

Germany

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (from November 2010 - May 2011)

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 German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) supports the International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development (ICEIRD) on 5 to 7 May 2011 in Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The German innovation expert Prof. Dr. Jan Kratzer from the Department of Technology and Management, Technische Universität Berlin (TUB), participates in the conference.

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) has been prolonged and 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>.

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 May 15, 2011.

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 is responsible for the drafting of the concept of the joint call and - 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 November 2010 until May 2011, the project contracts have been signed and the first instalments have been transferred to the respective coordinators of the JERPs. Currently 23 JERPs are ongoing.

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 November 2010 until May 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 follow-up consultation session in the field of Transport. Together with two other major projects, the event SEETRANS 2011 (Transport research opportunities for South East Europe in the EU) was held on April 12 and 13, 2011 in Ljubljana. Around 230 participants provided input and discussed project ideas related to EU transport research. In addition, BMBF and the International Bureau (PT-DLR) were involved in the first steps of the implementation for support of innovation activities (collection of good practice examples). Furthermore, on December 7, 2010 both partners were responsible for the organisation of a Round Table on Innovation that took place in Vienna (Work Package Leader BMWF, Austria).

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

5.1 Regional Call

Within the “Regional Call” two projects with Bosnian-Herzegovinian participation and one with participants from 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 the German partner coordinates the JERP.

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

(Optional personal opinion)

Appendix: additional data

(Delete if not applicable.)