



WESTERN BALKANS

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MEETING

Skopje - 21-22 March 2018

ДОБРЕДОЈДОВТЕ!

WELCOME!



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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MEETING**

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Towards Steering Platform meeting 2018

Update from the Western Balkan 6

Albania

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE CHANGES ON R&I IN ALBANIA

Research & Innovation Policy – Making Institutions - RPMI

- Ministry of Education and Sport (2013-2017) since October 2017 has been renamed as Ministry of Education , Sport and Youth- MESY,
http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2017/PDF-2017/166-2017.pdf
- Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration(2013-2017) is dissolved in September 2017 and merged with Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MIE) and National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI),
http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2017/PDF-2017/166-2017.pdf
http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2017/PDF-2017/209-2017.pdf
- Council of Higher Education and Research CHER established (2015),
http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2015/PDF-2015/218-2015.pdf
- Parliamentary Commission on Education and Media (PCEM) established (Sep. 2017)
- General Directory of Patents and Marks (GDPM) has been renamed as General Directory of Industrial Property (GDIP) (2017),
http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2017/PDF-2017/43-2017.pdf

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE CHANGES ON R&I IN ALBANIA

Research & Innovation Funding Institutions (RIFI)

- National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation – NASRI (former ARTI) established (2016)
- http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/166-2016.pdf
- National Agency for Investment and Development- AIDA established (2010)
- http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2010/PDF-2010/75-2010.pdf
- National Agency for Funding Higher Education Institution – AKFAL established (2017)
http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2017/PDF-2017/106-2017.pdf

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE CHANGES ON R&I IN ALBANIA

Research & Innovation Performing Institutions - RPI

- 15 public universities (6 are located in different cities of Albania Durres, Elbasan, Vlore, Shkoder, Gjirokaster, Vlore, Korce)
- 20 non-public universities
- 20 center and research institutions under different ministries
- Total: 55
- Albania also has 50 NGO registered with the status of Think-Tank mostly focused on social sciences research activities
- At National Business Center – NBC in Albania: 180,000 business units registered but more than 90 % are SMEs with less than five employees. However the direct contribution of business sector in investment on research remains low

- Executive Order of Prime Minister No. 1 (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 OECD Programme for SEE
- National Strategy for Research , Technology and Innovation 2017-2022, http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2017/PDF-2017/215-2017.pdf

Other Research & Innovation Related Strategies

- National Strategy of Intellectual Property and Copyrights 2016-2020
http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2016/PDF-2016/140-2016.pdf
- Inter-Sectorial Strategy “ Albanian Digital Agenda 2015-2020”
http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2015/PDF-2015/56-2015.pdf

R&I BUDGET

National Funding Instruments

- National Research Grant – managed by NASRI to fund
 - A) Projects for Research and Development on competitive basis
 - B) Bilateral Scientific Cooperation Projects
- Budget allocated for 2018 : 900,000 EURO
- Start Up Fund – managed by AIDA
- Innovation Fund- managed by AIDA
- Voucher Scheme-managed by AIDA
- Budget allocated for 2018 : 600,000 EURO

International Funding Instruments

- The Project “**Improving the innovative eco-system and boost start-ups creation**” is expected to start in Albania which will be funded with 6 million EURO under IPA II 2017 component: Competiveness * & Innovation , It will be managed by GIZ and SIDA and aims to support the establishment of a multi-location facility for Fabrication Laboratoy type incubator, a new financing programme for the most innovative start-ups, including early-stage and women-led enterprises as well as promoting better links between academia, industry and government for the development of innovation policies based on Triple Helix approach
- Albania’s research community is benefiting by the implementing of the Project :**Capacity building for Technology Transfer in Western Balkans** (January 2017- December 2019) which is funded by EU-DG NEAR with technical support of JRC and led by a EY, Inno, Mitto Technology . The project aims to support and strengthen the technology transfer and innovation ecosystem

RECENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON R&I

- Establishment of Inter institutional Center of Albania Academic Network – RASH (2018),
- http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2018/PDF-2018/22-2018.pdf
- Model of financing of public Higher Education and Research Institutions (2018),
- http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2018/PDF-2018/22-2018.pdf
- Definition of criteria to award the PHD degree and state standards to gain academic title Ass.Prof and Prof.Dr. (2018),
- http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2018/PDF-2018/27-2018.pdf
- Dtatus and special treatment of academic staff (2017),
- http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2017/PDF-2017/83-2017.pdf

RESEARCH STATISTICS & INFRASTRUCTURE

- The establishment of Working Group on ACRIS o-line platform (Albania Current Research Information System) is on going to design a software-based on-line platform on principles of EuroCRIS and CERIF (Current European Research Information Framework) which is considered as first step toward Open Access & Open Science approach and a comprehensive information system on research activities in Albania and process of evaluation
- National Scientific Research and Innovation – NASRI has submitted a project to PERFORM program to conduct a National Inventory on Research Infrastructure within 2018 according to “to “door to door approach” as a first stage towards National RoadMap on Research Infrastructure according ESFRI principles

ALBANIA AND HORIZON 2020

- 2014-2017 Albania has submitted 300 applications and has raised 2 million EURO
- National Agency for Scientific Research – NASRI act as National Contact Point –NCP for H2020 and manage the process of information, promotion and capacity building on H2020

REGIONAL COOPERATION ON R&I

Western Balkan Center for Scientific Research and Innovation – WISE

- Albania has expressed its own interest and commitment to contribute at Western Balkan Center for Scientific Research and Innovation – WISE based in Split (ratification of agreement 2016)

Multi Year Annual Action Plan- Regional Economic Area : Component III. Mobility

- Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth- MASR and National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation- NASR are part of Working Thematic Group established in Albania to implement the Multi-annual Action Plan on a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP), prepared by the RCC, at the Berlin Process summit on 12 July 2017, in Trieste, Italy
- The MAP stems from the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) and South East Europe 2020 Strategy (SEE2020) and is based on CEFTA and EU rules and principles as reflected in the Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAAs)
- Amongst four components of REA 1.Trade 2.Investment, 3.Mobility and 4.Digital Integration, Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth- MASR and National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation- NASRI putting efforts on III.1 Mobility of Researchers <https://www.rcc.int/docs/383/multi-annual-action-plan-for-a-regional-economic-area-in-the-western-balkans-six>

REGIONAL COOPERATION ON R&I

South-East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies - SEEIIST

- Albania has supported the initiative for establishment of the International Institute for Sustainable Technologies in the Balkans with the mission of “Science for Peace, undertaken by Minister of Science of Montenegro Sanja Darmanović.

Central Eastern Exchange Programme of European Studies - CEPPUS III

- Albania has expressed its commitment to continue the implementation of CEPPUS III Executive Order Nr. 4 of Minister of Education, Sports and Youth (Feb. 2018) For implementation of Central European Exchange Programme of University Studies – CEPPUS III in the Republic of Albania, http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2018/PDF-2018/25-2018.pdf

Western Balkan Steering Platform on Research and Innovation

Western Balkan Platform on Education and Training

- Albania is active member of both platforms from the beginning

REGIONAL COOPERATION ON R&I

RCC Working Group on Open Science – WGOS

- Currently Albania has designated the NPR for Open Access and is working to meet other requirements ,
https://www.rcc.int/working_groups/30/working-group-on-open-science

JSC-Joint Science Conference of Berlin Process

- Through Academy of Science Albania has participated at Berlin Process – Joint Science Conference which is lead by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina as part of science diplomacy which has brought together key national stakeholders of the science and education systems in a newly established platform,
<http://www.leopoldina.org/en/events/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Competitiveness affected by (inter alia):

- Low RDI potential
- Low R&I investments - 0,30% GDP
- Very few workers employed in R&I - 0,09%
- Lack of innovative capacities in private sector
- Poor links between academia and industry
- Outdated and inadequate RIs
- Measures planned by individual sub-state levels

Update I

- Policy Mix Review (as part of Danube-INCO.net)
- Revised Strategy for the Development of Science in BiH 2017-22 (STI) – adopted
- Strategy for the Scientific Development of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2017-2027 – in the process
- Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Srpska 2017-2021 “Knowledge for Development” – adopted

Update II

- Council for Science of BiH operational
- Conference of Ministers responsible for Science planned
- Annual Award for Science awarded – woman researcher
- 25 Horizon 2020 projects – total amount of 3 Mil+ Euro
- ERAC, ESFRI, SFIC, JRC, SGHRM, all Programme Committee configurations, NCP Network, COST and EUREKA, CEI, DTP and Adriatic

Regional Cooperation on R&I

- Bilateral cooperations with Slovenia and Montenegro operational
- Agreements signed with Austria, Turkey, Croatia, Serbia and Russia
- MSTRS participates in ResInfra@DR project within DTP
- Discussions to adopt ESFRI Roadmap for BiH on the way
- BiH supports the Montenegrin intent on the establishment of a South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies
- Six TAIEX projects approved

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.)

Priorities

Priorities based on The National Research Programme

- a) Environment, Energy and Natural Resources
- b) Agricultural Production and Food Safety
- c) Medical Research
- d) Development of a Knowledge Based Society
- e) Linguistic, Historic and Cultural Studies
- f) Information and Communication Technologies

Priorities based on the Law for Innovation and TT and Innovation Strategy

- a) Establish inter-ministerial co-ordination,
- b) Enhance the business sector's propensity to innovate
- c) Build stronger and market relevant research institutions
- d) Strengthen human resources and skills development

Needs assessment (MEST study)

Weaknesses

- Absence of strong economic systems
- Very low level of internationalization of science and higher education.
- Extremely low expenditure for RDA from public budget and absence R&D expenditure of the business sector.
- No Commercialization of knowledge and technologies;
- Kosovo*'s economy is dominated by traditional and low technology
- No adequate linkages between research institutions and the business sector.
- No R&D personnel in the business sector. (99.9% of researchers are working in the universities)
- Research community is focused on publishing scientific papers and not in commercializing of research (patents and innovations).
- Very low rate of research products!
Etc.

Research Infrastructure

- For the moment there is no regional cooperation for this topic
- We need support for system analysis
- Experiences on overcoming of obstacles and gaps in different sectors
- Expertise on planning and analyzing the possibilities of the country.
 - Experiences of Slovenia and other similar countries can be helpful for Kosovo* because of similarities (territory, population, diaspora, etc.) and differences in development.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Policy actions and legislative initiatives

- **New Law on Higher Education - public debate in process**
 - quality assurance in Higher Education;
 - criteria and standards harmonized with the European Regulations;
 - Accreditation and Evaluation Board divided into two separate bodies ?
- **Amendments to the Law on Scientific and Research Activity** under preparation - remove existing barriers - more efficient research system
- **New “ Horizon 2020” Programme Committee Members”** nominated
- **Letter of Intent signed for Establishment of a South-East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies**
- **Roadmap to Infrastructures preparation activities started**

International Cooperation

Horizon 2020 - Performance

- Total number of applications 2014-2017: **483**
- Total number of approved projects: **50**
- Success rate: **10.35% (EU 28 - 13.6%)**
- **Total budget:** **6.267.125 €**

COST - 250 ongoing Actions - researchers from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia participate in 165 (66% success rate)

IAEA - Second stage of approval process for national projects: Project Cycle 2018-2019 completed with 4 new projects approved

CEEPUS - 2016/17 Scholarship flow 80 incoming and 190 outgoing candidates

International Cooperation

Bilateral Cooperation - projects:

- Slovenia -15 on-going;
- China -13 on-going;
- Montenegro - 10 completed 2017,
- Austria - evaluation process ;
- Croatia - new calls expected,
- Serbia - Agreement to be signed soon

Current Activities

- **RCC - Regional Economic Area - Multi-annual Action plan**
Trade; **Investment; Mobility**; Digital Integration
- **Scholarships** - postgraduate studies top 100 ranked universities - Shanghai list (Technical Sciences, Natural Sciences, International Law and Genetics)
 - no priority areas for 10 best ranked universities (15-20 per year)
- **Financial assistance** for scientific works published in International journals with impact factor
- **Financial support** for participation at scientific events
- **EURAXESS** - Career Development Centers at Universities in Skopje, Bitola, Ohrid and Stip

In Implementation

- I. CO-FINANCED GRANTS FOR NEWLY ESTABLISHED ENTERPRISES: START-UP AND SPIN-OFF
- II. CO-FINANCED GRANTS AND CONDITIONAL LOANS FOR COMMERCIALIZATION OF INNOVATION
 - Four public calls for funding announced
 - 52 (38+14) supported projects (ICT, mechanical engineering, electro engineering, agriculture, mineral production, construction, etc.)
 - 2.200.000 EUR co-financing contracted
 - 27 successfully completed projects

**FUND FOR INNOVATION &
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT:
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT
SDIS PROJECT**

**To be launched in first
semester of 2018**

- III. CO-FINANCED GRANTS FOR TECHNOLOGY EXTENSION
- IV. CO-FINANCED GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND INVESTMENTS OF BUSINESS-TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATORS

Total budget for all instruments: 9.000.000 EUR

Economic Growth Plan (GORM)

Pillar III Measures

- I. SUPPORTING SMEs WITH FAST GROWTH TENDENCY (“GAZELLES”)
- II. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SMEs
- III. SUPPORTING SMEs FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE INNOVATION
- IV. SUPPORT FOR PROFESSIONAL UPGRADE AND PRACTICE FOR NEWLY-EMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE
- V. CREATING CONDITIONS AND PREPARATION OF LEGAL BASES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF VENTURE CAPITAL

Total budget for implementation for 2018: 10.000.000 EUR

Additional Initiatives

Science Technology Park (STP): EU funded project is in implementation for development of Feasibility Study for establishment of STP

National Innovation Ecosystem Assessment: EU funded project “A Canvas for Innovation – a way forward to strengthening the national innovation ecosystem”.

Technical Assistance to support innovative business (consultancy, mentoring)

Introduction of innovation in the public sector (competitions, thematic challenges, prototrons, hackathons)

Montenegro

R&I Policy Context

- **The new Strategy of Scientific Research Activity (2017–2021) with the Action Plan** adopted on 21 December 2017

New measures and instruments:

- Improvement of human resources and research capacities - better quality of research, better working conditions, improvement of research career perspectives, opportunities for new jobs
- Strengthening international cooperation and networking - access to large research infrastructures and modern technologies, improve participation in the EU programmes, establishment of the regional infrastructure based on the state-of-art sustainable technology
- Strengthening the synergy between science and economy – financial support for innovation activities and establishment of the innovative start-up ecosystem



R&I Policy Context

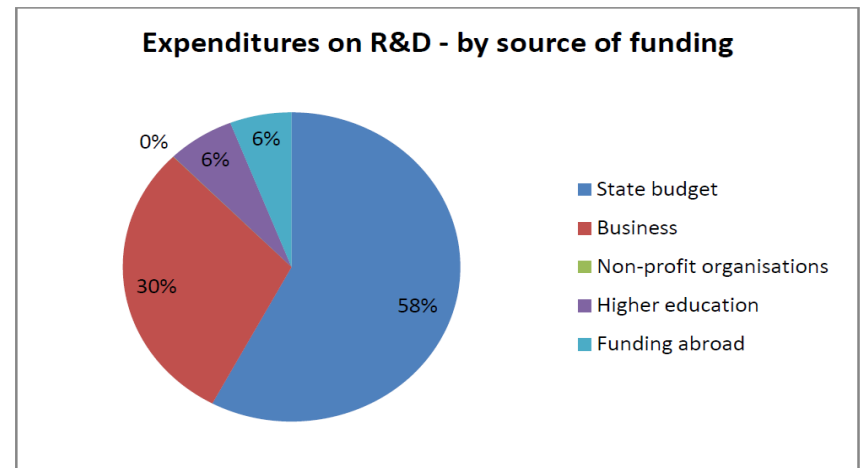
- The Strategy on Innovation Activities (2016-2020) with the Action Plan successful realization of the AP for 2017

- The Strategy for Smart Specialization (2018-2022) with the Action Plan under preparation adoption by the Government in IV quarter 2018
- Establishment of the **South Eastern International Institute for Sustainable Technologies (SEIIST) – Science for Peace** assures scientific excellence and high competitiveness with the rest of Europe
 - Declaration of Intent signed at CERN, Geneve, October 2017
 - Steering Committee for the project established, December 2017
 - Scientific Forum in Trieste, 25-26 January 2018
 - Concept Study Reports completed
 - MoC under preparation



R&I Support Measures

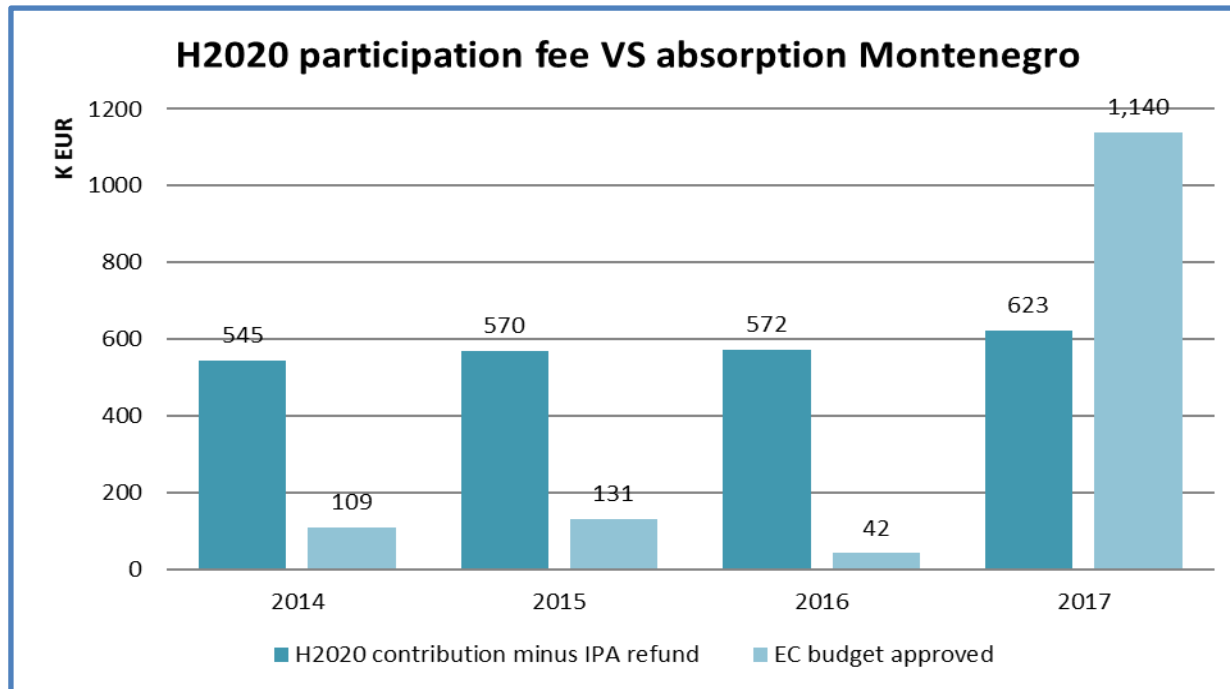
- Latest official data on R&D funding for 2015 – total national consumption 0.38 % of GDP
- The investment from private sector is still rather low – only 1/3 of total investment
- **Increase of the state budget for science for 2018** (64% compared to 2017)
- **Pilot statistical survey on innovation ongoing**



- **Pilot Call on Innovative Projects (MoS) 2017**
200.000 EUR
 - to provide smaller financial support in order to identify relevant innovation institutions in Montenegro, their potentials and plans for the future activities
 - 45 project proposals submitted by the deadline
 - approved 5 innovative projects in total amount of 61.000 EUR

International Cooperation

- **Call for stimulating participation in H2020 and COST (2017)** – 17 projects, 300.000 EUR
 - preparation of projects for the forthcoming calls in H2020; and
 - involvement in running H2020 and COST projects
- **Call for co-financing of SRI Activities**
 - for positively evaluated projects, but not adopted for financing; and
 - for approved projects



Serbia

Legislative Framework

Legislative Framework in the Field of Science

- Governmental conclusion on extension of financing the national Program of Basic Research and Program of Technological Development by the end of 2018.
- Action Plan for Implementation of the Strategy – in the final phase of adoption.
- Research Infrastructure Roadmap – adoption by the end of 2018.
- Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization in the Republic of Serbia - in preparation process

Legislative Framework in the Field of Intellectual Property

- Ongoing harmonization of the text of the numerous Laws (patents, copyright, trademarks, geographical indications)

National programs implemented by MESTD

- Financing 776 project in Basic Research, Technological Development and Interdisciplinary research continued;
- December 2017 - MESTD issued a public call for scholarships for up to 200 PhD students who are involved in scientific research projects in the current research cycle.
- March 2018 - MESTD published a public call for talented young researchers - students of doctoral academic studies for participation in scientific research projects
- March 2018 - MESTD published a call to support the inclusion of researchers - returnees from abroad on projects that are being implemented in the current research cycle.
- Funds for research, development and innovation provided for the period June 2017-June 2018, is 19.655.518.000,00 dinars. (164 million euros)

R&I Support Measures

Program of Innovations

September 2017 - MESTD published calls for participation in the innovative projects under the programs of innovation activities, established for 2017

- for innovation projects, 41 projects supported
- infrastructural support for innovative activities, 3 projects supported
- innovators (individual persons), 24 persons supported

International cooperation program

Supported 1070 researchers (short term visits) within the bilateral programs with various countries in 2017. (AT, DE, FR, HU, SK, HR, SL, PT, IT, CG, Belarus, China)

Innovation Fund Activities I

- Direct Grant to the Innovation Fund – Creating a Comprehensive R&D Collaboration (IPA 2013), 14 project financed, 1 officially completed in December 2017
- Implementation of the Serbia Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer Project – SRITTP (IPA 2013) - In August 2017, TTF has published new simplified application procedure and increased the limit for the grants to EUR 50,000 (instead of EUR 10,000). The TTF pipeline currently contains a total of 21 applications of which 11 have been awarded (EUR 152,550), 2 are under evaluation, 3 were withdrawn and 5 were rejected.
- In December 2017, the TTF launched Innovation vouchers scheme as an additional service line for SMEs. By the end of February 47 contracts with 39 companies were signed under this service line with total amount of EUR 245,000. Due to high interest, the Innovation Fund allocated additional funds in the amount of EUR 245,000 for awarding innovation vouchers.

Innovation Fund

Activities II

- Direct Grant to the Innovation Fund - New products and services developed through research commercialization in the SMEs (IPA 2014) - The Innovation Fund prepared and submitted the application for project „New products and services developed through research commercialization in the SMEs“ to the Ministry of Finance, for further funding of enterprise innovation through Mini and Matching Grants Programs.
- Competiveness and Jobs Project (World Bank) - On December 8th, 2017 the Innovation Fund awarded 25 innovative projects by Serbian enterprises and they were provided support under the technological innovation programme through grants in the amount of EUR 2.45 million. As part of the Mini Grants Program, grants were approved for 20 innovative projects in the amount of EUR 1.45 million, while the Matching Grants Program approved funds of EUR 1 million for 5 projects.
- Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF) - The Government of Serbia signed an Agreement to join the Enterprise Innovation Fund as a Limited Partner in June 2017

Events

- Within the framework of the contract “Communication activities for international cooperation”, the European Commission with MESTD organized **Horizon 2020 Info Day** on 07 - 08 December 2017 in Belgrade.
- **Innovation camp** 14-15 December 2017, NTP Belgrade.
- “**EIT Awareness Day**” in Belgrade, on February 6, 2018.
- **COST/ERC** Info day in Belgrade, on March 23, 2018.
- Conference “**Ethics assessment of R&I: Looking to the Future**”, H2020 project – SATORI, in Brussels, September 18-19 2017.
- In October 2017, CPN has supported a free **training for H2020** project proposal writing and management for 60 researchers, which was organized by UNDP and under patronage of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.