

# MONTENEGRO 2026 – FROM COMMITMENT TO DELIVERY

High-Level Operational Conference

*Science and Technology Park Montenegro, Podgorica / 28 April 2026*

**Event moderator:** Mrs. Milica Jovančević, STP MNE

| TIME          | SESSION                                                                                                                                | DETAILS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| 09:00 – 09:30 | Registration                                                                                                                           | Arrival and participant registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 09:30 – 10:05 | Intro Session                                                                                                                          | <i>Moderator: Mrs. Milica Jovančević, STP MNE,</i><br><br><i>Speakers:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Mrs. Valentina Radulović</b>,<br/><i>Director, STP MNE</i></li><li><b>Mrs. Biljana Papovic</b>, <i>State Secretary, Ministry of European Affairs</i></li></ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 10:05 – 11:00 | <b><u>Working Session I</u></b><br><br><b><i>Montenegro in EU Programmes: Performance, Gaps and Acceleration Targets 2026-2027</i></b> | <i>Moderator: Dr Srna Sudar, TTO Director, STP MNE</i><br><br><i>Speakers:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Ms. Biljana Papovic</b>, <i>State Secretary, Ministry of European Affairs</i></li><li><b>Mr. Velibor Damjanović</b>, <i>Director General of the Directorate for Management of EU Pre-Accession Assistance Structures</i></li><li><b>Ms. Katarina Lalović</b>, <i>Acting Executive Director, Innovation Fund of Montenegro</i></li><li><b>Ms. Ekaterina Paniklova</b>, <i>UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro</i></li><li><b>Mr. Vladimir Gjorgjiev</b>, <i>Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration</i></li></ol> |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | <b><i>Coffee Break</i></b>                                                                                                             | Networking and refreshments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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| <p><b>11:20 – 12:15</b></p> | <p align="center"><b><u>Working Session II</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Fixing the Support System: How Technical Assistance and National Support Structures Become 'Pipeline Engines'</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><i>Moderator: <b>Mr. Radivoje Drobnjak</b>, Program and Project Head, STP MNE</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mr. Velibor Damjanović</b>, Director General of the Directorate for Management of EU Pre-Accession Assistance Structures</li> <li>2. <b>Ms. Ekaterina Paniklova</b>, UNDP Resident Representative, Montenegro</li> <li>3. <b>Dr Srna Sudar</b>, TTO Director, STP MNE</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>12:15 – 13:10</b></p> | <p align="center"><b><u>Working Session III</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Leadership Reality and Positioning Strategy: Where Montenegro Can Lead and Where It Must Integrate</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><i>Moderator: <b>Mrs. Valentina Radulović</b>, Director, STP MNE</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mrs. Katarina Lalović</b>, Director, Fund for Innovation, Montenegro</li> <li>2. <b>Mrs. Tanja Radusinović</b>, Director, Project Department, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro</li> <li>3. <b>Prof. Gordana Đurović</b>, President, NGO Montenegrin Pan-European Union</li> <li>4. <b>Mr. Đorđije Brkuljan</b>, Director, IPC Tehnopolis</li> </ol>                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>13:10 – 14:30</b></p> | <p align="center"><b><i>Working Lunch</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Facilitated working lunch with rotating sector discussions</p> <p><i>(STP MNE ground floor: Gastro Hub terrace)</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>14:30 – 15:40</b></p> | <p align="center"><b><u>Working Session IV</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Eight Strategic Project Pipelines for Full EU Programme Integration (2026–2027)</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Innovation Ecosystems, Academia and Research Excellence</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Health and Health System Transformation</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Tourism, Culture, Citizenship and Inclusion</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Digital Transformation and Industry</i></li> </ul> | <p><i>Moderator: <b>Mr. Boško Nektarijević</b>, Senior Expert, EACON</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Innovation Ecosystems, Academia and Research Excellence – Dr Srna Sudar</b>, TTO Director, STP MNE</li> <li>2. <b>Health and Digital Transformation – Ms. Irena Fatic</b>- MedTech founder translating health innovation into scalable solutions</li> <li>3. <b>Industry, Tourism &amp; Culture – Ms. Sanja Stupar</b>, EU funds project manager, EU MNE Project</li> <li>4. <b>Energy, Climate and Mobility – Dr. Ivana Vojinović</b> - Director of the Centre for Climate</li> </ol> |

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|                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Energy, Climate and Mobility</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Governance, Democracy and Fiscal Reform</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Security, Resilience and Defense-Adjacent Innovation</i></li> </ul> | <p><i>Change, Natural Resources and Energy at the University of Donja Gorica</i></p> <p><b>5. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources – Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Martinović</b> - Director, Centre of Excellence for Food Safety Risk Assessment</p> <p><b>6. Governance, Democracy, Citizenship and Inclusion and Fiscal Reform – Mr. Božina Stešević.</b> Program Manager ADP-ZID</p> <p><b>7. Security, Resilience and Defense-Adjacent Innovation – Prof. Dr. Ramo Šendelj,</b> Research Chair for cyber security at the University of Donja Gorica</p> <p><b>8. Concluding synthesis</b> by the moderator: 8 pipelines and follow-up workshops</p> |
| <p><b>15:40 – 16:30</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Working Session V</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Innovation Ecosystem, SMEs and Startups: From Fragmentation to Structured Support into EU Projects</i></b></p>                                                                                                                  | <p>Moderator: <b>Dr Srna Sudar</b>, TTO Director, STP MNE</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Tanja Radusinović.</b> Director, Project Department, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro</li> <li>2. <b>Mr. Radivoje Drobnjak</b>, Program and Project Head, STP MNE</li> <li>3. <b>Mr. Saša Ivanović</b>, Program Head, Fund for Innovation, Montenegro</li> <li>4. <b>Mr. Boško Nektarijević</b>, EIC expert</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>16:30 – 17:00</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Closing / Adoption</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Podgorica Operational Conclusions and 2026 Pipeline Activation Plan</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                | <p>Moderator: <b>Mr. Boško Nektarijević</b>, Senior Expert, EACON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Crossing the Finish Line: From Final Chapters to Negotiation Power &amp; Strategic Lobbying, <b>Sören Haar</b>, Managing Partner, EACON</i></li> <li>• <i>Presentation of Conclusions and Action Plan - <b>Mrs. Valentina Radulović</b>, Director, STP MNE</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |