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Policy Dialogue on Aligning Priorities in the Western Balkans

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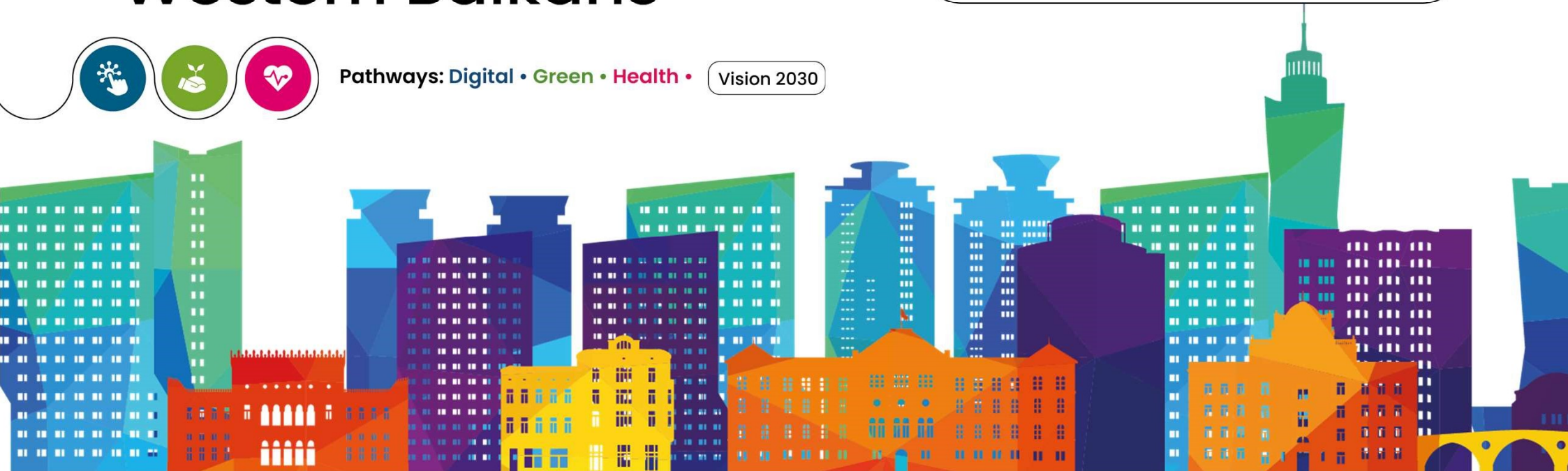


POLICY
ANSWERS

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
13 September 2023



Pathways: Digital • Green • Health • Vision 2030



 Funded by
the European Union

POLICY ANSWERS is funded by the European Commission through the Horizon Europe project "R&I policy making, implementation and support in the Western Balkans", Grant Agreement N° 10105887.

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Green Agenda for the Western Balkans - the way forward



Implementing the Green Agenda and Ensuring a Just and Sustainable Transition

- Local level - National level - Regional level
- Individual (cityzen) level

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- **Decentralize the implementation of the Green Agenda by incorporating local municipalities and encouraging more private sector involvement.**
- **Strengthen local governance capacities to improve the ability of local governments in the Western Balkans to conduct proper GAWB implementation.**
- **Strengthen regional cooperation to ease the green transition by lowering costs and avoiding inefficient parallel structures in implementing the Green Agenda.**
- **Raise awareness about the importance of clean energy and environmental protection both among the population and at the policy level, including by sensitizing youth to the severity of the issue and the potential for the future of the energy transition through education.**
- **Strengthening GAWB coordination, monitoring, and reporting systems at the regional level.**

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- **Ensure that energy transition strategies are coordinated and multidisciplinary, involving social, legal, economic, technical, and educational considerations.**
- **Seek out expert-informed recommendations during the policy-making process rather than trying to draft solutions to the energy crisis without specific expertise.**
- **Use the energy crisis as a catalyst for a green transition.**

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- **Improve university curricula and enhance regional cooperation to promote research and innovation in the GAWB relevant sector through a regional research collaboration framework.**
- **Promote the exchange of knowledge and resources on a regional level.**
- **Counteract the public misconception of CE as a form of waste management with awareness and education campaigns that explain the complexity of the issue and emphasize the immense potential benefits inherent in CE.**

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- **Increase EU support for the long-term implementation of the Green Agenda, beyond the 9 billion EUR currently allocated in the 2021-2027 budget and the 1 billion EUR energy support package for alleviating the short-term energy crisis.**
- **Make clear that energy security questions in the Western Balkans need to be tackled together with the EU instead of leaving the Western Balkans to create a unique and isolated solution.**
- **Seek a wider exchange between politics, business, and non-governmental organizations to find compromises and partnerships in securing energy and raw materials as well as protecting employment.**
- **Increase efforts to raise understanding and incentives for the implementation of the Green Agenda, both at the civil society as well as at the policy-making level.**

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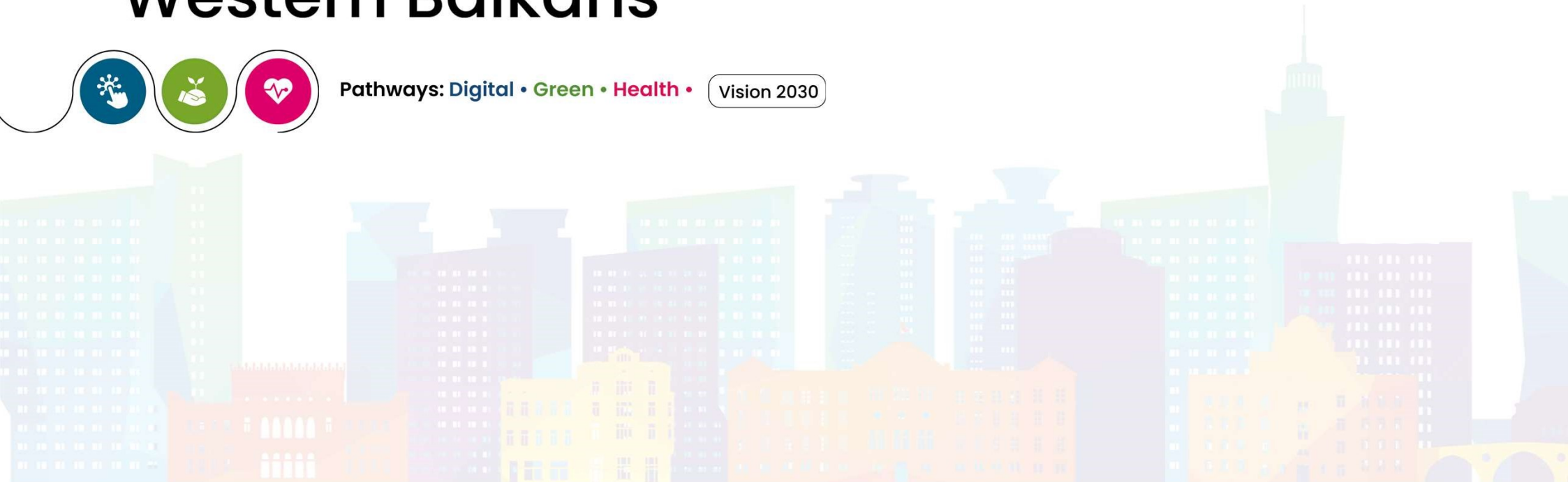
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