

Germany

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

- Ongoing implementation of the Initiative “Strengthening Germany’s role in the global knowledge society – Strategy of the Federal Government for the Internationalization of Science and Research” (launched in 2008). The text (in German and English) can be found under:
http://www.bmbf.de/pub/deutschlands_rolle_in_globaler_wissensgesellschaft_staerken_de_en.pdf
- “High-Tech Strategy 2020”, focusing on global challenges. The fields of actions are climate/energy, health/nutrition, mobility, security and communication. Mission oriented approach: Forward looking projects (<http://www.bmbf.de/en/6618.php>).
- Innovations "Made in Germany" – on May 16, 2012, the Federal Government launched the Federal Report on Research and Innovation 2012 (<http://www.bmbf.de/en/12210.php>).
- Internet Platform for information on the German research system and landscape, “Research in Germany” (<http://www.research-in-germany.de/52/home.html>).

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

4.1 Regional Call

The call entitled “International Cooperation in Education and Research - Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region (Regional Call for Proposals)” launched by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is ongoing until December 31, 2013.

The relevant version of the call can be found in German under <http://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/14673.php> and in English under <http://www.bmbf.de/en/furtherance/14673.php>.

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

4.2 SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

BMBF and its International Bureau (PT-DLR) participate in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) project SEE-ERA.NET PLUS which is the next step in further integrating the WBC and their research communities into the European Research Area (ERA): Based on the results and experiences of the forerunner project SEE-ERA.NET (finished in August 2009), SEE-ERA.NET PLUS aims at launching and implementing a (one) call for Joint European Research Projects (JERPs). Germany was responsible for the drafting of the concept of the joint call and is responsible - since the Call Secretariat is located at PT-DLR – also for its implementation. The call was launched in September 2009 and closed in November 2009.

In the reporting period from November 2011 until June 2012, all 23 JERPs were up and running.

The SEE-ERA.NET PLUS Interim Monitoring meeting was held in Vienna on 23 and 24 April 2012. Organised by the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) and the International Bureau of the BMBF, coordinators and representatives of all 23 JERPs participated in the event and presented the progress and first results of the currently running projects. The meeting was also used to clarify open administrative matters with the Joint Call Secretariat.

4.3 WBC-INCO.NET: Coordination of Research Policies with the Western Balkan Countries (WBC)

WBC-INCO.NET is a network project for the bi-regional policy dialogue between the EU, the countries associated to the 7th Framework Programme and the Western Balkan Countries. It also supports the “Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries“. The aim is to enhance the participation of researchers from the target region in European S&T projects by structural measures.

In the reporting period from November 2011 until June 2012, the activities of the German partners BMBF and its International Bureau (PT-DLR) as leaders of Work Package 2 were focused on the preparation, organisation and implementation of the consultation session in the field of Energy in cooperation with other project partners. The session was held back-to-back with the “European Energy Conference E2C“ on April 17-20, 2012 in Maastricht/The Netherlands. In addition, BMBF and the International Bureau (PT-DLR) were involved in the implementation of Task T8.2 / Work Package 8 for the support of innovation activities (collection of good practice examples) together with other project partners. The deliverable presenting 45 good practice examples from the EU Member States and the WBC was finished in November 2011. The WBC part will be presented during the SP Meeting on June 12 and 13, 2012 in Tirana. A Review Meeting on innovation Good practice examples was held in Tirana on April 4 and 5, 2012 where selected examples were presented in detail by external experts and discussed. Further steps include the focussing on some of these examples in order to develop adaptation schemes for a possible implementation in the WBC region.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

5.1 Regional Call

Within the “Regional Call“ two projects with partners from the WBC, namely Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are ongoing. In addition a joint German-Croatian research base in the field of marine biotechnology is also ongoing.

5.2 SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

In five out of the 23 ongoing Joint European Research Projects (JERPs) German researchers are participating. In two of these five projects, the German partner coordinates the JERP.

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

The BMBF prepares a Conference of the Research Ministers of the Danube Countries to be held on 9 July 2012 in Ulm, Germany. Topics are Research and Innovation Funding from EU Structural Funds, the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and Renewable Energies.