

Common Regional Market

Action Plan 2021-2024
Main achievements & results





Western Balkans is a Roaming Free Zone

as of 1 July 2021





Roaming traffic increased significantly as of second half of 2021:

- ✓ number of minutes of outgoing calls up to **237%**,
- ✓ number of minutes of incoming calls up to **173%**,
- ✓ number of SMS sent up to **119%**, and
- ✓ data consumption in MB even by up to **459%**.





**Roaming charges
between Western Balkans
& European Union
are significantly reduced**



as of 1 October 2023



Now, the price cap for **1 GB of data roaming** within the special offers and packages does not exceed **18 EUR**. In some cases, the price goes even much lower, down to **1.6 EUR per 1 GB**, while three Western Balkan operators, beside package prices, significantly **lowered even regular, 'pay-as-you-go' prices.**





Agreement on travel with ID cards signed

and ratified by 5 out of 6 WB economies





Based on available data, a **number of entries** in the majority of the WB economies that ratified the agreement, **increased significantly**.





Agreement on Professional Qualifications of Doctors of Medicine, Dentists and Architects Signed

and ratified by all WB6 economies





Did you know that the stock of medical doctors abroad who are originally from our region corresponds to 13% of medical doctors available in the Western Balkans?

Projections says that by 2030, the global demand for health professionals will double compared to the previous decade. However, the supply of this category of workers will not be changing at a similar pace.



**Agreement on
Professional Qualifications
of Nurses, Veterinary
Surgeons, Pharmacist and
Midwives Signed**



and ratified by all WB6 economies



On average, the cost of higher education per person in the Western Balkans ranges from 18.283 EUR in Albania to 34.139 EUR in Serbia. For example, Bosnia and Herzegovina spends more than 50 million EUR annually on educating health professionals, some of whom might end up working elsewhere.





Agreement on Higher Education Qualifications Signed

and ratified by all WB6 economies





In 2021, **8.000** applications for the recognition of academic qualifications were submitted. In order to have their diplomas recognized in other economies of the region where they were looking for a job, people had to allocate between **300 and 500 euros**. Full implementation of the agreement means the **free of charge procedure that lasts for only 40 days**.



Green lanes extended to all border crossing points

including rail and to all goods





Did you know that Green lanes for goods have reduced waiting times at border crossings by up to 77 440 hours, over 3 200 days, in only the first three months of 2023?

The average reduction in customs clearance time is **30%**





Trade Barriers Reduced





Did you know that the intra-regional trade
in goods increased by almost
70% from 2020 to 2022?



**Promoted Western Balkans
as a single regional
investment area**





From 2020 to 2023,
the region saw a **62% increase**
in FDI inflows.





**Developed 22 New
“Made in Western Balkan”
Products**





With a goal of boosting Western Balkan youth to contribute to the region's digital transformation, during the pandemic the RCC launched Balkathon, a trademark annual digital competition. The competition reached over 300 registrations since its inception, resulting in 22 new Made in Western Balkans products. With applications for the 2024 edition of Balkathon currently open, we expect at least 6 more by the end of this year.





**Launched Western Balkans
Network of Women
in Entrepreneurship**





Launched in 2022, the Network supports women entrepreneurship across the region. As part of its promotional activities, the Network hosts an annual flagship event, 'Western Balkans Women Entrepreneurs of the Year' recognition. Under this initiative, 24 women entrepreneurs from the region have been promoted and engaged in various regional initiatives and mentorship programmes. These efforts will continue in the coming years.



Launched Network of Women in STEM





Launched in 2021, the Network gathers and promotes women from the Western Balkans with careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics. By engaging its members in various projects and joint regional initiatives, the Network fosters collaboration and advancement in these fields. One of the initiatives, #ChooseSTEMfuture social media campaign successfully reached over 7 million people. Through such efforts, the Network continues to inspire and support women in STEM across the region.



**Boosted innovation
in the region**





In 2021 the RCC the Western Balkans Butterfly Innovation and Business Forum and just a year later the Regional Butterfly Innovation Award was introduced to promote a culture of innovation and showcase positive examples from the region. Over the years, the Award has received over 200 entries and supported 12 innovative ideas made in the Western Balkans.





**Enabled easier access to finance
and integration in the global
supply chains for SMEs**





6700 SMEs from the Western Balkans have been included in the programme.

4288 SMEs received direct support, while **950 SMEs** received individual, tailor-made support to look for business and funding opportunities across borders.

