

Poland

PROGRESS REPORT¹

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

1 Policy actions

(e.g. essential changes in the political authorities, administrative bodies, agencies, institutions, personnel, development/launch of new national funding programmes, etc.)

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2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Albania

Due to the expiry of the Program for Cooperation in the field of science and higher education, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania work on the text of the new program. Currently the program is consulted by both parties.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Department of Public and Cultural Diplomacy of Polish Foreign Ministry sent a draft Agreement between the Government of the Polish Republic and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on cooperation in culture, education and science of April 2011, together with the justification and negotiating instructions for consultations. This agreement would replace the outdated already Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the People's Republic and the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia, signed in Belgrade on July 6, 1956. The Polish side considers that it is preferable to a bilateral contract, not only cultural, but regulating also cooperation in the field of education (including higher education) and science. Ongoing legislative work.

Macedonia

On March 4, 2012, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland has forwarded via the Polish Embassy in Skopje the Polish proposal of Cooperation Programme in higher education between the Ministry of Science and Higher Education

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.

of Poland and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia to the preliminary arrangements. Macedonian side welcomed the Polish proposal to initiate the conclusion procedure of the agreement.

Montenegro

Department of Public and Cultural Diplomacy of Polish Foreign Ministry sent a draft Agreement between the Government of the Polish Republic and the Council of Ministers of Montenegro on cooperation in culture, education and science of April 2010, together with the justification and negotiating instructions for consultations. This agreement would replace the outdated already Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the People's Republic and the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia, signed in Belgrade on July 6, 1956. Ongoing legislative work.

Serbia

Department of Public and Cultural Diplomacy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent on April 4, 2012 to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland, the Serbian Ministry counter-proposal to the Agreement between the Government of the Polish Republic and the Council of Ministers of Serbia on cooperation in culture, education and science with a request for comment on the Serbian proposal. Counter-proposal is the response to the Polish project approved by the Prime Ministers on October 2011. Ongoing legislative work.

The legislative work on the conclusion of the above agreements should be completed by the end of 2012.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

ICT Proposers' Day 2012, 26-27 September 2012, Warsaw

The Conference organized by the European Commission and the NCP for Research Programmes of the EU/ Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland.

In total **2408 registered participants**, including **31 participants representing: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.**

The ICT Proposers' Day 2012 was a unique networking opportunity to build partnerships and projects targeting the new FP7 ICT calls. The event provided:

- first-hand information from the EC on the upcoming calls for proposals and the ICT Work Programme 2013, offering around 1.5 billion euro of EU funding (**51 thematic stands with 86 EC staff plus 50 ICT NCP /FP7 + CIP/ staff**),
- **1900 F2F pre-arranged meetings**, including **73 (52 + 21) meetings with WBC participants**,

- opportunity to present and discuss your project idea during one of the **46 networking sessions**,
- online networking platform for exchanging ideas and finding right partners to form project consortia,
- guidance on how to present a successful proposal.

Study visit of the Croatian Delegation to Poland, 27-28 August 2012, Warsaw

Aim of the visit: to exchange experience in programming and management of Structural Funds, especially operational programmes supporting projects in research and innovation sectors.

One of the Polish host organization was the National Centre for Research and Development – Intermediate Body implementing Structural Funds for R&D sector (Operational Programme- Innovative Economy).

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

(e.g. new bilateral/international agreements, memberships, support structures, important international projects, programmes, etc.)

Follow-up activities of the Polish Minister of Science and Higher Education after submission a common EU12 (plus Croatia) position on H2020 proposal

After the joint arrangements made on **March 26 in Warsaw**, a joint written statement addressed to the European Commission and European Parliament was developed. Most important issues raised in the adopted document are related to harmonization of salaries of scientists in joint European projects, ensuring wider participation of research teams from these regions, which to date have not sufficiently benefited from EU funds for research, support for regional research facilities of international importance, emphasizing the role of research in the humanities area and to ensure adequate financing for small and medium-sized research projects.

Partial general approach concerning the Proposal for a **Regulation establishing Horizon 2020** (adopted during the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on **May 31**), and Partial general approach concerning the Proposal for a **Regulation on the Rules for the participation and dissemination in Horizon 2020** (adopted during the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on **October 10**), contain a number of provisions proposed in the position of 12 Member States and Croatia, encouraging increased participation in EU research programs with regional entities currently under-represented.

An example of the activity was the meeting of Polish Minister of Science and Higher Education Barbara Kudrycka and Hungarian Minister Zoltan Csefalvayem with the

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Maire Geoghegan-Quinn which took place on **19 September 2012 in Brussels**. Aim of the meeting: widening participation issue, including researchers' salary. The Minister underlined that Poland and other new Member States expect the EC's alternatives on the reduction of the salary gap among scientists. The current system means that scientists from different countries participating in the same research project and doing the same job receive different wages. This leads inter alia to the phenomenon of brain drain - scientists will conduct research in countries where they will receive a better salary.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

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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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