

Germany

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (2nd half 2011 - May 2011 / Ohrid till December 2011 / Sarajevo)

1 Policy actions

- Ongoing implementation of the Initiative “Strengthening Germany’s role in the global knowledge society – Strategy of the Federal Government for the Internationalization of Science and Research” (launched in 2008). The text (in German and English) can be found under:
http://www.bmbf.de/pub/deutschlands_rolle_in_globaler_wissensgesellschaft_staerken_de_en.pdf
- Internet Platform for information on the German research system and landscape, “Research in Germany” (<http://www.research-in-germany.de/52/home.html>).

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

The Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and the Greek Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs organized jointly with the Center for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) and supported by the International Bureau of the BMBF a workshop on innovation (“Greek-German Workshop on Innovation in the context of cooperation with Western Balkan Countries”) on October 3rd, 2011 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The workshop was born of the German-Greek partnership initiative agreed upon by the Greek Prime Minister Papandreou and Federal Chancellor Merkel on March 2010. Mr. Thomas Rachel, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, represented the German Federal government, Mr. Costas Kokkinoplitis, General Secretary for Research & Technology, represented the Greek government.

The workshop aimed at presenting policy elements and successful cases of synergies for innovation and growth as well as good practice examples for technology transfer stories from the international context focusing on Greece, Germany and the Western Balkans area. The meeting was concluded by a Round Table Discussion on “Creating opportunities for networking and co-operation to advance innovation & growth”.

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@zwbc-inco.net until November 22, 2011.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

4.1 Regional Call

The call entitled “International Cooperation in Education and Research - Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region (Regional Call for Proposals)” launched by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is ongoing until December 31, 2013.

The relevant version of the call can be found in German under <http://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/14673.php> and in English under <http://www.bmbf.de/en/furtherance/14673.php>.

4.2 SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

BMBF and its International Bureau (PT-DLR) participate in the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) project SEE-ERA.NET PLUS which is the next step in further integrating the WBC and their research communities into the European Research Area (ERA): Based on the results and experiences of the forerunner project SEE-ERA.NET (finished in August 2009), SEE-ERA.NET PLUS aims at launching and implementing a (one) call for Joint European Research Projects (JERPs). Germany was responsible for the drafting of the concept of the joint call and is responsible - since the Call Secretariat is located at PT-DLR – also for its implementation. The call was launched in September 2009 and closed in November 2009.

In the reporting period from June 2011 until November 2011, all 23 JERPs were up and running. Currently the Joint Call secretariat at DLR is checking the intermediate reports of the JERPs.

4.3 WBC-INCO.NET: Coordination of Research Policies with the Western Balkan Countries (WBC)

WBC-INCO.NET is a network project for the bi-regional policy dialogue between the EU, the countries associated to the 7th Framework Programme and the Western Balkan Countries. It also supports the “Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries“. The aim is to enhance the participation of researchers from the target region in European S&T projects by structural measures.

In the reporting period from June 2011 until November 2011, the activities of the German partners BMBF and its International Bureau (PT-DLR) as leaders of Work Package 2 were focused on the preparation, organisation and implementation of the consultation session in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities in cooperation with other project partners. The session was held back-to-back with the EU Conference “Challenge Social Innovation” on September 19.-21, 2011 in Vienna. The outcome of the Conference was the Fourteen Most Needed Social Innovations summarised in the Vienna Declaration handed over to the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation. In addition, BMBF and the International Bureau (PT-DLR) were involved in the implementation of Task T8.2 / Work Package 8 for the support of innovation activities (collection of good practice examples) together with other project partners. A first version of the deliverable presenting 45 good practice examples from the EU and the WBC has been finished in November 2011.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

5.1 Regional Call

Within the “Regional Call” three projects with partners from the WBC, namely Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are ongoing. In addition a joint German-Croatian research base in the field of marine biotechnology is also ongoing.

5.2 SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

In five out of the 23 ongoing Joint European Research Projects (JERPs) German researchers are participating. In two of these five projects, the German partner coordinates the JERP.

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

(Optional personal opinion)

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