

Dear Professor / Dear Colleague,

I am writing on behalf of the **Association of Scientists of Kosovo (SHSHKos)** to explore a potential partnership under the Horizon Europe call **HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-10 – “Fostering cooperation and integration between SSH and STEM research and innovation in the EU.”**

SHSHKos is a multidisciplinary scientific and research association based in Kosovo, bringing together academics, researchers and professionals from different fields. We are particularly interested in strengthening cooperation between Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and STEM disciplines and in contributing to European research networks through evidence-based research, capacity building and science-for-policy activities.

For this call, we are interested in joining a strong European consortium as a **partner**, with a potential contribution focused on the **Western Balkans SSH–STEM ecosystem**. In particular, SHSHKos could contribute to mapping SSH–STEM cooperation and relevant stakeholders, regional evidence collection, stakeholder mobilisation, capacity-building activities, dissemination and science-for-policy dialogue involving researchers, universities, public institutions and other relevant actors.

We believe that the participation of SHSHKos could bring an important **Kosovo and Western Balkans perspective** to the consortium and contribute to the geographical inclusiveness and wider European relevance of the proposed action.

Please find attached our brief **SHSHKos Partner Concept Note**, outlining our proposed contribution to the call.

We would be very pleased to explore whether our expertise and regional network could complement your consortium or project concept. If there is mutual interest, we would be happy to arrange a short online meeting to discuss potential areas of cooperation and our possible role in the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the possibility of working together.

Kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Agim A. Krasniqi

President

Association of Scientists of Kosovo (SHSHKos)

Prishtina, Kosovo

E-mail: info@shshkos-ks.org

Website: www.shshkos-ks.org

SHSHKos PARTNER CONCEPT NOTE

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-10

Fostering cooperation and integration between SSH and STEM research and innovation in the EU

Programme	Horizon Europe – Cluster 2	Action	CSA
Indicative budget	EUR 3.5 million	Expected grants	1
Opening	12 May 2026	Deadline	23 September 2026

1. Purpose of this Partner Concept Note

Purpose. This note positions the Association of Scientists of Kosovo (SHSHKos) as a prospective consortium partner for HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-10. It is intended for circulation to potential coordinators, universities, research organisations, public-policy bodies and European research networks.

SHSHKos seeks to contribute a distinctive Western Balkans and Associated Country perspective to a European-level SSH–STEM Action, while supporting the call's three operational pillars: monitoring; facilitation and promotion; and SSH/STEM science for policy.

2. Organisational Profile and Strategic Fit

The Association of Scientists of Kosovo (SHSHKos) is an independent scientific, research and policy-oriented association bringing together academics, researchers and professionals across disciplines. Its work focuses on research cooperation, education, innovation, evidence-informed public policy, professional development and international scientific collaboration.

SHSHKos is developing a multidisciplinary structure that connects social sciences and humanities with technical, digital and applied fields. This makes the Association well placed to mobilise researchers, education actors, public institutions and professional communities around interdisciplinary cooperation. Kosovo's status as a Horizon Europe Associated Country further enables SHSHKos to participate in Horizon Europe collaborations under the applicable programme rules.

Strategic value SHSHKos can bring

- Access to a multidisciplinary scientific and professional community in Kosovo and links across the Western Balkans.
- Capacity to connect SSH expertise with education, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, vocational education and training, governance and public-policy practice.
- Ability to convene universities, researchers, public institutions, municipalities, educators and civil-society stakeholders for dialogue, pilots, training and dissemination.
- A regional perspective that can strengthen the geographical inclusiveness and policy relevance of European SSH–STEM cooperation.
- Potential to support knowledge transfer between EU-level frameworks and research and innovation ecosystems in an Associated Country.

3. Proposed Role in the Consortium

Proposed positioning: Western Balkans SSH–STEM Integration, Capacity-Building and Science-for-Policy Hub.

SHSHKos does not propose to duplicate the consortium coordinator's European-level monitoring function. Instead, it proposes a complementary regional role that feeds evidence, stakeholder engagement, capacity-building and policy learning into the common European SSH–STEM Action.

Call pillar	Possible SHSHKos contribution	Illustrative outputs
Monitoring	Map SSH–STEM cooperation, actors and practices in Kosovo and selected Western Balkan contexts; contribute structured regional data and qualitative evidence to the common framework.	Stakeholder map; country/regional evidence; case studies; inputs to annual monitoring.
Facilitation & promotion	Mobilise researchers and institutions; support training, peer learning and practical guidance on deeper SSH–STEM integration, including qualitative humanities perspectives.	Training sessions; regional workshops; good-practice cases; participation in the annual European event.
Science for Policy	Convene dialogue among researchers, public authorities, funders and policy actors; translate evidence into policy-oriented recommendations and feedback.	Policy roundtables; briefs; recommendations; regional input to European science-for-policy exchange.

4. Initial Activity Package Proposed for SHSHKos

A1. Regional SSH–STEM Mapping and Baseline – Identify relevant institutions, disciplines, networks, existing interdisciplinary practices, barriers and opportunities. The work would be aligned with the consortium’s common Monitoring and Impact Evaluation Framework rather than create a parallel methodology.

A2. Stakeholder Engagement and Community Building – Establish a structured stakeholder community involving universities, research organisations, public institutions, municipalities, education actors, innovators and civil society, with attention to balanced SSH representation.

A3. Capacity Building for Interdisciplinary Cooperation – Deliver workshops and training on practical SSH–STEM integration, research design, stakeholder engagement, responsible use of digital/AI tools, knowledge exploitation and policy communication.

A4. Western Balkans Science-for-Policy Dialogue – Organise policy dialogues connecting researchers with decision-makers and research-policy actors, generating concise evidence-based recommendations relevant to national, regional and European R&I policy.

A5. Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation – Support multilingual and regionally targeted dissemination; contribute case studies and lessons to European-level guidance, annual events, knowledge products and cross-border networks.

5. Contribution to the Call’s Expected Outcomes

- Greater integration of SSH and STEM in research and innovation initiatives and policies through dialogue, mutual learning and strategic cooperation.
- Development and maintenance of a common Monitoring and Impact Evaluation Framework by supplying comparable regional evidence and implementation feedback.
- Improved knowledge exploitation and cooperation among projects, stakeholders, funders and policy actors.
- Stronger participation of humanities and both qualitative and quantitative social sciences in interdisciplinary research.
- Gender-sensitive and intersectional stakeholder engagement and analysis, embedded in activities and indicators rather than treated as an add-on.

6. Partnership Profile Sought

SHSHKos is interested in joining a strong European consortium led by an organisation with proven Horizon Europe coordination capacity. Particularly relevant partners include universities and research institutes with established SSH–STEM programmes; organisations experienced in research-policy monitoring and impact evaluation; data/open-science and AI-enabled analytical expertise; research funders and science-for-policy organisations; and networks able to ensure broad European reach and links to the European Research Area.

Preferred role for SHSHKos: beneficiary/consortium partner with responsibility for a clearly defined task cluster or regional work-package component, rather than coordinator of the full EUR 3.5 million CSA in this first application.

7. Proposed Next Step

SHSHKos invites interested coordinators and partners to an introductory discussion to identify complementarity, possible task ownership and consortium needs. Following initial alignment, SHSHKos can provide a detailed institutional profile, expert CVs, relevant capacities and a refined contribution to the proposal’s work packages, deliverables, milestones and impact pathway.