

European Commission

DG Research and Innovation

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC

(December 2012 - June 2013)

1 Policy actions

Following discussions at DG ELARG to ensure synergy between IPA II and 'Horizon 2020': (1) input for Country Strategy papers reflecting R&I as important sector priority and (2) planning of reimbursement by IPA II of financial contribution for association to Horizon 2020.

Following discussions with DG RTD colleagues on 'Horizon 2020' to ensure effective participation of WBCs and Turkey.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Preparation of ERA Progress Report in which also recommendations for candidate and potential candidate countries will be included (strengthening monitoring).

Input to European Semester on Croatia (strategic commitment to reach 1, 4% of GDP investment in RTD).

Final checking and monitoring of actions taken by Croatia in view of EU Member State by 1 July 2013.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Adoption of EU Common Position by the second ministerial accession conference meeting in Brussels on 18 December 2012 provisionally closing the accession negotiations with Montenegro of Chapter 25 on Science and Research.

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 May 29, 2013.

* 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

WBC Inco.Net Regional Dialogue meeting in Vienna on 10 April 2013 on conditions, procedure and policy considerations on association to the next EU research framework programme Horizon 2020.

Meeting in Vienna on Regional Strategy on Research: discussions with World Bank, RCC and Beneficiary countries on final draft strategy and proposed regional actions.

Discussions with RCC in view of continuation of activities of Steering Platform meeting under S.E.E 2020 strategy (Smart growth pillar).

Preparations with DG ELARG on monitoring progress on actions on research and innovation policy for 2013 Progress reports and following meetings:

- EU- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Subcommittee on Innovation in Skopje on 28 May
- EU- Kosovo* SAPD (Stabilization and Association Process Dialogue) in Pristina on 31 May
- EU- Bosnia and Herzegovina Subcommittee on Innovation in Sarajevo on 3 June 2 (cancelled)
- EU - Serbia Subcommittee meeting on Innovation in Brussels on 17 June.

Evaluation of FP7 INCO proposals resulting in selection of Danube.INCO.NET and contract negotiations with project coordinator (SZI represented by Elke DALL) in view of signing grant agreement mid July 2013.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

Adoption of Council conclusions on "Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: a strategic approach" by the Competitiveness Council on 30 May 2013, stressing, amongst others, the importance of deepening cooperation with the enlargement and neighbourhood countries.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

Updated statistics on participation of Western Balkans and Turkey into FP7 until mid - May 2013.

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

Negotiations on association to Horizon 2020 (and concluding international agreements) for those countries who request to be associated.

Organise Workshop on European Research Area to ensure effective participation in ERA in view of strengthening monitoring of actions taken.

Consider support actions to facilitate and strengthen participation of WBCs and Turkey in Horizon 2020.

Preparations for a smooth kick off of Danube Inco.NET.