

Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC)
of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

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

Currently the TFBHC is guided by the **Action Plan 2011-2012** adapted at the “4th regular Meeting of the TFBHC” which focuses on:

- (1) Improving coordination between regional stakeholders in the human capital development field
- (2) Fostering regional cooperation around common areas of interest
- (3) Promoting human capital development issues as essential factor in sustainable economic development, social cohesion and innovation.

(see Annex 1)

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Regional Meeting: Evidence-based Policy Making in Education (Dec. 16, Vienna, AT)

In autumn 2011 the TFBHC commissioned an NGO from Belgrade *Centre for Education Policy* to produce a study on Evidence Based Policy Making in Education in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Rep. Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia. The results of the commissioned study “Mapping Regional Capacities for Evidence-based Policy Making in Education in South Eastern Europe” were presented in the framework of the Workshop in December. At this occasion regional stakeholders had the opportunity start developing a draft for a regional project within the “Evidence-based Policy Making in Education” Cluster of Knowledge based on the study presented. This project proposal is planned to be submitted for EU funding (ex. MB IPA)

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.

Meeting with the Working Group on Western Balkans of European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (Jan.25, Brussels, BE)

The TFBHC organized a meeting between the Working Group on Western Balkans of European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and the representatives of the TF, ERI SEE, RCC and ETF. At the meeting the Working Group was introduced to the current state of play in the priority area of human capital development, as well as to the future prospects in this area.

ETF, RCC, TFBHC, ERI SEE Coordination Meeting (Feb. 7, Turin, IT)

The annual coordination meeting between the TFBHC, ERI SEE, RCC and ETF was held last February in Turin. At the meeting it was decided to intensify the cooperation in order to raise awareness of, and further the issues pertaining to human capital development issues in SEE.

Task Force Website (www.taksforcehumancapital.info)

With the aim of enhancing information exchange and better coordination among WB regional stakeholders as well as the EU, the TF website is regularly updated. The E-Calendar of events is especially significant as it gives an overview of not only TF events, but also other events in WB in the field of Human Capital Development.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

Mobility Programme for Capacity Building in Regional Cooperation

The Mobility Programme will be continued in autumn 2012. It is designed to foster human capacities within the respective Signatory Ministries responsible for education, science and research of the Istanbul Memorandum of Understanding in South Eastern Europe. The aim of the programme is to strengthen the already existing and create new networks of relevance for regional cooperation in the field of education, science and research. This year's programme will offer placements in Belgrade, Chisianau, Sarajevo, Sofia, Vienna and Zagreb. (*see Annex 2*)

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

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

For autumn 2012 the TFBHC plans to organize a Workshop for Development of Regional Projects. This event will gather regional stakeholders, and allow them to identify common regional topic in harmony with the "ET2020" benchmark(s), and subsequently develop a project under the regional leadership to be submitted for the EU funding.

Appendix: additional data

Annex 1 TFBHC 2011-2012 Plan of Action

Annex 2 Mobility Programme description

