

**FRANCE** (Country/EC)

**PROGRESS REPORT<sup>1</sup>**

**on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC  
(1<sup>st</sup> half 2011 or November 2010 / Becici - May 2011 / Ohrid)**

**1 Policy actions**

(e.g. essential changes in the political authorities, administrative bodies, agencies, institutions, personnel, development/launch of new national funding programmes, etc.)

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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.**

**Serbia:**

Within the « french-serbian science month », the French Institute of Serbia (former Centre culturel français) has proposed an exhibition on the theme of biodiversity end of 2010. This exhibition was in parallel of the serbian « science festival », within witch the French Embassy supports the participation of french associations. This “french Serbian science month” was also an occasion for the French ambassador for science, technology and innovation, former CNRS president Catherine Bréchignac, to meet with Serbian scientists involved in projects with french partners.

The french institute and the Embassy aim at perpetuating this “french Serbian science month” by running it yearly. As a consequence, this event will take place in November 2011, in the theme “clean transports”.

**FYROM :**

The french Embassy has organised several public debates on scientific themes such as renewable energies, water, or nuclear energy.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.wbc-inco.net)) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to [office@zwbc-inco.net](mailto:office@zwbc-inco.net) until May 16, 2011.

Every two years, a french researcher organises in Orhid an international scientific conference, called BALWOIS (Balkan Water Observation and information System). Next conference will take place in 2012.

#### **4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA**

##### **Serbia:**

A bilateral cooperation scheme exists since 2003. The partnership, named “pavle Savic” is co funded by France and Serbia. It supports every year research projects lasting for 2 years. One of the objectives is to help serbian researchers integrate european research networks. For the 2010-2011 period, 14 projects have been selected. The next call is now open.

Furthermore, CNRS has signed a cooperation agreement in 2005. Within this agreement, calls for projects are being launched every 2 years. In 2009, 12 projects have been funded. Within the call for 2010-2012, 7 projects have been selected.

Finally, the French Embassy offers grants for studies in France and scientific visits. This is a priority for the scientific service of the Embassy: nearly 20 grants have been granted to young scientists.

In 2009, an agreement on young people mobility has been signed between France and Serbia, which allowed for 8 additional grants for students in science and technology. This agreement also simplifies the procedures for scientists willing to go to Serbia.

##### **FYROM**

The bilateral cooperation (Hubert Curien Partnership) scheme had to be temporarily paused in 2009. It could be envisaged to start again this instrument by launching a new call for projects in 2012.

##### **Croatia**

Within the bilateral cooperation scheme (Hubert curien partnership “Cogito”), 15 new projets, lasting for 2 years, have been selected for 2011. The next selection committee will convene in 2012.

##### **Montenegro:**

In the field of Electronics, automatics and signal treatment, there is a scientific partnership between the Faculty of scientific engineering of Podgorica and the French national institute “polytechnique” of Grenoble. Within this partnership, the French Embassy has offered one grant to a Montenegrin student, in order to study in Grenoble in 2010-2011.

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