

**Research & Innovation Policy Mix Peer Reviews  
(PMPR) in BiH and Serbia  
organised within the  
Danube INCO-NET project**

Podgorica, 12 June 2017

# Danube INCO-NET project

<https://danube-inco.net/>

**Coordination and Support Action** for International Cooperation in Research and Innovation

- Support to the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** (EUSDR) on STI issues
- 19 Partners from EU MS and the DR countries
- EU FP7 funded January 2014 – June 2017
- R&I PMPR (Policy mix peer review) is only **one** of the activities implemented
- R&I PMPR **followed the request from the countries**



# R&I PMPR working mode

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

- 19-23 October 2015
- 3 different locations: Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar
- 42 interviews (incl. interviews in parallel and focus group interviews) with R&I stakeholders from state, entity and cantonal levels

## Serbia

- 26-30 September 2016
- 2 different locations: Belgrade and Novi Sad
- 31 interviews with 38 individuals from all major stakeholder groups (government, academia, business and intermediary organisations providing special innovation services)

## Followed by:

- Clarification rounds
- Presentations of the recommendations

# Review Team

Lajos Nyiri	Team Leader	Hungary	ZINNIA Group
Genovese Michele	Peer	Italy	APRE - Agency for the Promotion of European Research
Ülle Must	Peer	Estonia	Estonian Research Council
Adrian Pascu	Peer	Romania	National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation
Svend Otto Remøe	Peer	Norway	Research Council of Norway
Jean-Luc Clément	Peer	France	Ministry for Education and Research
Virág Zsár (BiH) Tekla Gaál (Serbia)	Rapporteur	Hungary	RCISD





# Changes in BiH and Serbia should focus on the following general objectives

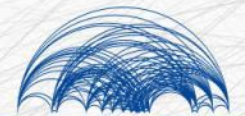
Improve human capacity (focus on young scientists and start-uppers)  
Key criteria for selection: internationalisation and contribution to local growth

Encourage businesses to increase demands for RTDI  
Tax incentives, public procurement policy, strengthening linkages between industry and academia

Quality as prime criteria in all public decision making  
In policy design, funding, promotion of university professors, etc.

Increase private and public funding of RTDI

# **R&I Policy Mix Peer Review Bosnia and Herzegovina**



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# Specific objective #1 / actions (only examples)

**Quality  
development,  
capacity building &  
priority setting**

Performance-based  
quality system

Strengthening  
demand side of  
innovation

- Create new support schemes for young researchers (training abroad, etc.)
- Create accreditation and evaluation standards obligatory at each level of governance
- Develop research infrastructure
- Foster research groups of international excellence and local relevance
- Develop a policy to capitalise the research diaspora (e.g. financial incentives for PhDs returning from abroad)
- Introduce new tax incentives to facilitate companies' RTDI activities
- Facilitate financial institutes to set up venture and seed capital funds

# Specific objective #2 / actions (only examples)

## Professionalism & dialogue in policy making and governance

### Institutional development

- Improve networking capacities of relevant ministries – set up an institutionalised system of innovation policy coordination
- Review the present distribution of responsibilities and competences
- Broaden the scope of responsibilities of the Research Councils toward innovation

### Learning capacity building

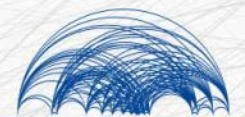
- Introduce a wide range of policy tools and methods
- Institutionalise the regular dialogue with stakeholders
- Make a thorough evaluation of how funds from international sources are channelled and spent – set up an international evaluation group with the agreement of major donors

### Funding

- Greater focus and concentration of funding by priority setting
- Concentrate available resources – a drastic scale change is suggested in favour of state level



# R&I Policy Mix Peer Review Serbia



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# Recommendations (1)

## Strengthening the demand side of innovation

- Explore a wide mix of tools for science-industry relations: A coherent framework
- Differentiate between existing industry and start-ups/commercialization from R&D: Support tech upgrading and strategic development in existing industry
- Encourage partnerships with financial institutions to facilitate venture capital, seed funds etc.



# Recommendations (2)

## Performance-based reforms in STI

- A national programme for evaluation and monitoring
- Continued support for infrastructure in line with ESFRI approach, joint labs between universities/institutes
- Reform of the PRO system
- A new Centre of excellence (CoE) programme
- A dedicated programme to attract diaspora to research management and innovation

# Recommendations (3)

## Funding

- Clear thematic/strategic priorities and corresponding national R&I programmes
- A better funding policy with a mix of basic, strategic and competitive funding
- Guarantee funding for projects with a «seal of excellence from H2020 ++



# Recommendations (4)

## Institutional development

- Broader mandate for the National S&T council
- Invest in a STI Observatory/STI analysis for policy
- Strengthen R&D section in MESTD and develop effective inter-ministerial coordination platforms
- Abolish registration system in MESTD