

**CROSS-disciplinary network for research excellence
in Regenerative Economy Innovation eco-Systems**

101136834 - CROSS-REIS - HORIZON - WIDERA - 2023 - ACCESS - 03 – 01

BUSINESS FORUM

**RENEWABLE HORIZONS: UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF
INNOVATION FOR A GREEN ECONOMY**

Location: Hotel Ambassador, Opatija

Address: Feliksa Peršića 5, 51410, Opatija, Croatia

Date and time: Wednesday, June 17th 2026, 15:00 – 20:00

PROGRAMME

15:00 – 15:30 REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING COFFEE

15:30 – 15:45 OPENING REMARKS

Saša Drezgić, PhD, Professor, Dean, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics and Business

Saša Čegar, PhD, Associate Professor, Vice Dean for Internationalization and Sustainable Development, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics and Business

Jelena Stanković, PhD, Full Professor, CROSS-REIS Project Coordinator, University of Niš, Faculty of Economics

15:45 – 16:15 PLENARY SESSION

Environmental policies and productivity growth: Evidence across industries and firms

Tomasz Kozluk, Head of Going for Growth, Economics Department at Organisation For Economic Co-operation And Development (OECD)

16:15 – 16:45 INTERNATIONAL PANEL

Building Regenerative Innovation Ecosystems: Lessons from European Research and Industry Collaboration

Moderator:

Matjaž Hribar, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering, University of Ljubljana

Panel speakers:

Carlo Sessa, PhD, Member of the Executive Board of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Alessandro Lue, PhD, Poliedra Politehnico di Milano

Claudia van der Laag, PhD, Professor, Oslo Metropolitan University

16:45 – 17:15 COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

17:15 – 17:45 POLICY PANEL

From Green Policies to Regional Action: Enabling the Transition through Governance and Partnerships

Moderator:

Ana Malnar, PhD, Senior Assistant, CROSS-REIS researcher, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics and Business

Panel speakers:

Vedran Kružić, Director of the Regional Development Agency of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (PRIGODA)

Nataša Nater Drvenkar, PhD, Professor, Special Advisor, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Republic of Croatia

Emira Brkić Karninčić, Head of Production Incubators at Rijeka Development Agency Porin

17:45 – 18:15 BUSINESS INNOVATION PANEL

Innovators Driving the Green Economy: Technologies, Solutions and New Business Models

Moderator:

Dragijana Radonjić Petrović, Vice President of the Serbian Association of Economists, Partner at MD Solution, Vice president of the Serbian Business Club Privrednik

Panel speakers:

Erich Cossutta, President of Dragon Maritime Group

Dušan Barać, PhD, Professor, Vice-Dean for Corporate Affairs And Innovation, FON-Belgrade University

Hrvoje Prpić, Founder of HGspot, Croatia's First Business Angel, Business Consultant

18:15 – 19:15 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Saša Čegar, PhD, Associate Professor, Vice Dean for Internationalization and Sustainable Development, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics and Business

Carlo Sessa, PhD, Member of the Executive Board of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) - **Future Directions for Green Innovation Ecosystems and Cross-Sector Collaboration**

19:30 DINNER