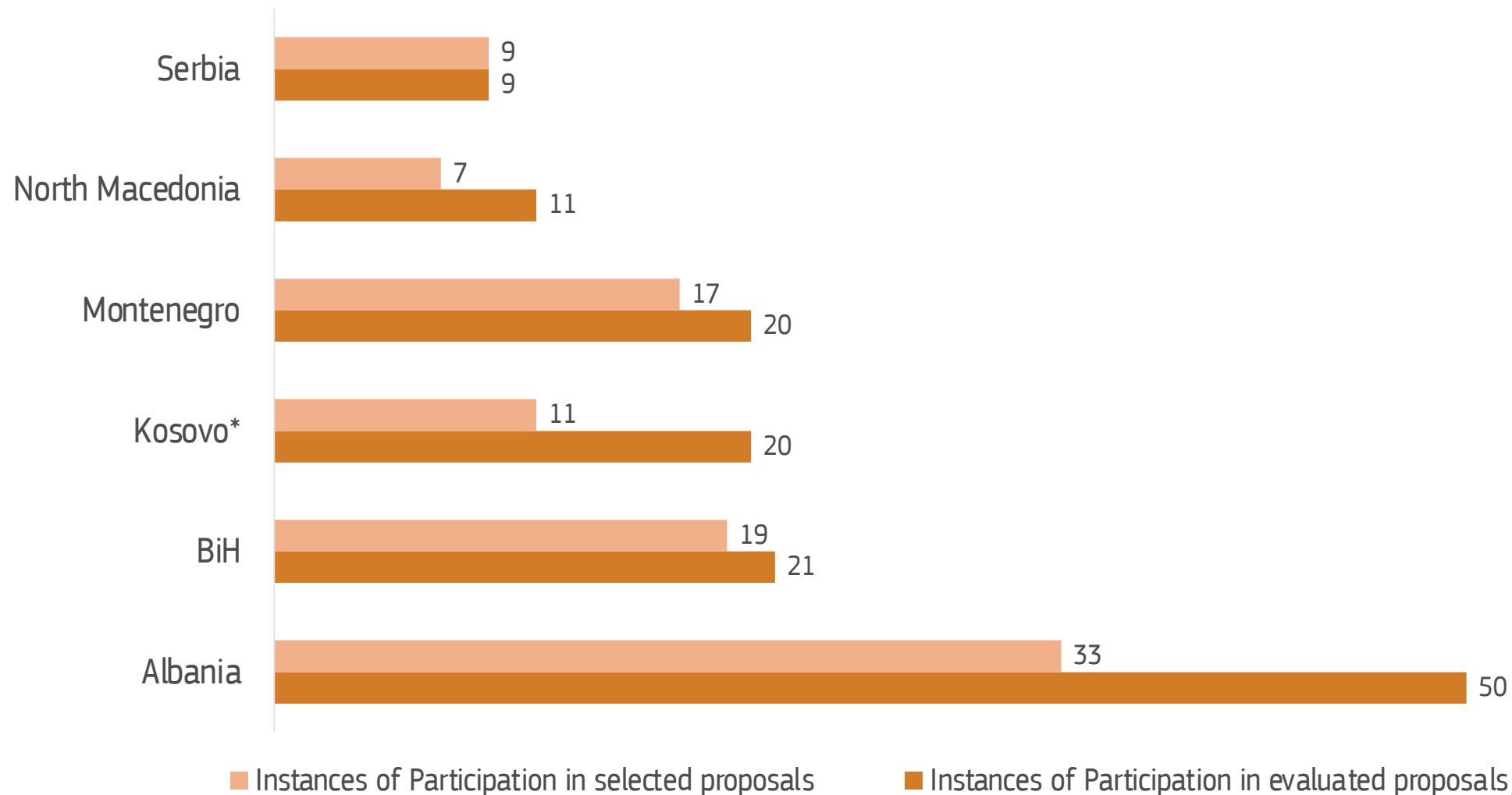
Jean Monnet activities

- For Serbia in 2021 and 2022, 10 JMA funded (9 JM modules and 1 JM Centre of Excellence)
- In call 2022, **25 projects** for JMA were **submitted** by HEIs in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo*
- Out of which **17 were retained for funding** for a total budget of over EUR 500 000

Erasmus Virtual exchanges

- The Western Balkans was the region that most projects chose to work with
- In 2021, **4 projects** were **proposed for funding** with a total budget of over EUR 800 000 EUR (1m EUR available, 1,5m requested).

CB in VET 2022 selection: country involvement in 58 CB in VET projects selected



Capacity building in Youth and Sport

- Capacity building in Youth



- Capacity building in Sport, call 2022

WB Countries	Submitted applications call 2021	Selected applications call 2021	Submitted applications call 2022	Selected applications call 2022
Albania	112	22	107	15
BiH	82	25	90	13
Kosovo*	47	6	63	8
Montenegro	70	23	58	9
North Macedonia	52	13	48	3
Serbia	54	16	33	3

In total, **4 projects** have been funded including all 6 WB countries: Albania (3 instances of participation), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Kosovo* (4), Montenegro (4), North Macedonia (2) and Serbia (1)



II-Results of the 2022 CBHE selection- number and type of projects

Eduardo Luceno - EACEA

Selection 2022 - 23 winners

SmartWB

UP

E-le.G.A.N.T.S.

INTEC

BIOSINT

DIGITCRESHE

DGTRANS

SMART

MAGNET

PEVULOS

COWEB

ROAMING

ProBLeMS

IoT-ECO

GROWTH

APPLE

WEBJOU

STEFORA

1FUTURE

AL4LIFE

CRED4TEACH

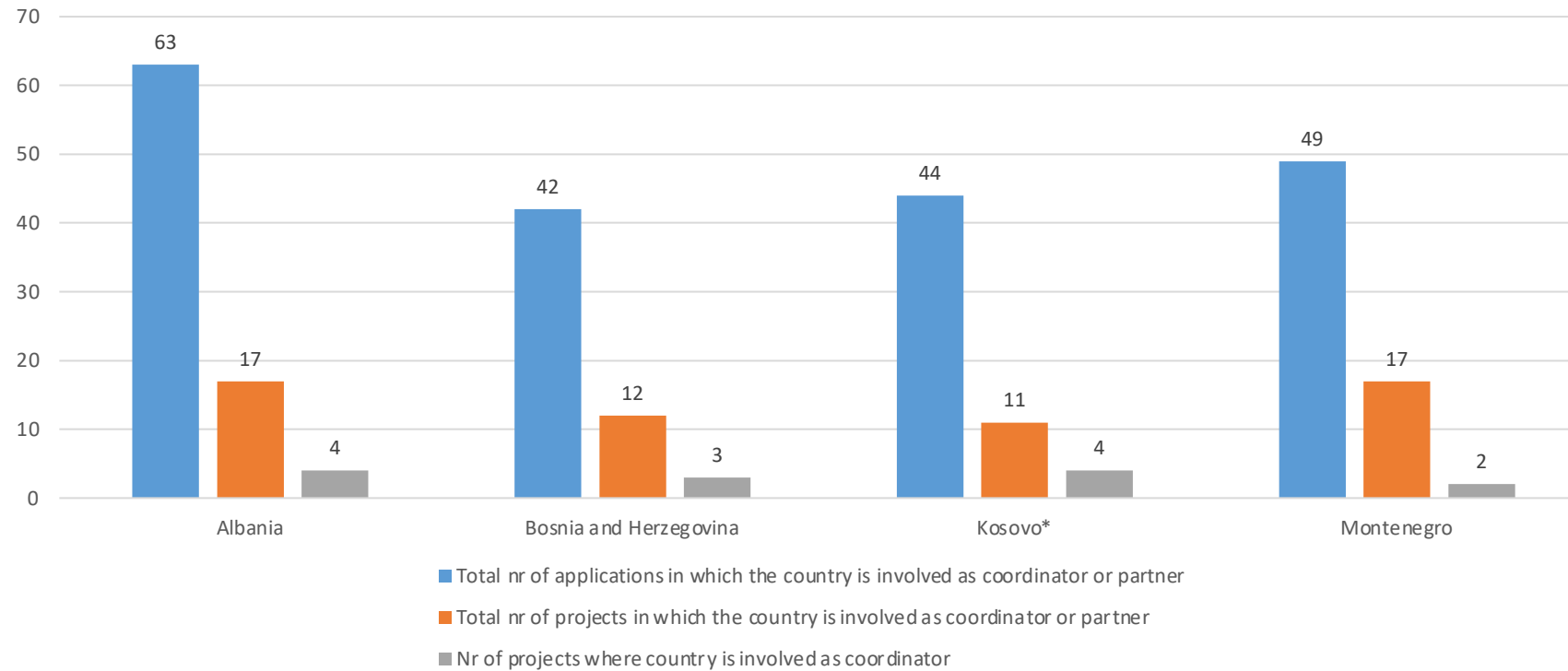
PELMOB

U2SID

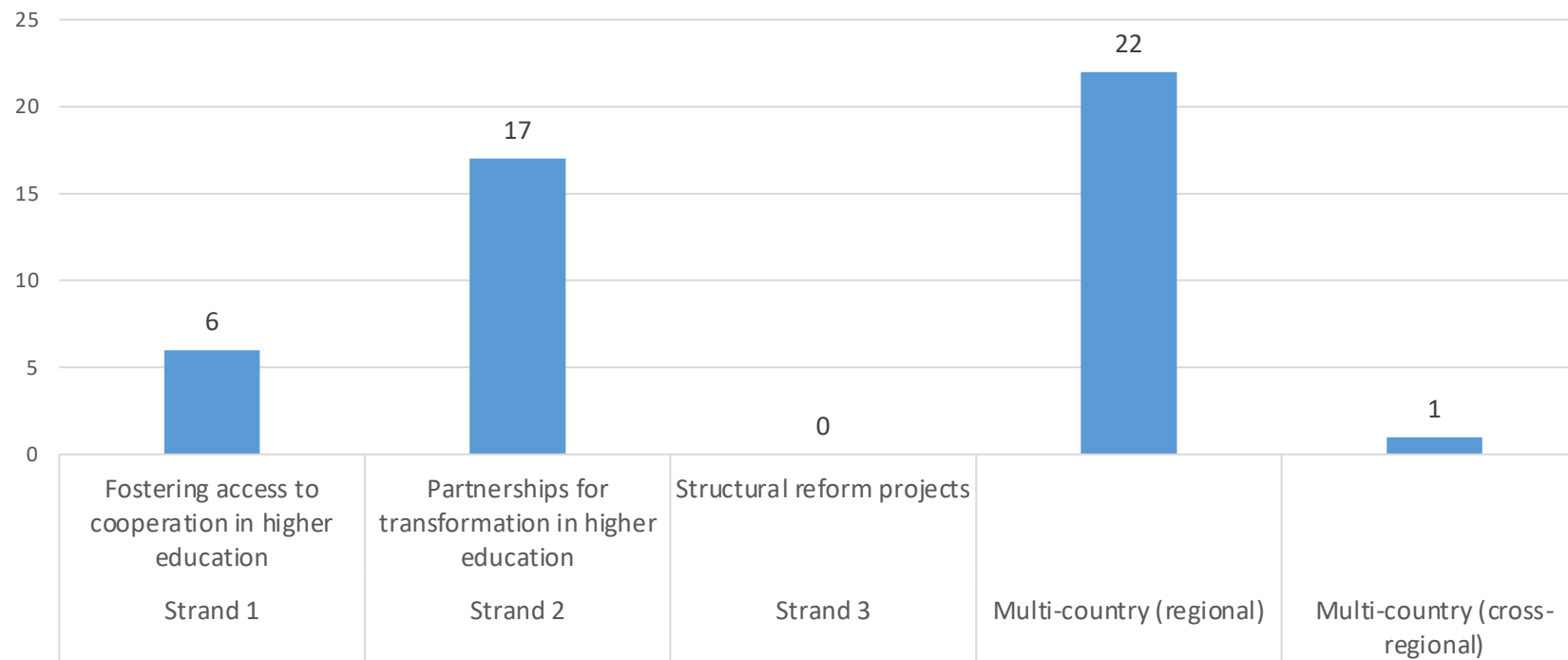
WB Selection 2022

86
applications

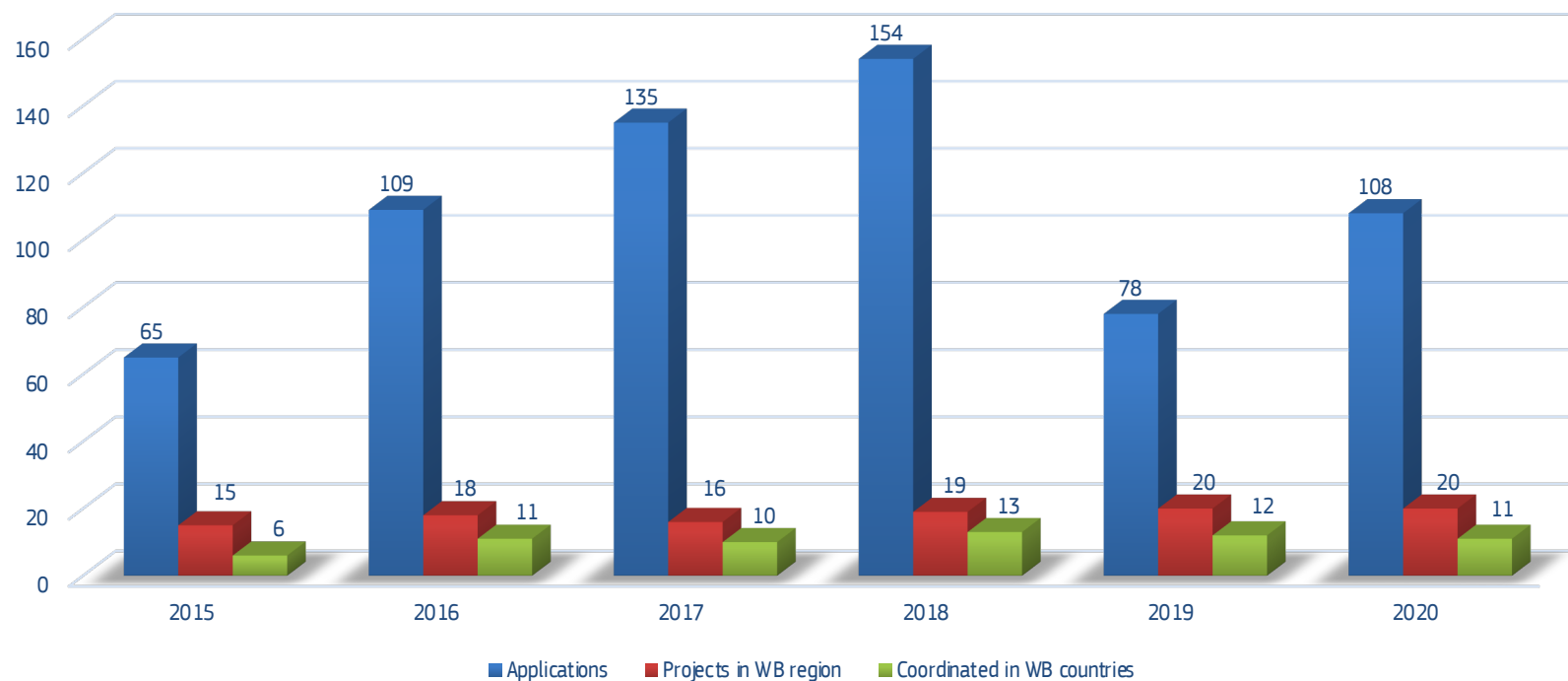
23
selected projects



Features of selected projects 2022



CBHE Results Western Balkans 2015-2020



QUESTION

What do you think are the basic project foundations to ensure a smooth implementation?

Basic project foundations for a smooth implementation



Legislative framework

Grant Agreement

Erasmus+ Programme Guide



e-Grants

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

Basic project foundations for a smooth implementation

Grant management

Keeping records

Amendments

Reports & payment
requests

Deliverables & milestones

Dissemination &
exploitation

Communicating your
project

Acknowledgement of EU
funding

Checks, audits, reviews &
investigations

Basic project foundations for a smooth project implementation



GET TO KNOW YOUR
PARTNERS



INVOLVEMENT OF
ALL PARTNERS



INVOLVEMENT OF
THE INSTITUTIONS



SET UP A SOLID
PROJECT
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Basic project foundations for a smooth project implementation



Partnership Agreement



Quality Assurance Plan – Control measures and objectively verifiable indicators



Dissemination Plan



Sustainability Plan

Basic project foundations for a smooth project implementation

Curriculum reform projects

- Training for teaching staff
- Study programmes accredited before the end of the project
- Teaching of the new or updated courses during at least one third of the project duration



IV-Challenges that your project might face

Inmaculada Rodríguez - EACEA

QUESTION

What do you think is the main challenge you might face during the implementation of your project?

Challenges for CBHE projects in WB

Accreditation of study programmes

Bureaucratic procedures within the institution

Lengthy and bureaucratic tender procedures

Legal, financial or administrative obstacles to open a bank account

Visa procedures

Sleeping partners

Etc.



Face the CBHE projects challenges



Act from the beginning



Be aware of all national and institutional regulations affecting your project on accreditation, tender procedures, financial matters, visa procedures, etc.



Seek advice – Experienced partners, other projects, NEOs, the Agency ...

QUESTION

How do you deal with these challenges?

QUESTION

What will you bring home to share with your project partners?



Thank you



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