

# Western Balkans Mobility Programme (WB – MP)

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# How it all began

- Steering platform meeting in Sarajevo in 2016
- Working group with a task of drafting a mobility programme for Western Balkan countries was gathered /volunteered
- Two meetings (Belgrade/Vienna), several skype meetings, on line group, countless e-mails
- Result: mobility **programme shaped for WBC based** on principle of **excellence** and guided by the idea of the best EU mobility programme - **MSCA**

# Background

- basis for economic growth is strong research system capable of knowledge and technology transfer and competitive human resources both in research higher education system and business sector
- WBC has low participation in H2020 programme, low national R&D&I investment and not competitive enough research teams and low visibility in ERA
- What is need – **increase of R&D&I investment at national level and strengthen the administrative capacity** to ensure increase of participation in international consortia and visibility of national research system in ERA

# **EC common recommendation for all six countries**

- Increase investments in research and innovation (public and private)
- Strengthen research and innovation capacity
- Increase participation in European Research Area
- Modernise organisation of R&D&I in line with ERA and IU
- Stimulate the cooperation between industry and academia

# Objectives of the programme

## Overall Objective

- the programme is developed for researchers who have a potential to become future leaders in their research communities, who focused on sharing knowledge in international surrounding and are willing to work in highly competitive research environments.

## Long Term Objective

- is to create better research environment in the Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, Serbia) with stimulating effect on brain circulation and quality of research system.

\* 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.

# Specific objectives of the programme

- Create the necessary boost to improve the quality of research and create better conditions for research excellence;
- Improve the cooperation between the researchers in the Region and create better conditions for integration into the European research area;
- Support the scientific diaspora and enable better circulation of knowledge between research diaspora and researchers from Western Balkan countries;
- Increase the mobility of researchers in the Western Balkan region with special emphasis on young researchers and researchers with career brake in order to create better surrounding for the development of their research careers;
- Stimulate human capacity building in the research organisations in Western Balkan countries.

# Three mobility schemes

- ***First mobility scheme*** - focused on forming the **international research teams** which will include from min. three to max. fifteen researchers **from one or more Western Balkan countries and at least one researcher from any European country** who will act as a team leader and advise, mentor and ensure support to the formed research team thus connecting outstanding researchers from the region and strengthening the overall quality of the research systems in Western Balkan countries.
- The **aim** is to **set up or improve international joint projects**
- **Duration** = **24 months**.
- Research teams will be awarded with the **grant**
- **Eligible cost category** - research costs, living allowance and travel and mobility costs

- ***Second mobility scheme*** - focused on **individual researchers from EU member state working in the WBC forming their research team with the scientist from the WB region.**
- The **aim** is to connect the researchers from EU member state with researchers from WB countries thus creating international networks of researchers and contributing to the creation of more equal opportunities for the researchers from different EU regions.
- **Duration = 24 months.**
- Research teams will be awarded with the **grant**
- **Eligible cost category** - research costs, living allowance and travel and mobility costs



- *Third mobility scheme* - **individual researcher** from Western Balkan region works in international surrounding in one of the institution in European country.
- **Duration** = 12 months with **mandatory return phase to at least one of the countries in the region** in duration of 12 months.
- Applicants must be the outstanding researchers from the Region who want to initiate and establish cooperation with an outstanding researcher from EU member state.
- Researcher has to be recruited under the employment contract or other direct contract with equivalent benefits.
- Prerequisite for application to this scheme is firm guarantee of the future cooperation between researcher from the Region and his/her mentor from the European country. Both researchers should have previous experience as research project manager and should demonstrate the ability to lead a research team.

# Financial management

- WBC MP covers categories of costs for living allowance, mobility and travel costs and minimal research cost.
- Financial contribution is calculated on the basis of unit costs used in H2020 programme and it could be topped up by the host organisation if necessary.
- Minimal monthly budget for the researcher cannot be below 3675 euro. This budget should include all cost categories.

# Budget and indicators

	Per research team	Per researcher/ month	Per researcher / year	No of projects/ No of researchers	TOTAL in mil. €
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Scheme</b>	150.000 – 300.000	na	na	10/ 200	15
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Scheme</b>	na	3675	44.100 – 88.200	60	17
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Scheme</b>	na	3675	44.100 – 88.200	20	3
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>35.000.000</b>

## Thank you for your attention

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