

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (2st 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.)

In August the Government adopted 4 year Program for work for the period 2011-2015, where in order to provide stable economic growth are emphasised the activities for further stable macroeconomic and fiscal policies, custom and tax policies, improvement of the business climate and competitiveness, stimulating investments, support of SMEs, support of linkages between companies and universities and innovators, through implementation of research and development projects.

Ministry of Economy with support of OECD Investment compact Regional Competitiveness Initiative project for Western Balkans (RCI WB) are developing an innovation strategy "Innovation policy for the Republic of Macedonia 2012-2020" giving the framework and activities for stimulating innovation in the economy. OECD have prepared the Review of the innovation policy in the Republic of Macedonia. This document is expected to be finalised by the end of this year.

Further activities for support of innovation in 2012 are envisaged through few Governmental programs.

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2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

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3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Very important event in process of developing innovation strategy and dialogue with different stakeholders (businesses, research institutions, universities and Government) was organised

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.

Innovation forum on 09.11.2011 in Skopje. They discussed the challenges and strategic objectives of the national innovation system and the policies needed to foster innovation. Participants of the Innovation forum had the unique opportunity for active contribution to future innovation strategy.

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.)

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5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

Recent data related to innovation are processed in the Innovation Score Board for Macedonia.

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

Expected adoption of the Innovation strategy and implementation of programs with concrete measures for innovation enhancement.

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Appendix: additional data

(Delete if not applicable.)

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