

## HUNGARY

### PROGRESS REPORT

#### on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (December 2012 / Belgrade - June 2013 / Budva)

#### 1 Policy actions

At the joint proposal of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for National Economy, Prime Minister *Viktor Orbán* appointed **State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and External Economic Relations Péter Szijjártó** as the head of Hungarian-Serbian, Hungarian-Macedonian and Hungarian-Montenegrin Joint Economic Cooperation Committees with effect from July 2012.

The new chair would like the work of the joint economic committees to contribute the regional cooperation with neighboring countries, as well as in solidifying the country's leading role in supporting the integration of the Western Balkans into the EU.

The National Innovation Office (NIH) is the authorized governmental body within the JECC to implement the S&T bilateral cooperation with the WB partner countries.

#### 2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

#### 3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

5-6 February, 2013 – **Official NIH visit to Montenegro**: After that Science Minister *Sanja Vlahović* and Minister of State at the Hungarian Ministry for National Economy *Zoltán Cséfalvay* signed the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two countries in September 2012, Vice President *Mr. László Korányi* and Head of Department for International Affairs *Dr. Ildikó Kovács* paid an official visit to Podgorica to start the bilateral discussion with the Ministry of Science. The agreement aims to provide a bilateral framework for the cooperation between the Montenegrin and Hungarian scientific institutions, including funding of joint projects, researches, scientists and students. It also enables Montenegro to use Hungarian experience in developing science and technology, building technology parks, centres of excellence, etc.

4 December, 2012 - **The Hungarian-Serbian Joint Economic Committee meeting** in Budapest. State secretary for Foreign Affairs and External Economic Relations *Mr. Péter Szijjártó* co-chaired the committee with Serbian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management *Mr. Goran Knezevic*.

19 February, 2013 - **The Hungarian-Macedonian Joint Economic Committee meeting** in Budapest. State secretary for Foreign Affairs and External Economic Relations *Mr. Péter Szijjártó* co-chaired the committee with Macedonian Minister of Economy *Mr. Valon Saracini*.

23-24 May, 2013 – **The Hungarian – Bosnian-Herzegovinian Joint Economic Committee meeting** in Sarajevo. State secretary for Foreign Affairs and External Economic Relations *Mr. Péter Szijjártó* co-chaired the committee with Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina *Ms. Ermina Salkicevic-Dizdarevic*.

**4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA**

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

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

End of June 2013 – Launch of the first **Hungarian-Montenegrin bilateral joint S&T call for proposals for the years 2014-2015**. Under this call we can support the cost of the exchange of researchers (travel expenses, daily allowance, insurance) to jointly approved bilateral projects,.

25-26 June, 2013 – **The Hungarian – Montenegrin Joint Economic Committee meeting** in Sarajevo.