

Update from Western Balkan
countries

Status of Economic Reform
Programme measures

Research and Innovation

Albania

Albanian main official documents on the approval of National Economic Reform are as follow:

- Decision of Council of Ministers Nr 71 dated 28.01.2015 On the approval of National Economic Reform Program –NERP 2015-2017 (Official Journal Nr 10, Year 2015)
- Decision of Council of Ministers Nr 52 dated 27.01.2016 On the approval of National Economic Reform Program –NERP 2016-2018 (Official Journal Nr 12, Year 2016)

Albania NERP 2015-2017; 2016-2018

RESEARCH

- DCM No 989 dated 09.12.2015 On the establishment, functioning, duration and fees of the members of **The Council of Higher Education and Research CHER** (Official Journal Nr 218, Year 2015, Page 14392)
- Law Nr 16/2016 dated 10.03.2016 On the ratification of the agreement on the establishment of **Western Balkan Center for Scientific Research and Innovation –WISE** (Official Journal Nr 47, Year 2016, Page 8434)
- Executive Order Nr 278 dated 01.06.2016 Ministry of Education and Sport On the establishment of Working Group **to Draft Law on Science & Technological Development**

RESEARCH

- Executive Order Nr 277 of Minister of Education and Sport dated 01.06.2016 On the establishment of Working Group on Policy Paper(White Paper):Reform of Institutional Framework of National Research System
- Executive Order Nr 276 of Minister of Education and Sport dated 01.06.2016 On the establishment of Working Group to **Draft National Strategy on Research, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022**. Working Group who drafted the **National Strategy on Research, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022** based on Executive Order Nr 276 of Minister of Education and Sport dated 01.06.2016 organized five thematic open forums from June – December 2016 with representatives of different research stakeholder institutions. The consultation process was relied upon the legal provisions promulgated from Law Nr 119/2014 dated 18.09.2014 On the information right and public consultation

RESEARCH

- DCM Nr 527 dated 20.07.2016 On the approval of **National Strategy of Intellectual Property and Copyrights 2016-2020** (Official Journal Nr 140, Year 206, Page 2213)
- DCM No 607 dated 31.08.2016 On the establishment, structure and functioning of **National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation -NASRI**(Official Journal Nr 166, Year 2016, 20205 Page)
- Executive Order of Prime Minister No. 1, date 10.01.2017 On the approval of **Action plan 2017-2021 “Support the development of innovative policies based on Triple Helix approach”** based on recommendation of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) programme for South East Europe,
- At the framework of DCM Nr 527 dated 20.07.2016 **On the approval of National Strategy of Intellectual Property and Copyrights 2016-2020 (Official Journal Nr 140, Year 206, Page 2213)** a set of activities of Action Plan are foreseen amongst General Directorate of Patents and Marks , and National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation – NASRI to revise framework for Intellectual property rights legislation and management in favour of research-industry co-operation based on evaluation activities

INNOVATION& BUSINESS

- DCM Nr 284 dated 01.04.2015 On the approval of Inter-Sectorial Strategy “ Albanian Digital Agenda 2015-2020 (Official Journal Nr 56., Year 2015, Page 2441)
- DCM No 294 dated 08.04.2015 On the establishment of **Investment Council -IC** (Official Journal Nr 58, Year 2015, Page 3932)
- **Law 54-2015 dated 28.05.2015 On some amendments and changes to Law Nr 789 dated 19.07.2007 On the establishment and functioning of Economic Area). Through its amendments the definitions Economic Area`, Industrial Parch and Duty Free Area were replaced with the an unique term Area of Technological and Economic Development – ATED which make possible the legal framework for technological parch, etch (Official Journal Nr 105, Year 2015, Page 5663)**

INNOVATION & BUSINESS

- Decision of Regional Development Committee Nr 12 dated 10.03.2016 On the launch of the First Call of Proposal for 2016 to fund the projects through the **grant” Digital Albania “**, part **the third Pillar component “ Digital Albania”** of National Regional Development Programme(Official Journal Nr 41, Year 2016, Page 2929)
- Decision of Regional Development Committee Nr 26 dated 20.05.2016 On the allocation of funds for First Call of Proposals of the Programme & Grant “ **Digital Albania”**, part of the III-rd Pillar of National Regional Development Programme (Official Journal Nr 87, Year 2016, Page 5009).
- DCM No 580 dated 03.08.2016 On the establishment of **Programme for Economy Support** and defining the beneficiaries and rules for its implementation(Official Journal 153, Viti 2016,Pge 11818)
- DCM No 580 dated 03.08.2016 On the approval of the **Investment Policy Guideline of Albania government** (Official Journal 153, Viti 2016,Page 11816)

INNOVATION & BUSINESS

On **2016 establishment of The Innovation HUB Tirana** was supported by the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration (MIAP) together with two major partners, the Barleti Institute for Research and Development (BIRD) and Partners Albania (PA), in the framework of Italian – Albanian Debt for Development Swap Program (IADSA).

Its objective is to promote and support the social inclusion and sustainable employment programmes for young people by enhancing their active involvement both in the ICT entrepreneurship, as well as in creative, innovative and competitive actions through capacity building, partnership development and growth of entrepreneurial activity, start-ups and SMEs.

The Innovation HUB intends to change the actual situation by creating an incubator with the goal to enable the innovation community to develop market accepted ideas that have scalable commercial potential by fostering collaboration among the SMEs and ICT innovative people and by introducing business and financing expertise to through training, coaching, and pitching.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The policy recommendations

- increasing public investment,
- spending on public employment,-
- improving the targeting of social assistance and strengthening the capacity to manage public debt.
- The authorities committed themselves to improve statistical reporting, develop a comprehensive strategy for resolving bad loans of banks and strengthen the financial system.

The authorities agreed to set up a common economic space

- to coordinate better between the state government and entities governments.
- to adopt country-wide strategies for transport and energy,
- to strengthen the employment services,
- to develop skills needed by local enterprises

Kosovo*

(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.)

I.

- Annual public investments in research and innovation 4.8 M. (0.28% of annual budget or 0.1 of GDP). No private investments in research and innovation;
- Activities of Smart Specialization platform;
- MEST has financed in small research and innovation projects:
 - 22 projects (2016-2017),
 - 120 motilities od scientists,
 - 150 publications (domestic and international),
 - 60 doctoral grants.
- Drafting of the new law for innovation and TT (in government procedures)

II.

- Innovation National Strategy (in governmental procedures);
- Administrative instruction on licensing of scientific journals;
- International cooperation:
 - USAID (Center for research in UP (approx. 10 million for 4 year));
 - HERAS (Austrian- Kosovo* joint project (approx. 4 million for three year))
 - Research small projects,
 - Doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships,
 - Council for ethics.
 - Mobilities.

III.

- **Participation in H2020**
 - Participation in 12 ongoing projects.
 - Part of 36 eligible applications.
- **Bilateral agreements**
 - Turkey,
 - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 - Albania

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Research and innovation policy areas of the Economic reform program

- Ministry of finance is responsible institution for coordination of whole process of preparation on the Economic reform programs.
- MoES is responsible for education and research and innovation policy, 3 members has been nominated at national working group.
- Deadline for submission of the ERP 2018-2020 is January 2018

Research and innovation policy in ERP covers

- Better Access to finance for the companies –in this regard we are planning to establish Fund for Equity and Mezzanine Investments
- Support Trip helix through Establishing and functionality of National Office for Technology Transfer
- Funding mechanisms of the Fond for innovation

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE

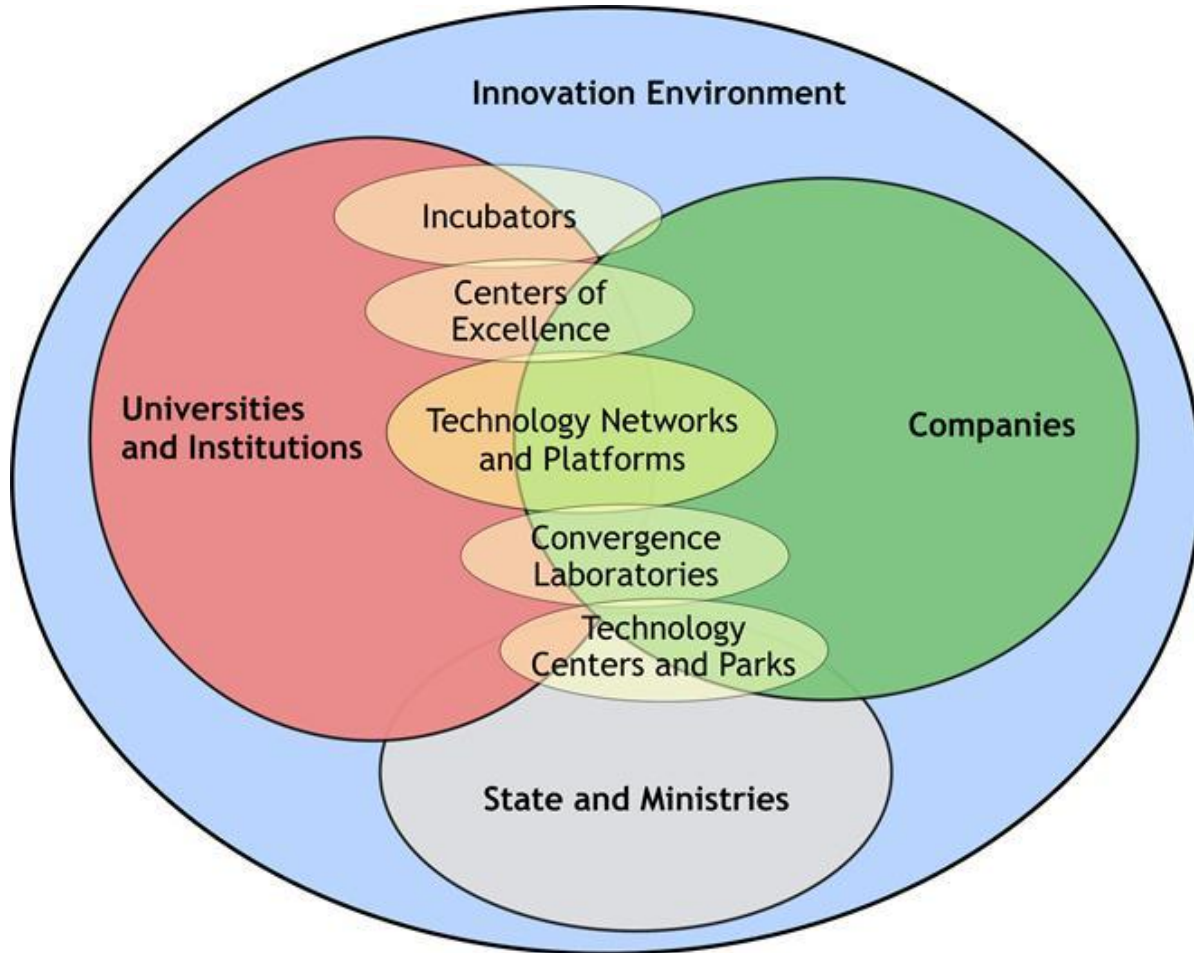
- Split, Technology Transfer Workshop (14.09.2016)
- Establishing of the National Technology Transfer Office (NTTO) is ongoing, (final phase), MoES coordinates all activities
- NTTO will be established on national level, should meet the needs for all universities
- NTTO will be funded by the World Bank project for skills and innovation

Fond for innovation will be emphasized to

- Redesign of TT instrument of support, the new instrument will be technology extension instead of technology transfer
- Launching of the support instrument for business-technology accelerators
- Enhancing Technical Assistance for the companies
- Awareness raising activities

Montenegro

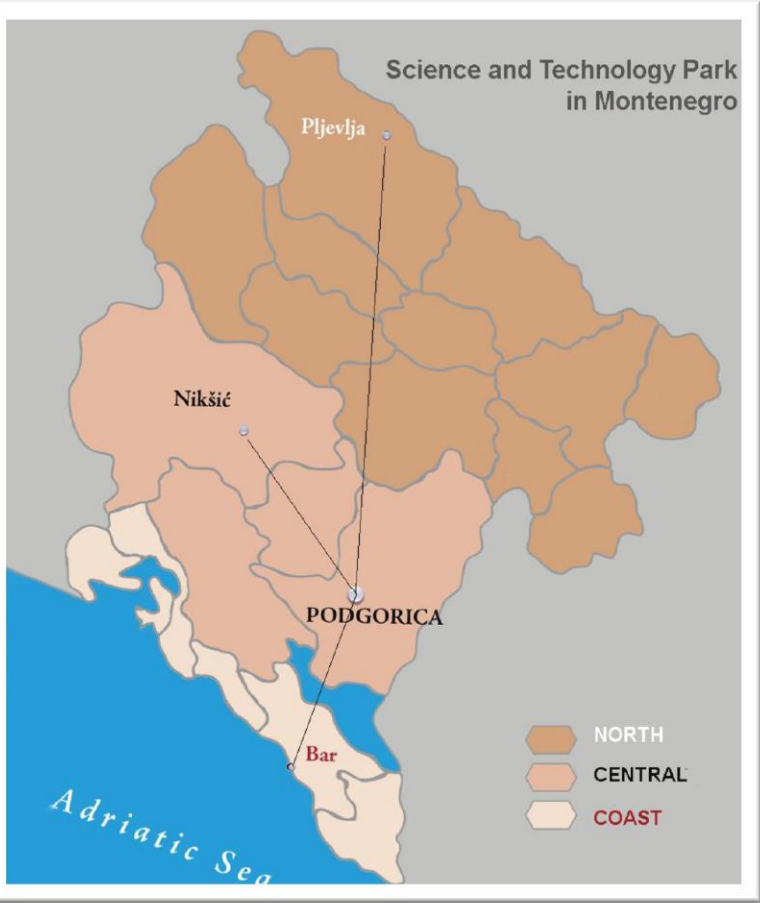
Triple Helix model



Priority reform measure No. 15: Establishment of the Science and Technology Park (STP) in Podgorica

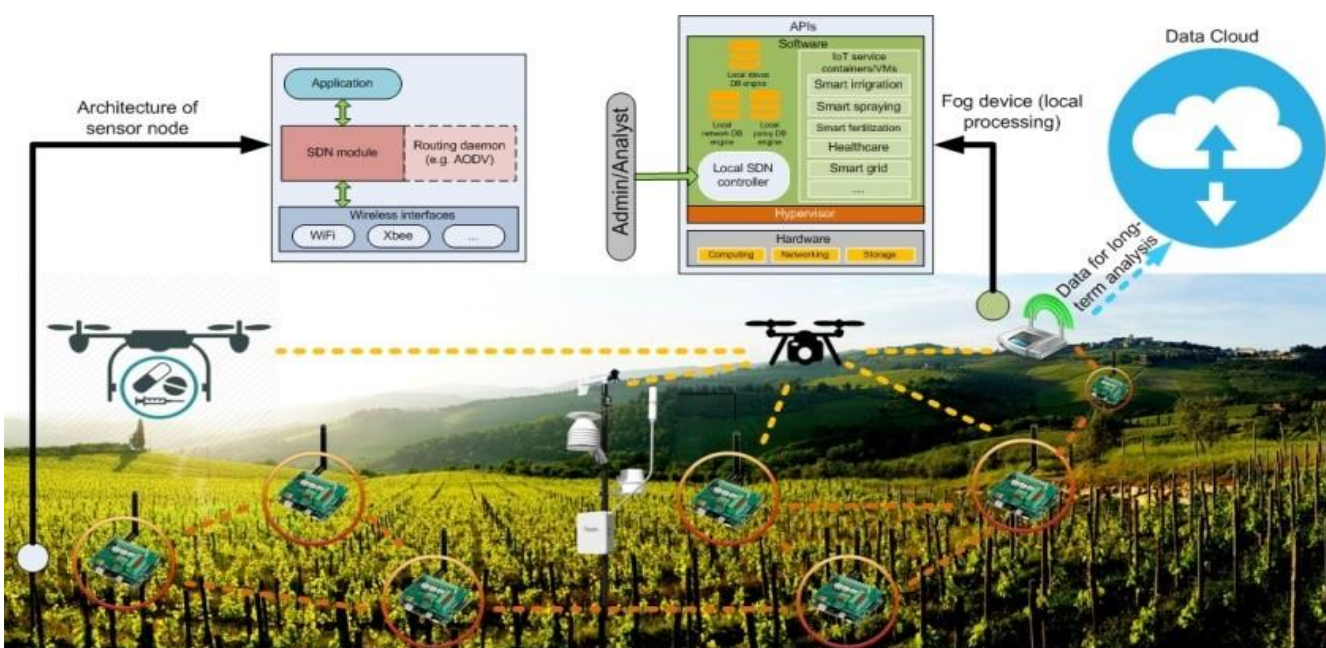
This measure is connected with the implementation of:

- the Strategy of Innovation Activity 2016-2020,
- Industrial Policy of Montenegro until 2020,
- Montenegro Developments Directions 2015-2018 and
- South East Europe 2020 Strategy.





<http://www.bio-ict.ac.me/>



Project partners



Faculty of Electrical Engineering,
University of Montenegro



Biotechnical faculty, University of
Montenegro



Institute for Marine Biology, University
of Montenegro



The Institute of Public Health of
Montenegro



Cogi DOO



Green House Jovović DOO



St. Petersburg Scientific Research
Center for Ecological Safety



The Centre for TeleInfrastruktura,
Denmark

Serbia

Priority structural reform 11. PROGRAMME SUPPORTING INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

The reform implies:

- Support for **innovation and technological development projects** in scientific and research organisations and the private sector;
- The **establishment of a technology transfer system**;
- Implementation of **joint projects** by public scientific and research organisations and private companies;
- Financing **innovation projects in the private sector** through the Innovation Fund;
- In addition to that **independent international evaluation of Serbian public research and development institutes** will be conducted in the course of 2017/2018, to enhance their **efficiency** and **capacities for collaboration with the private sector** through technological projects.

Status/Implementation

- The agreement on a direct grant for the implementation of the **collaborative research grant scheme** (Program of collaboration between science and the industry) has been signed under IPA 2013, a public announcement has been published (2016); assessment of received applications by international reviews, decision on the shortlist and adoption of the final decision on financing by an international independent expert commission have been done by the end of 2016. The IF granted 14 best projects (out of 96) by total amount of EUR 3 million (MESTD is investing 1 mill out of 3) which implementation started in 2017.
- IF published on June 1, 2017 public calls for the **Programme of Early Development and the Programme of Co-Financing** within the Competitiveness & Jobs project in which the MESTD is investing EUR 2.7 million in 2017,
- The implementation of projects selected within the **Programme of Research in Technological Development by the MESTD** – ongoing
- The **establishment and implementation of service lines for technology transfer** in the Technology Transfer Facility – ongoing (MESTD is investing EUR 0.9 mil in 2017)
- The **Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specializations of the Republic of Serbia (RIS3)** is also being developed in parallel, with the interministerial working committee (IWC) formed and already having drafted the first working version of the roadmap for the development of the Strategy. Thus, Serbia is the first non-EU member state that has begun the process of designing smart specialization at the national level.