



Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our pleasure to share with you the 2nd Newsletter of the Smart Labor Network (SLN).

The Smart Labor Network (SLN) is a regional initiative in the Western Balkans focused on innovation, digitalization, and labor market transformation, with a strong emphasis on smart agriculture and sustainable development. SLN was established in late 2023 with a view to strengthening alliances for policy development and testing in the fields of innovation, digitalization, and labor markets.

The aim of the Newsletter is to keep our recipients abreast of the new developments and the issues relevant to our work and identify opportunities for future collaboration in the national and regional framework. It will also serve as a platform to present open calls for funding, signal upcoming opportunities, and showcase relevant recent publications.

We are hereby inviting you to share your news and views about the topics you would like to see included and to join the Smart Labor Network, currently consisting of 23 members throughout the Western Balkans.

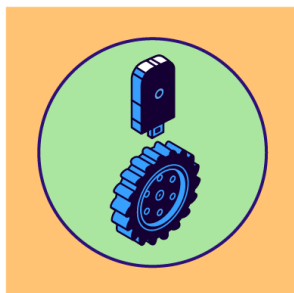
We are looking forward to joining our forces with you.

SLN Skills Survey Analysis

Over the past three weeks, the **Smart Labor Network (SLN)** conducted an analysis to map its members' expertise and capacity needs in **digital and sustainable**

agriculture. The results show a strong ecosystem of NGOs, research institutions, consultancies, and cooperatives with **robust training and advisory capacity.**

Looking ahead, the members identified priorities in **advanced digital agri-tech, energy transition in farming, and innovative advisory models.** By joining forces through **peer learning, shared curricula, and joint training,** SLN can amplify its impact across the **Western Balkans.**



FARMER

**Future Agri-Tech Reskilling and
Modern Education Reimagining**

Project nr. 101242836

Erasmus+ VET project FARMER launched!

The EU-funded **Erasmus+ project FARMER (Future Agri-Tech Reskilling and Modern Education Reimagining)** was officially launched in late February. Over the next three years, the partners on the project will , strengthen the relevance and quality of vocational education and training (VET) in the Western Balkans agri-food sector, in response to rapidly growing demand for digital and green skills. This multi-stakeholder initiative brings together collaborators from Italy, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, and include: **Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini SRL SB (Italy), Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research - CREDI (BiH), Public Policy Research Centre - CENTER (Serbia), Network for Rural Development Montenegro - NRDM (Montenegro), JU MSŠ “Enver Pozderović” Goražde and JU Centar srednjih škola Trebinje (BiH).**

[More information](#)

REDAH installs meteo stations connected to the AgroLife platform

The **Regional Development Agency for Herzegovina - REDAH** has successfully installed **40 meteorological stations across 20 municipalities in Herzegovina** as part of the EU-funded project *“Establishment of the Herzegovina Rural Development Network – HeRuDNet.”*

Since **February 1**, all stations have been integrated with the **AgroLife platform**, a free digital farm management tool available to farmers in Herzegovina. AgroLife supports production planning and monitoring, while also offering **predictive models** that forecast the occurrence of crop diseases and pests using local meteorological data.

This innovation enables producers to respond more effectively and on time, **reducing protection costs, optimizing resource use, and strengthening agriculture’s resilience to climate challenges.**

Territorial Analysis of Climate Risks for Tourism in Herzegovina

Climate change is one of the greatest global challenges, and the Mediterranean has been identified as a climate “hotspot.” Herzegovina, with its geographical position and strongly developed tourism, is particularly vulnerable to **rising temperatures, droughts, and extreme weather events** that directly impact infrastructure, agriculture, agritourism, and the overall attractiveness of the destination.

Within the framework of the **THEMATIC2GREEN project**, co-funded by the European Union through *Interreg IPA ADRION 2021–2027*, the Association for Economic Development **REDAH** has prepared the *“Territorial Analysis of Climate Risks for Tourism in Herzegovina.”*

This document provides:

- o A systematic overview of climate trends and vulnerabilities
- o Insights into the socio-economic specificities of the region
- o Coverage of both coastal and inland areas
- o A foundation for developing **adaptation strategies and concrete measures** to strengthen resilience and promote sustainable development

[Read the document](#)

Guidelines for the Development of Innovative Agriculture in Herzegovina published

As part of the **EU-funded CROSSMART project** through the Interreg VI-A IPA Programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2021–2027, REDAH has developed the document “[Guidelines for the Development of Innovative Agriculture in Herzegovina](#)”. The Guidelines complement existing development strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina and place a strong focus on the **digital and innovative transformation of agricultural production**, tailored to the needs of producers in Herzegovina.

Key highlights include:

- An overview of the current state of the agricultural sector
- Assessment of the **digital readiness of farms**
- Review of IoT and smart technologies
- Examples of innovative practices in agriculture
- Concrete recommendations and measures to strengthen competitiveness and build modern value chains

The document is intended as a **practical tool** for decision-makers, public institutions, advisory services, NGOs, and farmers to accelerate the transition toward **sustainable and technologically advanced agriculture**

Upcoming events

The Association for Economic Development **REDAH** is organizing a series of events—including **trainings, workshops, round tables, and forums**—dedicated to the digitalization of agriculture and strengthening the capacities of the rural sector.

The goal is to enhance the **knowledge and skills of stakeholders** from civil society, public institutions, and farmers, while introducing them to the practical applications of **smart technologies and digital tools** in agriculture.

All events will be **free of charge**, ensuring broad access and participation across the rural community.

For the exact schedule and registration details, follow REDAH's [website](#) and [social media channels](#).



35th International Scientific- Expert Conference of Agriculture and Food Industry

The Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science (Bosnia and Herzegovina) has announced the 35th Edition of the International Scientific-Expert Conference of Agriculture and Food Industry (Agriconference), to be held in Sarajevo, BiH **7 - 9 October 2026**. The framework theme is **“CLOSING THE AGRI-FOOD LOOP: RESOURCES, POLICY AND PRODUCTIVITY“**

The Faculty has also published the first call for submission of abstracts to the conference focusing on one of the main conference topics:

- Plant Production,
- Animal Production,
- Food Technologies and Nutrition, and
- Agricultural and Food Economics.

Key dates

30/5/2026 - Abstract submission deadline

30/7/2026 - Early bird registration closing date

30/10/2026 - Full paper submission deadline

[More information](#)

[Register here](#)



on Policymaking and Good Governance

Resilience Dashboard for Kosovo launched

The **Regional Action Lab - Re-Act Lab** has launched a [Resilience Dashboard for Kosovo](#), with the assessment scores of Kosovar society and institutional resilience against several shocks.

New Policy Brief: Labour Shortages & Automation in Kosovo

Re-Act Lab has published a new Policy Brief "[Labour Shortages due to Automation: Assessing Kosovo's Regulatory Framework Against Labour Shortages due to Automation.](#)" The brief explores how automation is reshaping the labour market and highlights sectors most affected by workforce gaps.

While the analysis is broad, agriculture receives particular attention. In a recent interview with an agro-economy expert, it was noted that many firms in Kosovo's agriculture sector are increasingly

New Projects: Strategic Public Procurement

Re-Act Lab has launched two new projects focused on **Strategic Public Procurement**—integrating social, green, and innovation criteria into public tenders to better address societal challenges.

As part of this initiative, a **Competence Centre** is being established to support both contracting authorities (public institutions) and economic operators (businesses) in implementing more strategic procurement practices. Since public procurement is cross-cutting, this work could also be relevant for SLN.

turning to automation to compensate for the lack of available workers. Occupations such as agricultural workers, forestry workers, and technicians are among those most difficult to fill, reflecting wider labour market challenges across the country.

[More about the project](#)



CENTER/ Re-People embarks on a new project

The **Center for Public Policy Research /Re-People** has initiated the project *“Digitalization with Trust: Towards Data Protection in Agriculture”*, which will run from November 2025 to August 2026. Its goal is to improve data management practices in Serbian agriculture in line with European standards. The project views farmers not as passive users but as equal partners in digital transformation. Through education, institutional support, and public campaigns, it aims to lay the foundation for responsible and transparent digital agriculture that benefits both farmers and the wider community.

[More about the project](#)

SMARTLABOR

Kind regards,

Branka Andjelkovic
SmartLaborNetwork
Public Policy Research Centre (Re:People)
Belgrade, Serbia
C.381 63 353 212
www.linkedin.com/in/brankaandjelkovic