

Bosnia and Herzegovina

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (June 2011 - November 2011)

1 Policy actions

Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska established the "Fund dr Milan Jelić" with the aim to provide financial help to the most talented students of all three levels of high education; in this respect a Protocol between the Fund and the Agency for Employment of the RS was signed to facilitate employment of the beneficiaries of the Fund.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Science and the Agency for Employment of the FBiH agreed on a program for employment of young researchers and editors at the scientific institutions in the FBiH.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Federal Ministry of Education and Science prepared the Draft Strategy for RTD for 2011- 2021. This document calls for creation and adoption of the law which will define the system and the development of science policy in the Federation in the first half of next year.

Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska prepared the Draft Strategy for RTD for 2011-2016. Draft version of the Law on "Science and Research Activities and Technological Development" was adopted at the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska. Both documents are focused on the link between science and technology development as well as on the practical application of research in society and the economy, which will give a sound base for future establishment of an innovation system and involvement in the EU Innovation Union.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Ministry of Civil Affairs with the support of the Austrian Development Agency organised a number of info days and FP7 promotion activities.

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.

1. 01.06.2011. Info day „Info day – participation in EU programmes“ in cooperation with Chamber of Commerce BiH and University „Džemal Bijedić“ in Mostar, 39 participants;
2. 07.06. Info day „EU programmes FP7, COST and EUREKA“ in cooperation with Chamber of Commerce RS – Banja Luka 26 participants;
3. 16.06. Info day in cooperation with BIT centre Tuzla, 12 participants;
4. 01.07. Info day in Brčko, FP7 possibilities for participation;
5. 26.09. Info day in East Sarajevo - Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnologies- KBBE”
6. 27.09. Info day in East Sarajevo – Health –specific calls for FP7 projects
7. 25.10. Info day in Banja Luka in cooperation with Chamber of Commerce RS „EU programmes FP7, COST and EUREKA” and Specific calls for proposals for SMS's and People programme.
8. 02.11. Meeting – Programme Committee members from BiH, NCP's and Focal Points.

In cooperation with the Association of European Innovators and the Pan-European University APERION from Banja Luka, Women's Inventors Association “NOVA” in Bosnia and Herzegovina “NOVA” organised the conference dedicated to women's entrepreneurship and innovation. This was an opportunity for innovators, entrepreneurs and scholars to exchange experiences on the development of new technologies and to present their recent innovations. Official title of the Conference was "Women revitalize European creativity." An outcome was the establishment of the first Association of women innovators and entrepreneurs in Europe- EWI.

Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska organized several international conferences: "Redete" (The international scientific conference on research, entrepreneurship and economic development of the countries in transition), "55th ETRAN 2011 "(Society for Electronics, Telecommunications, Computing, Control and Nuclear Techniques - ETRAN 2011th and "DebConf11 "(a large annual IT conference, an open software platform with the participation of a large number of IT professionals from over 80 countries).

In order to promote research in the Republic of Srpska, a festival on research were held in six cities of the RS, with interesting demonstrations and unusual experiments. A number of higher education and scientific institutions from the RS participated.

On 31 October 2011 in Sarajevo the Federal Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina organised international conference "Publishing in the field of science".

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

- September 2011, Brussels: Minister of Civil Affairs Mr. Sredoje Nović participated at the meeting

of the ministers of the Western Balkan countries with the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Mrs. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn.

- 19th October, Trieste: Minister of Civil Affairs attended the meeting of the Central European Initiative member states' ministers of science and technology, held during the Serbian presidency of the CEI. Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska also attended this meeting.
- October: Minister of Civil Affairs and Minister of Education and Science of Macedonia signed the Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina Macedonia on cooperation in education and science.
- November: Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina approved 28 projects that will be implemented from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2013.
- November: Call for co-financing travelling and accommodation of the researchers in the framework of the scientific and technological cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro for 2012 and 2013.

Since the start of the Triple Helix project in January 2011 the OECD and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina jointly selected three triple helix innovation partnership projects in the field of food which will receive technical assistance from the OECD. Selected projects are:

- a) *"Processing field peas into ethanol and proteins" presented by the University of Banja Luka.*
- b) *"Examination of the hygiene of sheep and goat milk as an indicator of standardization of indigenous cheese" presented by "Pramenka", the association of producers of indigenous sheep cheese and meat in Mostar.*
- c) *"Production of Omega-3 enriched additives to food and feed" presented by the University of Bihać*

June: minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska participated at the „Crans Montana Forum” in Brussels. The topic was: „Impact of the investment in research and technology on socio-economic development”

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

Republic of Srpska: The Republic Institute for Statistics in cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Technology published data on innovativeness of enterprises for the period 2008-2010 (INOV).

Federation of BiH: Federal Ministry of Education and Science regularly collects and updates information on science, research and innovation for its electronic and other records.

Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska, Mr. Jasmin Komić, promoted the "International Statistical Encyclopedia at the "Belgrade Book Fair". Publisher of the encyclopedia is "Springer" from Germany.

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

Implementation of the Strategy for Science Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Entities: adoption of the strategies and the laws mentioned in the report.