

## CROSS-REIS INFO DAY

**Location: Polis University**

Rr. "Bylis" 12, Kashar, Tiranë

**Room: MAD Center (TBC)**

**Date and time: 27.09.2024 10:00 AM**

CROSS-disciplinary network for research excellence in Regenerative Economy Innovation eco-Systems – [CROSS-REIS project](#), financed by the European Union via the **Horizon 2021-2027 European Excellence Initiative**, began on January 1, 2024 and will continue until December 31, 2028. This initiative fosters collaboration between higher education and scientific research organisations in eight countries: Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Croatia, Slovenia, Spain, Norway, and Italy.

The CROSS-REIS initiative focuses on three core regenerative economy themes: the circular economy, waste management, and urban biodiversity. The project's goal is to elevate science excellence and create value by fostering deeper and more geographically inclusive collaboration among higher education and research institutions in five developing European countries and three leading science nations, in order to support the transition to a regenerative economy.

**An INFO Day is scheduled for Friday, September 27th, at Polis University in Tirana, to further familiarize academics and the general public with the CROSS-REIS project's activities and to improve knowledge of the notion of the regenerative economy.**

As part of the INFO day, a roundtable will be held on the topic:

### **Bridging the Gap: Challenges and Opportunities in Advancing Circular Economy for SMEs and Academia in Albania**

This roundtable will focus on the intersection of academia and small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in advancing the circular economy in Albania. The discussion will explore the unique challenges these sectors face in adopting circular practices, such as limited resources, lack of awareness, and regulatory hurdles. Participants will share insights on how collaboration between academiaSMEs and other actors can drive innovation, research, and practical solutions, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable economic model in Albania. The roundtable aims to foster dialogue and identify options and tools for overcoming obstacles and leveraging opportunities in the circular economy.

The CROSS-REIS Project goes beyond research frameworks and actively encourages collaboration across stakeholders. We welcome everyone who can help make the transition more effective to participate. As part of the event, we will announce upcoming events in the framework of the project.

AGENDA		
9 <sup>30</sup> – 10 <sup>00</sup>	Participants registration	
10 <sup>00</sup> – 10 <sup>10</sup>	Opening Remarks	Anila Bejko, Executive Director of Co-PLAN.
CROSS REIS- objectives and plans for the coming period		
10 <sup>10</sup> – 10 <sup>30</sup>	Project presentation	Rea Muka Researcher at Co-PLAN
Roundtable Discussion		
<b>Bridging the Gap: Challenges and Opportunities in Advancing Circular Economy for SMEs and Academia in Albania</b>		
10 <sup>30</sup> – 11 <sup>30</sup>	Moderator: <b>Kejt Dhrami</b> Researcher at Co-PLAN	<b>Jona Haxhialiu</b> Advisor on Circular Economy & Private Sector Engagement EU 4 Circular Economy and Livable Cities
		<b>NASRI (TBC)</b> National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation
		<b>Merita Toska</b> Vice Rector for Academic Process at Polis University
		<b>Valbona Koçi</b> Advisor for Quadruple Helix Approach Promotion at EU4Innovation
		<b>Edvin Zhllima</b> Researcher at DSA and professor at the Agriculture University of Tirana
11 <sup>30</sup> – 11 <sup>45</sup>	<b>Questions and Answers</b>	
Future activities within the CROSS-REIS project		
11 <sup>45</sup> – 12 <sup>00</sup>	What's next in CORSS-REIS?	Fiona Imami Researcher at Co-PLAN