

TURKEY

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.

Following the “Accession Candidates JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions Preparatory Meeting” which was held on 3rd of October 2011 in the premises of Turkish Research & Business Organizations-Public & Private Partnership located in Brussels (TuR&BO-PPP), the second meeting was organized in Istanbul on 30 May 2012 with the participation of TUBITAK, JRC and Enlargement Countries’ representatives. This meeting concentrated on joint workshop opportunities and awareness raising activities in the Enlargement Countries within the scope of JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions. Representatives of the participant Enlargement countries proposed their project ideas according to their priorities and with the JRC response some project ideas corresponded. Henceforth, some interesting workshop ideas emerged in accordance with both Enlargement countries’ priorities and JRC’s preferences. Namely, the particular subject that all participants agreed on was “issues on water” and a joint workshop is most likely to be organized.

In order to develop and implement a coordination mechanism for stimulating closer cooperation among National Contact Points for the PEOPLE programme, PeopleNetwork Project has been funded by the European Commission for the period of 2009-2011. In this project, TÜBİTAK has published a booklet namely "**EU FP7 People Specific Programme Success Stories Booklet**". This booklet, which incorporates, success stories from different countries including Croatia and FYROM from Western Balkan Countries, have been formulated with the help of each country NCP, both from the private and the public sector and also including funding agencies.

The significance of developing and sustaining electronic infrastructures in South East Europe, the SEERA-EI project contribution, as well as future perspectives in the field were discussed during the

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 4, 2012.

“SEERA-EI Istanbul 2012 e-Infrastructure Conference” that took place on 14-15 February 2012 in Istanbul. Stakeholders and decision makers from South Eastern European countries, representatives of Western European policy bodies, representatives of the European Commission, members of the e-Infrastructures Policy Forum (e-IPF), and Research Infrastructure project leaders participated in the event, and deliberated on regional achievements through SEERA-EI, and on future activities in order to achieve further enhancement of e-Infrastructures for the benefit of the research and education communities in the region, and build lasting synergies. Consortium partners from Greece, **Albania**, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Bulgaria, **FYROM**, **Montenegro**, Romania and **Serbia** were present at the event. Prof. Dragan Domazet from MoS (**Serbia**) gave a presentation on the “Short and Long Term Joint Activities within the Frame of SEERA-EI Project” within the framework of this event which was hosted by TUBITAK.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

Initiatives for bilateral/international agreements towards Western Balkan Countries are still under progress. Inter-governmental agreements with Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina are in the negotiation phase.

This second meeting of Enlargement countries with JRC carries crucial importance since concrete proposals are discussed. With further collaboration intentions from all participating sides, it has been agreed that JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions meetings should be traditionalized and participant countries should exchange proposals and ideas every year in order to activate the relations among Enlargement countries and JRC.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

N/A

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

The negotiations for concluding bilateral agreements with the Western Balkan Countries are believed to further develop in the forthcoming 6 months and will hopefully be concluded especially with Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Appendix: additional data

(Delete if not applicable.)

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