

Welcome

Steering Platform on Research for
Western Balkan Countries

What has been done since December 2012

**Presentation of recent
developments regarding S&T
cooperation in/with the WBCs**

EC/DG Research and Innovation

- Adoption of EU Common Position on Chapter 25 with Montenegro: congratulations!
- Evaluation and Negotiations of Danube.INCO.NET: bravo ZSI/Elke Dall!
- Preparations on association to H2020: procedure, conditions and support including from IPA II.
- Monitoring progress with all WBCs: further efforts on national capacity required.
- Croatia: final steps as pre-accession country and welcome as MS!

EC/Joint Research Centre

- **Main Events on Enlargement and Integration Action:**
 - 1) Study visit Ispra (IT);
 - 2) Workshop Smart Grids Gebze (TR);
 - 3) Scientific conference Istanbul (TR);
 - 4) Meeting JRC – NCPs Enlargement Countries Brussels (BE);
 - 5) Conference Research Cooperation Zagreb (HR)
- **Main Events on Scientific Support to Danube Strategy:**
 - 21-22 March – Meeting on Scientific Support to the Danube Region Ispra (IT)
 - 26 April – Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation and Transnational Cooperation for an Innovative Danube Region – Brussels
 - 16 May – High Level Event Scientific Support to the Danube Region – Bratislava
- **13 May 2013 Launch of Enlargement and Integration Action for 2014**
- **Outlook:** Study visits to JRC Institutes: Petten (NL) and Ispra (IT); Workshop on nanotechnology Braga (PT)

Albania

- **Policy actions**

Continue the implementation of reform on the scientific research system concerning to integration of research in public universities.

The implementation of Digital Albania; E- payment; M- Tax

- **Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework**

Draft of Higher Education Strategy 2014-2020

Business and Investment Development Strategy 2014-2020

Digital Albania 2014-2020

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

A lot of activities concerning to ERA are developed in Albania

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

ARTI in cooperation with Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) of Albania

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Funding programmes of the ministries responsible for research continued in 2013 with slight increase of the budget
- Statistics for B&H - end of 2013 R&D; beginning of 2015 CIS for 2013-2014 (in line with EUROSTAT requirements)
- A number of FP promotion activities: 9 info days, 6 round tables at the universities; in addition to implementation of the IPA project – „Capacity building of BiH in European RTD Programmes,, started in January
- Participation at ERAC meetings, WB EDIF, response to ERA SGHRM activities: "Researchers Report - Country Profile Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2012 and 2013

Croatia

- Action plan for development of the absorption capacity (2013-2015) for participation in FP as well as in H 2020
- Road map for H 2020 is adopted
- Insisting on creation of triangle: higher education-science-research & innovation
- Restructuring the NCP system (for Horizon 2020) with the idea to have them all in one Agency.
- Changing the system (rules and procedures) of financing the national scientific research

FYR of Macedonia

- A 40 million World Bank loan for the National Innovation Fund – support the National Innovation Strategy 2012-2020
- National Programme on Research and Innovation 2013-2017 adopted (May 2013)
- Strategy for networking, collaboration and decrease of outflow of highly educated and qualified personnel 2013- 2020 prepared
- Association to Horizon 2020
- Administrative capacities strengthened (4 employees in MES)
- National FP7 Front office in establishment
- NCP network in procedure
- “Development of the capacities of the National coordination system for Horizon 2020” IPA/TAIB/TAF
- TAIEX approved “Study visit to the National Innovation Office of the Republic of Hungary”
- TAIEX approved “ Successful preparation of project proposals for Horizon 2020”

Montenegro

- Opening and closure of Chapter 25: Science and Research on 18 December 2012
- The adoption of the Amendments to the Strategy on Scientific Research Activities, followed by the adoption of the AP
- The adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Introduction of the Scientific and Technological Park (NTP)
- Publication of the Call for proposals for the first CoE in Montenegro
- Active promotion of Marie Curie actions

Serbia

- **Delivered 12 Info Days on FP7/Horizon 2020**
- **Two new sectors in the Ministry:**
 - IPA group for R&D
 - Group for business operations (managing 5 beneficiaries of budgetary subsidies)
- **Two Legislative initiatives – adopted:**
 - Changes and Amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights
 - Changes and Amendments to the Trademark Law
- Meeting in Belgrade (April 2013) **”Draft of the Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation in the Western Balkans”**
- **”Training Workshop on Smart Specialization for South East European countries”**, 11-12 April 2013, Belgrade
- **Prime Minister** opened the ceremony **”Promotion of the Centre for Materials and Nanoscience”**, 29. April 2013, Belgrade
- **After 15 years Ministry presented R&D project results by 60 institutions** at **”International fair of technique and technical achievements in Belgrade”**, 13-17 May 2013
- **”The best technological innovation competition 2013”**, managed by the Ministry, In progress

Austria

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

- Steering Group of Priority Area 7 „Knowledge Society“
- SG PA7 Working Group “DRRIF” (Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund)
- Danube Region INCO.NET

Czech Republic

Two current possibilities to cooperate with WBC:

- To add, include the contacts of universities and research institutions from WBC into the new developing [partner Czech Search Database version 190413 http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Partner_search/190413_253981564483](http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Partner_search/190413_253981564483) (Partner search: Tools and advice for finding partners for cooperation within the EEA/Norway Grants research programmes - between Norway and Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czech Republic, Latvia and Estonia.)
- Cooperation Under the structural funds-in the new or current developing infrastructures.

France

- France : discussion within the Parliament of the new Bill of orientation for HE & R.
- WBC : Scholarships for master and Phd's students started or new call launched.
- Start of the projects within „Cogito“ program with Croatia, and launch of the call for projects within the „Pavle Savic“ program with Serbia.
- New LIA between CNRS/univ of Split on nanosciences
- Seminars, High School in Sarajevo and promotion of science (DNA Day, Exhibition on Marie SKlodowska Curie) in Serbia.

Germany

- “Regional Call for Proposals” of BMBF until December 31, 2013; research cooperation with partners from SEE countries
- Call “Ideas competition for the establishment and development of innovative R&D networks with partners in the Danube States” of BMBF launched on February 21, 2013; encourages stronger links between countries upstream and downstream the Danube; contributes to EU Strategy for the Danube region; 67 project outlines submitted by April 30, 2013
- BMBF provides follow up of Ministerial Conference of the Danube Countries in July 2012 in Ulm, Germany, and organises regular meetings of a Working Group
- BMBF funds German scientists in projects with their WBC partners in five research projects within the SEE-ERA.NET PLUS Joint Call
- BMBF and DLR/International Bureau are actively engaged in WBC-INCO.NET

Greece

- Activities in WBC-INCO.NET

Hungary

- 5-6 February, 2013 – **Official NIH visit to Montenegro: Implementing the agreement** between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of Hungary **on scientific and technological cooperation** signed on 25 September 2012 in Podgorica.
- 4 December, 2012 - **The Hungarian-Serbian Joint Economic Committee meeting** in Budapest.
- 19 February, 2013 - **The Hungarian-Macedonian Joint Economic Committee meeting** in Budapest.
- 23-24 May, 2013 – **The Hungarian – Bosnian-Herzegovinian Joint Economic Committee meeting** in Sarajevo.

Ireland

Kosovo*

- The Law on Scientific Research was revised during 2012/2013 and adopted in Parliament in 2013;
- The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) is during 2013 amending the Higher Education Law;
- MEST in cooperation with ministry of Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Economic Development and in consultation with other stakeholders drafted the National Innovations Strategy 2013-2020, with support of OECD and funds of European Commission;
- During 14-17 May 2013 the Regional/international Conference “The Science Week” was held supported and organized by MEST, with participation of around 500 scientists from Kosovo* and countries from region

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Lithuania

- Agreements with Western Balkan Countries in the Fields of Education, Science, Culture and Sports and on the Promotion and Protection of Investments have been signed with:
 - the Republic of Albania
 - the Republic of Croatia
 - the Republic of Slovenia
- Quotas for students who want to study the Lithuanian language have been established
 - in 2011-2013, four students from Slovenia, Serbia and FYR of Macedonia received grants to study the Lithuanian language at summer school

Poland

- Support of EU-related aspirations of the Western Balkans/ State visit of the Polish President to Croatia, 13-14 May 2013
- First RSI (FP7) guarantee agreement in Poland for innovative SMEs (27 May 2013) – Bank Pekao ready to share experience with WBC banks
- Successfully implemented a pioneer in Europe educational/training network on RM&A (Feb. 2013) – PL ready to share experience
- Montenegro - Agreement on cooperation in culture, education and science (signed on 26 October 2012) in January submitted for final approval
- Ongoing legislative work on the renewed/ new bilateral cooperation agreements in culture, education and science with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia

Slovenia

- Programs for S&T cooperation with WBC are in process of realization; with Bosnia nad Herzegovina – 28 projects, Croatia – 46, FYR of Macedonia – 13, Montenegro – 24 and Serbia – 50.
- Joint Board meetings with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia are planing to be held at the end of 2013.

Switzerland

- New programme phase SCOPES 2013-2016 (Scientific co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland)
- One call for JRP (currently open, deadline: 20.9.2013, another call for IP (will be launched in spring 2014)
- Bi- and multilateral partnerships with Swiss research partners (= project co-ordinators)
- Thematically open
- <http://www.snf.ch/E/international/europe/scopes/Pages/default.aspx>

Turkey

- High level ministerial visits and meetings between Turkey and Montenegro; and between Turkey and Macedonia (FYROM).
- “Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the **Government of Montenegro**” signed, 12 April 2012.
- “Protocol on Cooperation in Science and Technology between The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and **Ministry of Science of Montenegro**” signed, 12 April 2012.
- “Protocol on Cooperation in Science and Technology between The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and **Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts**” signed, 12 April 2012.

OECD

SEE-ERA.NET PLUS



- 23 funded JERPs (projects), 97 funded coordinators and partners
- Joint Call Secretariat at DLR (call administration)
- Monitoring: collection of data from JERP partners
⇒ 3 project reports delivered, 4th at end of project;
- Centralised monitoring of spent budget (~ “audit”);
- Last instalments to JERPs after approval of spending;
 - unspent funds by JERPS reach ~ 1-3% differing share per country;
- Assessing outputs and scientific results with assistance of 23 coordinators
- SEE-ERA.NET PLUS prolongation 6 months until July 2013;
- Final reporting to EC 09/2013.

SEE-ERA.NET PLUS



Joint activity with WBC-INCO.NET project:

⇒ use JERP results for wbc-inco.net innovation activities

Workshop “How to commercialise research results in the Western Balkans?”, Novi Sad, May 22-24, 2013

- Aim: Discuss link research – industry, support to commercialisation, foster communication and networking
- Presentations of JERP results, experiences in research-industry cooperation, barriers and opportunities
- Presentations by external experts (IPR, standardisation, funding possibilities, support structures)
- Back-to-back to the 80th International Agricultural Fair, matchmaking event for networking



Workshop on May 23-24, 2013:

How to commercialise research results in the WBC?

in the Institute of Food Technology, University of Novi Sad



WBC-INCO.NET

- More information on H2020: all info was submitted via WBC.INCO.NET website
- [Training Workshop on Smart Specialisation for South East European countries](#) (Belgrade, April 11-12, 2013)
- [\[Event Review\] WBC-INCO.NET Regional Dialogue Meeting focused on Association to Horizon 2020](#) (Vienna, April 8-10, 2013)
- [\[Event review\] WBC-INCO.NET at the first meeting on Research, Development and Innovation dimension of SEE 2020 strategy](#) Vienna, April 8-10, 2013)
- [\[Event review\] Representatives of WBC-INCO.NET and "WB Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation" technical assistance project met in Vienna](#) Vienna, April 8-10, 2013)
- [Second review meeting on innovation good practice examples - development of adaptation schemes](#) (Skopje, April 23-24, 2013)
- [Workshop "Commercialisation of research results in the WBC"](#) (Novi Sad, May 22-24, 2013)