

Serbia

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.)

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

After the restructuring of the Serbian government, the new organizational structure of the Ministry of Education and Science has adopted. There are 9 departments within the Ministry, three of them are dealing with the scientific issues: Department for basic research, Department for technological development and Department for European integration and programs and projects in education and science.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Events

-THE BEST TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION COMPETITION (9. Jun 2011)- Ministry of Education and Science is organizing "The best technological innovation competition 2011". The objective of this competition is to promote enterprising spirit among researchers, students and innovators, creative individuals, economic societies as well as the whole interested public. Ministry has provided 10.306.400 dinars (around 10.000 Euros) for awards. Apart from possibility of financial support through awards, all participants in this competition will have opportunity to be helped by training and by consultations depending on category in which they will compete. The third lap of reviewing completed on 16. November 2011, during which was evaluated 59 business and 59 marketing plans. In continuation of the competition 35 teams qualified for the Fair of innovations. Fair of innovations was held on 22. November 2011, in Serbian Chamber of Commerce, as a preparation for the final competition. On this occasion 35 best teams were promoted of which 12 were chosen to go further to the final competition which will be broadcast by Serbian Radio-Television (RTS) on 21. December 2011.

Workshop "Synchrotron Trieste meets Serbian Scientists"

Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with Italian Embassy in Belgrade and Central European Initiative organized a meeting "Synchrotron Trieste meets Serbian Scientists" on 27 of June 2011. with presence of more than thirty eminent researchers from eleven research organizations. The meeting was opened by HE Italian Ambassador in Belgrade Armando Varricchio and guests were welcomed by Assistant Minister for International Cooperation and European Integration at the Ministry of Education and Science, Professor Dr. Viktor Nedovic and President of Trieste synchrotron Dr. Charles Ricuto.

In the discussion that followed the presentation of good practice in CEI countries and Serbian capacity in this field participants agreed that the achievements and potential of Serbian scientific community in these areas certainly might be strengthened through future co-operation.

CEI Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (Trieste, Italy - 19 October 2011)

For the first time the Serbian Presidency of the Central European (CEI) has organized the Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology in Trieste on 19 October 2011. Senior representatives of the relevant ministries of the 18 Member States of the Organization attended the event. The opening session at the Sincrotrone Trieste "Elettra" Laboratory and the afternoon session at the CEI headquarters, was chaired by Zarko Obradovic, Serbian Minister of Education and Science. More info: <http://www.ceinet.org/news>

"Research and innovation promotion in the function of competitiveness" brokerage event was held on 19th and 20th October 2011 at Serbian Chamber of Commerce in Belgrade, in partnership of Faculty of Engineering Sciences - University of Kragujevac, Serbian Chamber of Commerce and University of Belgrade. On the first day, more than 110 participants from 12 countries were present at the event and 75 participants on the second day. Presentations at this event were given by representatives of relevant ministries and partner institutions, as well as many eminent foreign and domestic experts from the areas of research, innovations and business. Besides 30 foreign and domestic enterprises, many research teams were present at the event, as well as the SMEs support institutions and representatives of the funds for development, research and innovation financing. Within the introductory speech, the present were greeted by Prof Dr Viktor Nedovic, the national coordinator of FP7 programme, Sanda Simic, the assistant of the director of Office for European Integrations, Jasmina Gajic from National Tempus Office, Dr Athanasios Kalogeras, coordinator of I3P project and Prof Dr Vesna Mandic, coordinator of WBC - VMNet project, who emphasized the significance of promotion and mobilization of research resources in the region with the aim of initiating innovations in domestic enterprises and their greater involvement in the international projects. On the first day, particular attention was given to the presentation of Strategic Research Agenda and Methodology Guideline for Innovation for SEE Region. Model of the university-enterprise cooperation and regional achievements in these areas were presented, as well as the examples of best practices of the local companies, the available sources of financing, and the applied models of technology transfer here and abroad. In the afternoon part, some suggestions for research - commercial cooperation were given and 15 various companies, institutes and faculties/universities presented themselves. At the end, individual meetings were organized when the interested parties applied after they heard presentations. There were total of 13 B2B meetings. On the second day, models for financing of research and innovations, as well as technology transfer and participation in projects were presented. Various initiatives were launched related to the cooperation of scientific - research institutions and industries through the joint work in the area of innovation and development. Also, a lot was discussed on the subject of joint application of the scientific - research institutions and enterprises for the projects financed by the EU and certain relevant ministries

in Serbia and the region, with the aim of improving competitiveness of domestic enterprises on both domestic and international market. Next brokerage event will be held in December 2011 in Rijeka, Croatia.

-Western Balkans' research and development strategy launched in Belgrade, with RCC support. A two-year project to develop a strategy for regional dimension of Research and Innovation cooperation in the Western Balkans has been launched on 24 November 2011, in Belgrade, Serbia. The event was organized by the World Bank, in cooperation with the European Commission and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat. It was supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia. The aim of the project is to develop a strategy that will foster cooperation at regional level by interconnecting research institutes, pooling resources, training scientists and transferring knowledge across the region to increase its competitiveness. The RCC has facilitated and supported its development in close cooperation with national authorities from the Western Balkans and international partners. Participants of a three-day workshop which launched the project discussed ways to implement it, learned about good practices and experiences from renown experts on research and innovation policies, received feedback from business leaders about challenges and opportunities in conducting related activities and outlined solutions to mainstreaming competitiveness policies with increased research and innovation efforts at regional level.

FP7 Info days:

Novi Sad 23 May
Bor 30 June
Novi Pazar 26 September
Kragujevac 11 October

Institute of pesticides and environmental protection 7. November

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.)

Bilateral Cooperation:

-China- Joint committee on 19th May – 12 approved projects
-Belarus - Joint committee on 28th June – 10 approved projects

FP7 important project

-ERA-CAPS project

Ministry of Education and Science is one of the project partners in **ERA-CAPS project 'Deepened and enlarged European cooperation in the area of Molecular Plant Sciences'**. Accession Form has been signed and intention is to start the project in January 2012. Coordinator is Dr Rowan McKibbin, Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council, UK.

-DARIAH - Research infrastructure project. The mission of DARIAH is to enhance and support digitally-enabled research across the humanities and arts. DARIAH aims to develop and maintain an infrastructure in support of ICT-based research practices. At the beginning of September 2011 Belgrade Center for Digital Humanities (<http://humanistika.org>) signed Memorandum of Understanding with DARIAH.

CERIC Research infrastructure 16.8. Mou potpisan

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

The Ministry of Education and Science has done for the first time the evaluation of the results of innovative projects funded under the 3rd Public call which was financed through the national budget. The Ministry is performed to evaluate the results of 61 funded projects of which 44 resulted with innovative product, process or service; 35 of 61 funded projects have a market-valorisation of the project results and 13 projects of 61 resulted with patent application.

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

Department for Technological Development and innovation system of the Ministry is in the preparation process of 4th Publish call for **Innovation projects activities** for legal entities and individual persons-innovators, which are registrated in the Ministry by the Law on Innovation activities. Expected date for Public call will be around 15th of December 2011.

Joint committee meetings on bilateral cooperation with Slovakia and Slovenia is planed for the beginning of next year.