

## **BELGIUM** (Country/EC)

### **PROGRESS REPORT<sup>1</sup>**

#### **on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (2<sup>st</sup> half 2011 or - May 2011 / Ohrid till December 2011 / Sarajevo)**

#### **1 Policy actions**

(e.g. essential changes in the political authorities, administrative bodies, agencies, institutions, personnel, development/launch of new national funding programmes, etc.)

- Federal government: still dealing with "running affairs"
- EUROFED, larger team (NCP) at federal level <http://eurofed.stis.fgov.be/>
- Brussels Region: new nominations for FP7 groups and NCP's, but still not very clear, all nominations have not yet taken place
- French-speaking Community: new nominations for FP7 groups (PEOPLE, among others) and NCP's, still a bit fuzzy

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

- Federal government: new law on family reunification (July), very restrictive in its practical/concrete elements, longer delays, separate visas

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

- <http://www.euraxess.be/>, largely revised with more job offers
- New *Guide for the Mobile Researcher* ("how to come in Belgium")  
<http://www.euraxess.be/docs/guide.pdf>

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.wbc-inco.net)) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to [office@zwbc-inco.net](mailto:office@zwbc-inco.net) until November 21, 2011.

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

(e.g. new bilateral/international agreements, memberships, support structures, important international projects, programmes, etc.)

- Federal: launch of several calls for proposals with a funding (20%) for third parties:
  - IAP's, several other calls - pro memori closed (few opportunities left)
  - Multiannual thematic programs- forthcoming
  - Back to Belgium grants - not so much of a mobility action, rather a re-integration initiative, open to all citizens, with conditions
  - Non-EU postdoc fellowships - not allowed for associated countries (only Kosovo, as defined by UNSC resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999 is eligible)
- Flemish Authority: Pegasus programme of international mobility, pre- and postdoctoral opportunities, linked to a Flemish university, grants of 1 to 3 years for postdocs, COFUND mechanism, <http://www.fwo.be/Pegasus-Marie-Curie-fellowships.aspx>
- French-speaking Community/FNRS: forthcoming calls, no specific action
- Walloon Region: <http://recherche-technologie.wallonie.be/fr/annonces/toutes-les-annonces/index.html> (in French!)
- Brussels Region: forthcoming calls, no specific action

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

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

- Federal authority: several calls should take place, a government should be formed
- French-speaking Community/FNRS: mobility call around February
- Same applies for Brussels Region and the Flemish authority