

Germany

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC
(2nd half 2012, or - June 2012 / Tirana till December 2012 / Belgrade)

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
Goals and priorities for the fields of innovation are introduced by the High-Tech Strategy 2020 for Germany (<http://www.bmbf.de/en/6618.php>).
- Internet Platform for information on the German research system and landscape, “Research in Germany” (<http://www.research-in-germany.de/52/home.html>). The portal provides an overview of the research and funding opportunities (also for foreigners) in Germany. It also delivers the latest science and research news from Germany and upcoming events. Additionally, practical information supports foreign scientists and researchers in their decision to collaborate with German research organisations or to complete a research stay in Germany.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

On invitation of the German Federal Minister of Education and Science Annette Schavan, Research Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Danube Countries met on 9 July 2012 in Ulm, Germany. During this Conference, they endorsed a Final Communiqué on “Enhanced Cooperation in Research and Innovation in the Danube Region“. As main points of the Communiqué, they agreed “to establish a Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund (DRRIF) on the basis of a feasibility study as foreseen in the roadmap of Priority Area 7 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. These efforts can build on existing European network projects, such as the WBC-INCO.NET. The dialogue initiated in this network should be continued in the near future with the EU project INCO-NET Danube Region” and “to consider – as an immediate measure – the legal, administrative and financial pre-

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 December 1, 2012.

conditions for the setting-up of a Danube Research, Innovation and Networking Fund with contributions by national and EU sources with the aim of allocating at least 5 million € from each side.” Topics in focus for cooperation are for instance renewable energies.

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. It is part of the Governments Internationalisation Strategy and supports research cooperation with partners from South East European countries. With this BMBF programme, funds are being made available for preparatory projects in the field of applied research, development and education in order to support project applications under current BMBF funding programmes, the preparation of projects under FP7 and other EU programmes that are relevant to research, and the Eurostars Programme. Another aim is to develop and support joint research bases that build on existing collaborations.

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>.

4.2 SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

BMBF and its International Bureau (DLR) participate in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) project SEE-ERA.NET PLUS aiming at 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 successfully launched and implemented a Joint Call for Joint European Research Projects (JERPs) with a total budget of 3 mio. € (national contributions topped up by funds from the European Commission). The call was on the topics of AgroFood and ICT. The German partners drafted the concept of the joint call and implement the call management since the Call Secretariat is located at DLR. The call was launched in September 2009 and closed in November 2009. 23 projects are being funded.

In the reporting period from June 2012 until December 2012, 23 JERPs are running.

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 June 2012 until December 2012, the activities of the German partners BMBF and its International Bureau (DLR) as leaders of Work Package 2 were focused on the debriefing of and reporting on the consultation session in the field of Energy in cooperation with other project partners. The session was held in the frame of the “European

Energy Conference E2C“ on April 17-20, 2012 in Maastricht/The Netherlands. In addition, BMBF and DLR were involved in the preparation of activities in Task T2.6 which deals with the commercialisation possibilities of results of selected JERPs of SEE-ERA.NET PLUS in the field of AgroFood (see 4.2). Furthermore, BMBF and DLR were engaged in the follow up of the first review meeting on innovation best practice examples and in the preparations of the second review meeting with is planned in spring 2013. In this context, information was exchanged with other stakeholders during a meeting of the OECD Working Group on Innovation in the Regional Competitiveness Initiative in Paris in June 2012.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

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. All Western Balkan countries are represented in project consortia.

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

(Optional personal opinion)

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Appendix: additional data

(Delete if not applicable.)

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