# European Commission

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

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

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

# Policy actions

* Preparation of **Horizon 2020 Work programmes** for 2016-2017: publication of calls before mid-October 2015.
* Provisional agreement on **European Fund for strategic investments (EFSI**): budget cut of Horizon 2020 limited to 2.2 bn (financial contribution will be adjusted accordingly in 7/2016); ERC, MSC and Widening and Spreading Excellence are not contributing to the budget cut.
* Competitiveness Council on 29 May adopted national ERA action plans to implement ERA **roadmap by mid-2016**; plans to be presented in Conference in 2016. Enlargement countries strongly encouraged to contribute.
* **European Open Science Agenda**: important issue; strategy to set framework conditions on open access data, use of data mining, common standards for inter-operability etc. to be designed.

# Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

NA

# Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

* **Accession negotiations with Serbia:** opened negotiations on Chapter 25 with bilateral meeting on 6 October and screening on 1 December 2014.
* **Workshops on technical assistance on H2020** in all WBC (and Turkey) organised by EC and service provided by PERA.
* **Meeting of Sub-Committee on Innovation** under Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Albania (November 2014); with Bosnia and Herzegovina (November 2014); the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (March 2015); Kosovo (March 2015) and Serbia (April 2015) (and Turkey in March 2015). Meeting with Montenegro postponed to September 2015.
* Meeting on all Macro-Regional strategies, notably research opportunities under Danube strategy and Adriatic and Ionian Strategy: considering actions on awareness raising on issues/calls of common interest (cultural heritage, marine sciences).

# Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

* International Cooperation is now an ERA priority (ERAC meeting of February 2015): important to follow meetings (on 9 June) of SFIC (Strategic Forum on International Cooperation) and align national strategy with EU priorities.

# Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

* First results on participation in Horizon 2020 available on E-Corda (results until 25 February 2015).

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

* Preparing EU Progress Reports on Chapter 25
* Organising Workshop in Brussels on EU acquis topic (H2020; ERA Roadmap?)
1. The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries. Please submit your report to office@danube-inco.net **until June 1, 2015**. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)