

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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

In second half of 2012 the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MCA) continues to promote and implement activities in line with **the Strategy for Science Development in BiH 2010-2015** and the **Action Plan** for the Implementation of the Strategy.

In this light, the MCA supported innovation activities by means of grant totalling 135 000 BAM (app. 70.000 euro).

The MCA prepared the Project Identification Fiche (PIF) for the IPA programme 2013. This project with proposed contract value of 2.5 million euro aims to implement several priorities of the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative in BiH.

Kick off meeting of the IPA 2009 project “Institutional capacity development of three innovation centres and research sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina“ was held on 23rd October 2012. This project has three components: 1) Innovation network development, 2) Research and innovation support measures, 3) Implementation of the STI Statistics action plan. Project duration is 18 months. Value of the contract for the technical assistance is 550 000 euro, whilst the contract for purchasing equipment for the innovation centres has value of 750 000 euro.

Implementation of the IPA 2010 project about promotion of the EU funding opportunities in BiH is expected to start latest by January 2013. This project will contribute to the capacity building of researchers from BiH to participate in the European Research and Technology Development programmes and initiatives. Project will have two components: 1) capacity building for writing project’s proposals for the EU scientific and research funding programmes and cooperation mechanisms such as COST and EUREKA and 2) Media campaign about research possibilities through the EU funding instruments.

Entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Ministry of Science and Technology of the RS has launched a new programme in 2012 in the framework of the Fund Dr Milan Jelic. The programme supports full-time students who study abroad at the “world class” universities. 13 students were granted financial support in 2012.

By the end of 2012, the Ministry will prepare the final list the beneficiaries of all funding programmes executed by the Ministry.

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.

Ministry of Education and Science of the Federation BiH supported by means of grant totalling 1.5 million euro the following research and scientific activities in 2012:

- publishing of scientific books and university textbooks
- publishing of magazines (both scientific and magazines for popularization of science)
- organization of scientific conferences
- organization of professional conferences
- support to technical culture and innovation
- promotion of scientific work
- procurement of foreign scientific journals
- allocated 350 000 BAM (app. 175 000 euro) for the access to the international data base (Web of Science, Journal Citation Reports, Conference Proceedings Citation Index, Current Contents Connect, Medline, EndNote Web).

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

- The Parliament of the Republic of Srpska adopted Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Srpska for 2012 -2016 prepared by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska on 17 July 2012.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

22 – 23 November 2012, Sarajevo: The expert meeting and SEE Ministerial Round Table was organised in joint collaboration of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UNESCO Field Office in Venice. The event discussed the preparation of a coherent roadmap of science priorities at both national and regional levels.

8-9 July 2012, Ulm, Germany: participation at the Conference of Research Ministers of the Danube Countries "Enhanced Cooperation in Research and Innovation in the Danube Region".

07 December 2012, Sarajevo; the MCA is organising the Conference on Challenges and perspectives of Science in BiH.

05-06 November, Sarajevo: WBC-INCO.NET and MIRA projects organised Workshop on Innovation in EU-Mediterranean and Western Balkans

With the support of the Austrian Development Agency, the MCA organised the following Info days:

1. 05/06/2012 – JRC Info day, in Sarajevo 85 participants;
2. 25/06/2012 - ICT Info day, Electrical Engineering Faculty, University of Sarajevo, 60 participants;
3. 05/07/2012 Info day - Possibilities for participation in FP7", Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sarajevo, 29 participants;
4. 09/07/2012 - Workshop – HEALTH – in cooperation with University of East Sarajevo, Programme Committee Members and NCP, 10 participants;
5. 10/07/2012 - Info day – "Mobility and methods of project proposal preparation" in cooperation with University of East Sarajevo and Mobility NCP, 42 participants;
6. 19/09/2012 – Info day – Thematic priorities Energy, NMP and ICT, Tuzla, 43 participants;
7. 09/10/2012 – Info day – People programme, Sarajevo;
8. 12/10/2012, Info day – "FP7 possibilities and rules for participation, University of Mostar, 40 participants;

9. 20/11/2012 – Workshop – How to prepare a successful project proposal, The International University Sarajevo, 43 participants;
10. 22/11/2012 – Info day – Successful FP7 project experiences and future challenges, 22 participants;

The Ministry of Science and Technology of RS organized:

1. 7-9 November, Banja Luka: Second Festival of Science;
2. “Researchers Night” in Banja Luka brought together more than 120 student;
3. The Ministry published the first issue of “INFINITI” Journal and contributed to the first television broadcasting of the scientific programme called after this journal. The programme is broadcasted every Thursday on the RS Radio and Television.
4. December 2012, Banja Luka: organization of the final competition for the best technological innovation in the RS;

The Ministry supported organisation of several international conferences in the RS:

- 1) Conference on economic development and entrepreneurship in the countries in transition “REDETE”; 2) International Scientific Symposium “AGROSYM 2012”; 3) International Conference on Science in Forestry and practice for sustainable development of forestry; 9th International Symposium of Industrial Electronics “INDEL 2012”.

Federal Ministry of Education and Science published the “Archaeological Guide of Herzegovina” in Bosnian as well as in English language.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

Ministry of Civil Affairs representatives participated in regular meetings of EUREKA, COST, and JRC networks, as well as in the activities within the Regional Research and Innovation Strategy for the Western Balkans project. Our FP7 Programme Committee members and NCP’s attended annual meetings and sessions organized by the EC, and Ministry of Civil Affairs participate in the implementation of the 4 FP7 projects (MIRA, WBC-INCO.NET, ISEE-Mob, BAMONET).

The research ministries have supported activities of the Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans - RRPP (www.rpp-westernbalkans.net) implemented by its office in Bosnia and Herzegovina. RRPP has started policy dialogue activities aiming at increasing and improving of the quality of research in social sciences in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As part of these activities, one of the main problems identified is relatively low level of participation from domestic researchers and scientific research institutions in international social sciences projects. The finding of the project will be presented at the conference in spring 2014.

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

Institute of Statistics of the RS published Annual Release:

“Research and Development Statistics in 2011, (Annual Report No. 233/12)

Working programme of the Statistical Office in BiH the period 2013-2017 includes the monitoring RTDI statistics.

Appendix: additional data

The research ministries in Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to implement their funding programmes and supporting measure for RTDI in the same amount as in 2012.