# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**PROGRESS REPORT[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC**

**(Budapest, June 8-9, 2015)**

# Policy actions

Following the general election in Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2014, new governments were appointed at each level.

After the signing of the Horizon 2020 association agreement, BiH has been continuously implementing activities in cooperation with the competent Entity and cantonal institutions. Since 2014, the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs has been participating in the new FP7 project on research cooperation in the Danube Region (Dunav.inco.net).

In order to promote H2020 and other scientific research initiatives, info days and other events were regularly organised by the Ministry's Department of Science and Culture, so that 10 info days, workshops and seminars were held. Horizon 2020 was promoted by the Ministry at all BiH public universities, as well as at the chamber of commerce at State and Entities level, SMEs, and it was presented to the BiH Science Council. In cooperation with the relevant Entity- and Cantonal institutions, activities are continuously carried out on implementation of the Memorandum between BiH and the EU related to BiH membership in the EU H2020 programme.

Implementation of the **Funding Programmes to Support Science and Research** at all levels of the governance in BiH continues throughout 2014 and 2015. Ministry of Civil Affairs is implementing the Programmes:

1) Support to Participation in the EU Funding Programmes, COST and EUREKA,

2) Support to innovation activities

In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), through the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science approximately BAM 3 million were directly allocated for the area of science and research through the contracts of financing/co-financing of science programs and projects at the public higher education and research institutions in 2014.

To support innovation in the F BIH, the FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts allocates financial resources from the Budget though the competition procedure every year. In the Public call, for selecting beneficiaries of grant funds of the Current transfers for 2014 a total of BAM 40 000 was allocated for the project Incentives for innovators - individuals.

In the Republika Srpska, the National Assembly of RS adopted the Information on the implementation of the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republika Srpska 2012-2016 , stating that the first year of implementation of this Strategy was successful, and that the gross domestic expenditure on R&D increased from 0.30% of GDP in 2011 (0.18% of GDP from business sector and 0.12% of GDP from the public sector) to 0.40% of GDP in 2012 (0.32% of GDP from business sector and 0.08% of GDP from the public sector).

# Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

With the view of implementing the Strategy for Development of Science in BiH, implementation of the Action Plan is continuous and it is being monitored in cooperation with Entity- and Cantonal institutions dealing with science. Particular efforts are undertaken in order to improve the situation in the field of research, development and innovation statistics.

Working Group for drafting new S&T Strategy of B&H was appointed.

The Law on the Academy of Sciences and Arts of the Republika Srpska was adopted in the Republika Srpska.

**3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.**

National contact points, members of the Program Committees and focal points are continuously being engaged in advisory activities on H2020, COST and EUREKA, which by the end of November 2014, resulted in 24 high quality projects applications for H2020, over 100 participations in COST actions and four EUREKA applications.

With the view of promoting the H2020, as well as other science and research initiatives, info days and other similar events are regularly organised by the Department for Science and Culture of the MCA.

FBiH Ministry of Education and Science has been involved in the following projects:

* SERCIDA - Social Sciences Data Archives
* Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation in the Western Balkans
* Qinren - Quality and Research
* CBIIP - Capacity Building of the Institute for the Intellectual Property through the Establishment of Information-educational Centres of the Institute
* PACINNO - Platform for trans-Academic Cooperation and Innovation

The FBiH Ministry of Education and Science in 2014 initiated and supported a number of projects aimed at popularising science and scientific research work in the public, especially among students.

Additionally, the Ministry was a co-organiser of the European manifestation Researchers' Night and a sponsor of scientific-popular and educational workshops, study tours and other programs nominated by student organizations. The Ministry also supported the participation of FBiH students in the prestigious international Olympiads, festivals of knowledge and other scientific- popular and competitive events.

Since October 2014, the Ministry of Science and Technology has been involved in a project Fostering Responsible Research and Innovation (http://www.rri-tools.eu/) coordinated by the Centre for the Promotion of Science in Belgrade.

In line with the strategic objective of strengthening the social awareness of the importance of the role of science and technology in social and economic development, the Ministry of Science and Technology implemented the following activities:

* Researchers’ Night within the initiative of the European Commission (Trebinje, 26 September 2014);
* Competition for the best technological innovation in 2014 (final competition is scheduled for 12 December 2014 in Istočno Sarajevo);
* Third Science Festival in Banja Luka (6-8 November 2013);
* Fourth Science Festival in Banja Luka (12-14 November 2014);

The RS Ministry of Science and Technology continued to publish the Infiniti magazine and three issues (fifth, sixth and seventh) were published in the reporting period.

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

BiH participates in the work of the NCP structure, ERAC, the SGHRM, the JRC, Helsinki Group and it appointed the members of the program committees for H2020.

So far, eleven institutions have signed the European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

EURAXESS conference Mobility Researchers Day in BiH was organized in Sarajevo in collaboration with the University of Sarajevo and the University of Banja Luka. The conference was an opportunity for researchers to be informed about the possibilities of mobility (Marie Curie actions) in the region and the EU.

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Slovenia, the Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between BiH and Slovenia approved a total of 38 projects to be financed in the two-year period.

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation with the Montenegro, the Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between BiH and Montenegro approved a total of 13 projects to be financed in the two-year period.

Bilateral S&T Agreement with Turkey signed on 20 May.

Bilateral S&T Agreement with Austria ready for signature.

**5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data**

On the basis of available statistical data the Agency for Statistics of BiH gave an overview of current state of research activities and research personnel in BiH for reference year 2012. Thus the total research and development activity expenditure in BiH in 2012 was EUR 69.6 million, or 0.27% compared to GDP.

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](http://www.wbc-inco.net)) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to [office@wbc-inco.net](mailto:office@wbc-inco.net) until December 05, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)