

Switzerland

PROGRESS REPORT¹

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

SCOPES 2009-2012 (Scientific Cooperation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland)

Last December, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) issued a second call for proposals in the framework of SCOPES, the on-going Eastern Europe programme 2009-2012. The available funds were sufficient for approval of 28 of the 85 applications submitted. The co-operation networks, which stretch from the Western Balkans to Central Asia and from Ukraine to Moldova, are creating a lot of interest among researchers in both Eastern Europe and Switzerland.

With the approval of 28 new partnerships, the number of research co-operations currently in progress under SCOPES reaches 99. Most of them will run for a period of three years. Many projects involve more than one Eastern partner: the countries of the Western Balkans are involved in 52 of the 99 co-operations (Serbia is involved in 24), the countries of the Southern Caucasus in 32 (Georgia in 21), Central Asia in 9, Ukraine in 23 and Moldova in 10. The new member countries, which are subject to special terms of participation, are participating in 34 projects (Bulgaria and Romania in 9 each) and Russia in 17.

The current programme phase will come to an end in 2012. Applications for conference and implementation grants can be submitted until the end of the programme. The SDC and the SNSF are planning to continue the Eastern Europe programme under similar conditions from 2013 to 2016.

Enlargement contribution: Romania / Bulgaria

Switzerland is participating in the EU enlargement by supporting the efforts to reduce economic and social disparities. The supported countries include Romania and Bulgaria, the two most recent EU members. One of the selected fields of cooperation in both countries is scientific research. The SNSF and its counterpart in Romania respectively in Bulgaria were chosen by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) for managing and administrating the two special programmes set up with the available money. Both programmes (2011-2016) will support the implementation of three-years Joint Research Projects (JRP) carried out by groups of researchers from Romania/Bulgaria, jointly with groups of researchers from Switzerland.

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.

Romanian-Swiss Research Programme (RSRP)

SNSF is co-operating with the Romanian Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) to implement the programme. The total budget available for the JRPs is CHF 10.35 Mio (85% from the Swiss contribution, 15% from the Romanian contribution). The maximum amount to be granted for a single JRP will be 450,000 CHF.

Projects exclusively within the following thematic areas will be funded:

- Research on the following major diseases: cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and obesity;
- Impact of waste and pollutants on environment and climate;
- Sustainable energy;
- Economic Growth and Social Disparities.

There will be a single call for proposals that will open on 30 September 2011 and close on 31 January 2012. Proposals will have to be jointly prepared by Swiss and Romanian applicants and be submitted by the Swiss applicant to SNSF via its electronic submission system (mySNF).

Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programme (BSRP)

SNSF is co-operating with the Science Directorate (SD) of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science (MEYS) to implement the programme. The total budget available for JRPs is CHF 4.23 Mio (85% from the Swiss contribution, 15% from the Bulgarian contribution). The maximum amount to be granted for a single JRP will be 400,000 CHF

Projects exclusively within the following thematic areas will be funded:

- Ecology, agricultural and forestry sciences, land use, waste management;
- Social disparities and regional differences;
- Drug chemistry and development;
- Innovative building methods and materials.

There will be a single call for proposals that will open on 15 November 2011 and close on 15 March 2012. Proposals will have to be jointly prepared by Swiss and Bulgarian applicants and be submitted by the Swiss applicant to SNSF via its electronic submission system (mySNF).

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