

MONTENEGRO

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

Montenegrin activities on Chapter 25 “Science and Research” are positively evaluated in EC Annual Report.

Explanatory and bilateral screening was held in Brussels, September 24-25th, 2012.

- 16 presentations were prepared for above mentioned screening, in relation with scientific and research activities in Montenegro, its compatibility with EU acquis, as well as mid- term activities in this field.
- Negotiation Position of Montenegro for Intergovernmental Conference for accession process of Montenegro toward EU for Chapter 25 is drafted and complied with EU acguis, for the Government of Montenegro and for Council of Europe.
- Screening Report is prepared, in relation with compliance of scientific politics and legislation in Montenegro in the field of research and science, with Lisbon Treaty.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

The Government of Montenegro adopted an Action Plan for strengthening activities for investment in research by public and private Sectors in September 2012.

On the October 31st, 2012, the Contract for business plan development for establishment of the Scientific and Technological Park was signed in Podgorica between Montenegrin Ministry of Science and Scientific and Technological Park “AREA”, Trieste.

Activities on the revision of the Strategy for Scientific and Research activity (2008-16) are in progress.

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.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

At the EUREKA's Ministerial Conference, held on 22 June, in Budapest, Minister of Science, Prof. Sanja Vlahovic, signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the EUREKA Secretariat, therefore Montenegro become full member of EUREKA.

By the invitation of Mr. Cao Jianlin, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of PR of China, the delegation of Montenegro visited PR of China in the period 3-7th of July, 2012 and attended the first session of the Chinese-Montenegrin Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee, were six (6) joint projects were approved.

By the Invitation of the Austrian Minister of Science and Research, H.E. Karlheinz Tochterle, the delegation of Montenegro, leaded by Minister of Science, Prof. Sanja Vlahović, visited Austria on 10-12th of September, 2012. On that occasion, Round Table were organised with representatives of the Austrian Scientific Community. Moreover, Mrs. Vlahovic met Prof. Dr Felix Unger, President of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts as well as with Mr. Busek, Former Austrian Vice Chancellor.

Minister of Science, Prof. Sanja Vlahovic, participated at the CEI Ministerial meeting on Science and Technology (19th September, 2012, Trieste). At the second day of Conference, Prof. Vlahovic chaired the Session "The next generation of Bio Fuels: The State of the Art of Research and Innovation".

The Minister of Science, Prof. Vlahović participated and the Ministerial Round Table on Science, Technology and Innovation, organised jointly by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe from Venice, on 23rd of November 2012 in Sarajevo.

On September 24-28th, the second "Open Science Days" were organised in Podgorica by the Ministry of Science. As the part of this manifestation, on the 28th of September, "European Science Day" were held in Podgorica, for presentation of EU Programmes (COST, EUREKA, IAEA, JRC) to the Montenegrin scientific and research community. On the same date, "Researchers Night" was held in Podgorica.

The Ministry of Science has taken decision for Second Annual Awards for science, for 2012. The Award is established in 2011, and it might be assigned in 5 categories: for most successful young researcher-talent by the age of 20 years in 2012, young scientist-by the age of 35 years i 2012, award for manager of scientific project and research team for carrying the best national project in 2012, award for the most successful women in science in 2012 and award for inventor for the most successful patent or innovative solution in 2012.

Cooperation between Montenegro and Joint Research Centre (JRC) continued in this period. As a follow-up of the second meeting of the JRC with the Enlargement Countries, held on 30 May 2012, in Istanbul, JRC invited Montenegrin scientists to participate in several workshops and study visits. Two Montenegrin scientists participated on the "TÜBİTAK-JRC Joint Workshop on Food Safety" which took place on 11 October 2012 in Istanbul and one representative of the public administration on the workshop on "Environmental and socio-economic issues of unconventional energy in Europe", on 25 and 26 October 2012 in Arona, Italy. Recently the Ministry of Science nominated two participants for the study visit on "Health and Consumer Protection", that will be

held on 5 February 2013 in Ispra, Italy. The procedure of nomination of two participants for the "JRC-TUBITAK Joint Workshop on Smart Grids" which will take place on 27 February 2013 in Gebze, Turkey, is in progress.

The International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference (IAEA GC), 52nd Regular Session held in Vienna, Austria, 17-21st of September 2012. Montenegrin delegation, headed by H.E. Dragana Radulović, Ambassador in the Permanent Mission of Montenegro for OSCE and other International Organisation. Montenegro has expressed interest for stronger cooperation with NSA (Nuclear Science and Applications Department), in relation with active involvement of the Montenegrin Scientific and Research Community into projects of NSA.

On November the 8th, 2012, MIRA Workshop held in Podgorica. The aim of the WS, drafting MIRA Book, was reached. WS was organised by the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research from Spain, in cooperation with the Ministry of Science of Montenegro.

University of Montenegro - Faculty for Electrical Engineering is a partner institution in the FP7 project called "Low EMF Exposure Future Networks (LEXNET)". The meeting of project partners, in relation with project starting, was held in Montenegro (Budva) on 7-8th of November, 2012.

Directorate for SME Development-DDSME has announced the Public call for participation to the pilot project "Voucher scheme for innovative SMEs", aiming at the development of investment culture into innovation in order to enhance competitiveness. The Public Call was opened in the period 18.06-16.07.2012, after which Commission selected 16 companies that will be supported by financing consultant services for the implementation of innovative activities.

Directorate for SME Development –DDSME in cooperation with office for technical assistance and information exchange-TAIEX, organised seminar "Promotion of Intellectual Property Rights. The objective of Seminar was raising awareness on importance intellectual rights among SMEs in order to enhance their competitiveness on domestic and foreign market. The same Directorate, in cooperation with Italian partner Veneto Promozione, organised the Seminar "Introduction of quality system in touristic offer of Montenegrin enterprises" in October, based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between two parties. The training programme was focused on the innovative cooking techniques, food storage and HACCP legislation (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points).

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 22 September 2009, the German Technical Cooperation - GiZ ASE, in cooperation with the Directorate for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises have started the project "Enhancement energy efficiency in Montenegro" which was initially focused on capacity building - education of staff in regional and local business centres in Montenegro.

Main objective of this project is promotion and advisory services on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, which have the potential to significantly contribute to sustainable economic development, jobs creation, increase production, environmental protection etc.

4. Development of International Cooperation and Actions on Integration into ERA

Montenegro became 62nd ICGEB Member State on the 5th of September, 2012. The Ministry of Science nominated dr Mileta Golubović, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (University of Montenegro) as the member of the Council for Scientific-Research Activity as the representative in

the BG and dr Vladan Božović from the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Montenegro as the Liaison Officer (LO).

Application Letter for Membership of Montenegro in COST Programme is submitted on 24th of July, 2012. Three research teams of the University of Montenegro joint running COST Actions in September, 2012.

The Agreement between Montenegro and Hungary on Scientific and Technological Cooperation is signed on 25th of September, 2012 in Podgorica.

The Agreement between Montenegro and the Republic of Poland on Culture, Education and Science is signed on 26th of October, 2012 in Warsaw, Poland.

At the Joint Committee Meeting between Montenegro and Austria, held in Vienna on 10th of September, 2012, 11 bilateral projects have been accepted for financing.

12th Joint Montenegrin-Macedonian projects have been positively evaluated.

5. Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

Statistical survey on research and development for 2011 was carried out in Montenegro, for the first time in line with EU regulation on science statistics (EC no. 753/2004). The process was supported by TAIEX and WBC-INCO.NET.

Data will be published by MONSTAT in December 2012. We can already know that GERD will be much higher than from previous period.

The reform of R&D statistics included new questionnaires, widening of the scope of the survey to business sector, implementation methodology by OECD – Frascati 2002, and data-base development. Further improvement of R&D statistics will be continued with support of IPA I (2011) project to MONSTAT, in which the Ministry of Science will be associated beneficiary.

Since 1st July 2012 Ministry of Science of Montenegro has become a partner in project which deals with mechanism for fostering innovation in South East Europe called FINNO project.

Agreement is signed with the Delegation of the EU to Montenegro.

The aim of the FINNO project is to contribute to better productivity and achieve more comparable level of innovativeness between countries in SEE region.

On line application SAT (Self - Assessment Toll) for measuring Technology Innovation Assessment in companies is still in preparation (by the Austrian partner on the project) and it will be completed in February 2013.

6. Assessment of the developments and outlook on the next 6 month

Along with the mentioned activities, the Ministry of Science and its partners are working on the reconstruction of one old building in town of Niksic, in which will be placed first innovative entrepreneurial center-Technopolis, whose first phase of construction may come as early as next

year. Technopolis will be first major scientific and technological impulse center for Science Technology Park in Montenegro and will be the place for innovation and generation of a new product or service.

The Government of Montenegro implements, through the Ministry of Science and Ministry of Education and Sports the Higher Education and Research for Innovation and Competitiveness Project (HERIC) with the support of a credit from the World Bank. One of the main components of the HERIC project is establishment of the first Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Montenegro as a pilot for future Centers. In next six months we are expecting first applications for the CoE and start of the practical implementation of the CoE.