

in collaboration with



DISCUSSION ROUNDTABLE

Innovation in the Western Balkans as a key factor to reduce brain drain and to boost local/regional development

Belgrade, December 14th 2022 - 10.00 – 13.00

Institute of Italian Culture, Kneza Miloša 56

In the framework of the project "***The mobility of human capital within and from the Western Balkans: when innovation stops brain drain***" granted by Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, OBCT (Osservatorio Balcani, Caucaso e Transeuropa) and CeSPI (Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale) undertook a research aiming to examine how innovative companies, hubs and incubators in the Western Balkans can positively contribute to local social-economic development and ultimately reduce the brain drain of skilled youth.

A desk literature review had been accomplished to understand the general framework of innovation development in the Western Balkans and a qualitative fieldwork (15 interviews) has involved different players in Serbia, Albania and Kosovo. A final research report will be publicly available online from the 16th of December 2022.

OBCT and CeSPI are willing to organize a **roundtable** with a selected group of interested experts, practitioners, and stakeholders in order to share the findings of the study, create a networking occasion among participants and discuss:

- To what extent, innovation operators, players, and hubs can overall contribute to stopping brain drain of skilled profiles and supporting the local/regional economic development?
- What enabling factors can contribute and can be reinforced to support innovation, driving local development and limiting brain drain?

**You can follow the meeting in presence or on the Zoom platform
The registration is required for both options:**

[REGISTRATION](#)

[ZOOM REGISTRATION](#)

Meeting realized in the framework of the project "The mobility of human capital within and from the Western Balkans: when innovation can stop brain drain" funded by



PROGRAMME

Opening Remarks

- **Roberto Cincotta**, Director of the Institute of Italian Culture in Belgrade
- **Ambassador Luca Gori**, Embassy of Italy in Serbia
- **Martin Klaucke**, Head of Operations II of the European Union to Serbia (*tbc*)
- **Andrea Cascone**, Head of the Unit for the Adriatic and the Balkans, MAECI (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation)

Research findings

- **Anna Ferro**, Researcher at CeSPI (Center of International Political Studies)
- **Francesco Martino**, Journalist at OBCT (Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa)
- **Serena Epis**, Resarcher at OBCT (Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa)

Discussants

- **Teresa Albano**, OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Economic Affairs Officer/ YDEAS (Young Developers and Entrepreneurs to Advance Start-ups) Project
- **Dejan Tonic**, Regional Coordinator of the programme "Star venture", EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)
- **Siniša Marčić**, Senior Expert, Regional Cooperation Council (*online*)
- **Arjan Ymeri**, Director of the business incubator Ofiqina in Tirana
- **Kristina Janković**, Executive Director of the Serbia Games Association
- **Darko Subotin**, Visual effects, Animation and Game Art Department, Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade
- **Biagio Carrano**, Founder and Director of Eastcom Consulting
- **Nenad Đurđević**, Chamber of Commerce in Belgrade

Conclusions

- **Luisa Chiodi**, Director of OBCT (Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa)