

“Towards a shared European administrative space – Italian expertise, regionally-owned solutions”

Launching of Public Servants’ Capacity Building & Mobility Programme 3.0

Thursday, 5 March 2026

Venue: Hotel Tirana, Albania

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

The event marks the official launch of the Public Servants’ Capacity Building and Mobility Programme 3.0, an initiative designed to foster knowledge exchange, institutional cooperation, and administrative excellence between the Western Balkans and the Italian administration. The initiative is supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA) and implemented in partnership between ReSPA and the Italian National School of Administration (SNA).

Over the past two years, the Capacity Building and Mobility Programme has brought public servants from the Western Balkans into direct contact with Italy’s rich administrative traditions and innovative governance practices. More than 100 public servants across the region have benefited from the programme’s two previous editions, participating in high-quality training modules, peer exchanges, mobility visits, and high-level policy dialogue. From the lecture halls of Caserta and Bari to immersive learning experiences and ministerial-level discussions in Rome, the programme has generated tangible results: participants returned to their administrations equipped not only with new knowledge, but also with professional networks, practical tools, and a renewed commitment to public service and reform.

In 2026, the programme enters a new phase, building on this strong foundation while introducing a more focused and impact-oriented design. The new edition moves beyond previous formats by concentrating on three high-impact thematic streams that reflect Italy’s strongest areas of expertise and respond directly to the most pressing reform needs of Western Balkan administrations. It will engage 48 public servants from the Western Balkans—eight from each administration. The three thematic streams focus on: Digital Transformation of Public Services, Strengthening Local-Level Administrations and EU Funds Project Management, and Leadership for Public Sector Transformation. In parallel, a horizontal on-demand technical assistance facility will provide tailored support to administrations through customised training, short-term expertise, and scholarships for specialised courses in Italy.

Through strategic presentations on Italy’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan and the EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, followed by an interactive World Café session, the launching event will combine policy insight with participatory dialogue to shape shared expectations and priorities for the programme’s implementation.

09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and registration of participants
09:30 – 10:00	<p>Welcome Remarks & Setting the Stage</p> <p>Adea Pirdeni, Minister of State of Albania for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption, Albania (tbc)</p> <p>H.E. Marco Alberti, Ambassador of Italy to Tirana (tbc)</p> <p>Maja Handjiska Trendafilova, ReSPA Director</p> <p>Massimo Gaiani, Head of the European and International Affairs, Italian National School of Administration (SNA)</p>
9:50-10:00	Group Photo
10:00 – 10:20	<p>Setting the strategic context: EU priorities for public administration reform</p> <p>Ritva Heikkinen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Albania (tbc)</p>
10:20 – 10:45	<p>Italy's recent governance and public administration reforms: strategic directions and institutional transformation</p> <p>Massimo Gaiani, Head of the European and International Affairs, Italian National School of Administration (SNA)</p>
10:45 – 11:30	<p>Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP): Governance architecture and implementation lessons</p> <p>Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa</p>
11:30 - 12:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:00-13:00	<p>The EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans: Governance coordination, reform delivery and institutional communication</p> <p>Eridana Cano, General Director, SASPAC, Albania</p> <p>Krisela Hackaj, Executive Director, Cooperation and Development Institute, Albania</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00-14:15	<p>Italy–Western Balkans Public Servants' Capacity Building & Mobility Programme 3.0 overview: structure, streams and expected results</p> <p>ReSPA Secretariat</p>
14:15 – 15:45	<p>World Café Session: Expectations from the Italy–Western Balkans Programme 3.0</p> <p>Interactive discussions in small groups focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital transformation and innovation - Local-level governance and EU-funded project management - Leadership and change management <p>Plenary wrap-up and key messages</p>
15:45-16:00	Closing remarks