

Denmark (Country/EC)

PROGRESS REPORT¹

**on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC
(1st half 2012 or - November 2011 / Sarajevo till June 2012 / Tirana)**

1 Policy actions

N/A

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

N/A

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

The International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI 2012) took place in Copenhagen, Denmark on 21- 23 March 2012, under the auspices of the Danish Presidency of the European Council. ICRI 2012 was co-organized by the Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education and the European Commission.

Following the European conferences (ECRI) which started in 2000, this was the first to address an international audience on how global research infrastructures can respond to the Grand Challenges: lessons, priorities and future directions. ICRI 2012 provided important input to the European strategy and to the implementation of the next EU Framework Programme "Horizon 2020", supporting the strengthening of a global ecosystem of research infrastructures.

As such, the conference made specific recommendations on how international cooperation on research infrastructures can be more effective in the future (for example calling for a coordinated support and strengthening of existing initiatives, highlighting possible needs for additional efforts, and developing a vision of open science).

¹ The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries and will be provided for download from the WBC-INCO.Net homepage (www.wbc-inco.net) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to office@wbc-inco.net until June 5, 2012.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

During an associated conference to the Danish Presidency of the European Council, some 200 European and Indian stakeholders from the public and private sectors gathered in Brussels on 31 May – 1 June 2012 to discuss common challenges, priority areas and instruments for enhanced Europe-India cooperation in research and innovation.

The conference was jointly organised by the Indian Ministry for Science and Technology, the European Commission, and EU Member States and countries associated to the 7th Framework Programme within the context of the work of the Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC).

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science and Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, the Indian Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences addressed the conference, which also provided an occasion for showcasing existing opportunities and good practices in Europe-India cooperation.

Following the EU-India Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation in February 2012, this Conference was the first step in moving up a gear to build an Indo-European research and innovation partnership, with larger scale, scope and impact; a focus on common challenges and enhanced synergies.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

N/A

6 Assessment of the developments and outlook on the next 6 months

(Optional personal opinion)

N/A

