

European Commission
Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

PROGRESS REPORT¹
on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC
(June 2013/Budva until December 2013 / Zagreb)

1 Policy actions

Adoption of 2013 Progress Reports on Enlargement countries and monitoring progress on Chapter 25 on Science and Research.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Adoption of Regulation on Framework Agreement for Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) and preparing first calls of proposals for 2014-2020.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Meeting of EU-Montenegro SAA Sub-Committee in Brussels on 11 September monitoring progress on research and innovation policy.

Participation in COSME seminar for enlargement and neighbourhood countries: presenting links and synergy between COSME and Horizon 2020 and participation for enlargement countries.

Meeting between countries associated to FP7 and Director General for DG Research and Innovation on 26 September 2013 in Brussels informing on latest developments and need to prepare for Horizon 2020 (nominate NCPs; prior notice of draft Work programmes).

Horizon 2020 training for National Contact Points on 15-16 October 2013 in Brussels (all WBCs invited).

Participation in Ministerial meeting on adoption of Regional WBC Strategy on Research and Innovation in Zagreb on 24-25 October 2013.

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 5, 2013.

Meeting of EU-Albania SAA Sub-Committee in Tirana on 28 October 2013 monitoring progress on research and innovation policy and bilateral discussions with new Ministry of Education and Sport responsible for research policy.

Workshop for enlargement countries on European Research Area on 12-13 November in Brussels focusing on two major ERA priorities: competitive funding and open labour market for researchers

Participation in a Conference in Pristina on 26 November on strengthening research and innovation capacity in Kosovo*.

Discussions with CEI on support for WBCs

Start preparations for opening accession negotiations on Chapter 25 with Serbia.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

In view of association to Horizon 2020, draft International Agreements are under preparation including discussions with DG ELARG to ensure synergy with IPA II and use funding for R&I capacity building and reimbursement of financial contribution of Horizon 2020: R&I sectoral priority in Country Strategy papers).

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

N/A.

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

The last 6 months the activities carried out were aiming at assisting the enlargement countries to meet the criteria of EU *acquis* in Chapter 25: explaining and presenting latest developments in EU Research and Innovation policy and encouraging to take actions at national level in line with EU *acquis* on European Research Area and Innovation.

The other actions related to preparations for association Horizon 2020: explaining procedure; time line, financial contribution (including IPA) and involvement in first Work programmes and preparing for Horizon 2020 launch events.

Continuous support will be provided to enlargement countries in order to comply to EU *acquis* on R&I and ensure effective participation under Horizon 2020 and at Regional level.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence)

