

# The core objectives of WBC-INCO.NET are:

- **to support the bi-regional dialogue on science and technology (S&T)** by benefiting from and interacting with the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries,
- **to identify RTDI cooperation potentials and priorities** for take-up in FP7 and other European programmes in a transparent and methodologically sound way,
- **to enhance participation of researchers from the region in European projects** of mutual interest and benefit by implementing capacity building measures and accompanying networking activities,
- **to analyse innovation needs and barriers** in the WBC, to **exchange information and best practices** on innovation policies and to **prepare an Action Plan** for further WBC cooperation in the field of innovation and
- to establish **closer cooperation between research and innovation**, to **strengthen the intersectoral dialogue** and to **support the training of innovation stakeholders**.

The objectives are being achieved in close interaction with the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries. The platform members are the EU Member States, the Candidate and Potential Candidate countries, the countries associated to FP7 and the European Commission. The Steering Platform meets twice a year and is typically hosted by the EU Council Presidency or a Western Balkan country. WBC-INCO.NET supports these meetings logistically and cooperates in an efficient division of labour.

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**wbc-inco.net**  
Co-ordination of Research Policies  
with the Western Balkan Countries



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**wbc-inco.net**  
Co-ordination of Research Policies  
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The Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET enhances the integration of the Western Balkan countries (WBC) in the European Research Area. The initiative is supported by the European Commission under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.



The issue of enlargement in the direction of the so-called Western Balkan countries is high on the political agenda of the European Union. The Western Balkan countries INCO-NET assists in developing the relationship between the EU and the WBC in the area of science and technology (S&T). Throughout its total duration of six years (2008 to 2013), the project supports the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries in the facilitation of interaction between the Western Balkan countries, the EU Member States, states associated to the Framework Programmes for RTD and the European Commission. It is a strategic body designed to deal with European, multilateral and regional issues of science and technology policies in and with the WBC.

### The project implements such activities as:

- setting of thematic regional S&T priorities,
- analysis of cooperation patterns, barriers to cooperation and opportunities to access infrastructure,
- analysis of the needs in innovation policy and innovation support and identification of policy measures to improve the framework conditions for innovation,
- organisation of training workshops and learning groups (for example for innovation stakeholders), in addition to brokerage events and awareness raising sessions,
- organisation of Innovation Dialogue Fora and establishment of a WBC Innovation Group of Experts,
- support to National Contact Points and Research Information Systems and
- publishing of regular newsletters, a journal and the web-based information portal [www.wbc-inco.net](http://www.wbc-inco.net).

### How to contribute?

Through its portal [www.wbc-inco.net](http://www.wbc-inco.net), newsletters and reports, WBC-INCO.NET engages in information exchange on S&T policy cooperation with the Western Balkan countries. We are open to publish your event announcements on the topic, your organisation profile and your project news, as well as to disseminate relevant news and documents on funding opportunities, cooperation possibilities, scholarships, awards, etc. We are interested in your suggestions on how to improve the S&T systems in the region, we would like to learn about your good practices and what you would need in order to improve your links with research communities in other regions. Everyone is invited to use our platform by providing information, for example via e-mail to [office@wbc-inco.net](mailto:office@wbc-inco.net).

**29 partners are participating in the consortium.**

**Among these are S&T ministries, agencies**

**and analytical partners.**

#### COORDINATOR:

**Centre for Social Innovation**

ZSI – AUSTRIA

#### PARTNERS FROM THE WBC:

**Ministry of Education and Science**

MOES – ALBANIA

**Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy**

METE – ALBANIA

**Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation**

AKTI – ALBANIA

**Ministry of Civil Affairs**

MCA – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Foundation for Higher Education World University Service  
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

SUS BIH – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Ministry of Science, Education and Sports**

MZOS – CROATIA

**Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences**

IVO PILAR – CROATIA

**Ministry of Education and Science**

MON-MK – FYRo MACEDONIA

**Ministry of Economy**

MOE-MK – FYRo MACEDONIA

**Ministry of Science**

MOS-ME – MONTENEGRO

**Directorate for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises**

DDSME – MONTENEGRO

**Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development**

MSTD – SERBIA

**Mihajlo Pupin Institute**

MPI – SERBIA

**Kosovo Education Center**

KEC – KOSOVO\*

\*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

#### PARTNERS FROM THE EU AND ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES:

**Federal Ministry of Science and Research**

BMWF – AUSTRIA

**Austrian Research Promotion Agency**

FFG – AUSTRIA

**Slovenian Business and Research Association**

SBRA – BELGIUM

**Turkish Research & Business Organisations  
Public & Private Partnership**

TuR&Bo-PPP – BELGIUM

**Ministry of Education, Youth and Science**

MES-CRA – BULGARIA

**Federal Ministry of Education and Research**

BMBF – GERMANY

**International Bureau of the BMBf at the Project Management Agency  
c/o German Aerospace Center**

DLR – GERMANY

**General Secretariat for Research and Technology**

GSRT – GREECE

**South-East European Research Centre**

SEERC – GREECE

**Agency for the Promotion of European Research**

APRE – ITALY

**United Nations University MERIT, Maastricht Economic and  
Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology,  
University of Maastricht**

UNU-MERIT – NETHERLANDS

**Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport**

MESCS – SLOVENIA

**Joint Research Centre**

JRC-IPTS – SPAIN

**The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey**

TÜBİTAK – TURKEY