

## **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **on recent developments regarding research and innovation cooperation in/with Western Balkans (Period: October 2017 – June 2018)<sup>1</sup>**

#### **1 Policy actions and legislative initiatives (legal and strategic framework)**

New Revised S&T Development Strategy 2018-2022 finally adopted in January 2018, and we are working on an Action plan for its implementation as there are many stakeholders and the entity level ministries should carry out most of the activities. It is our firm commitment to focus on ERA priorities.

Our representatives participated in a JRC/RCC organized workshops on S3 and we are planning a joint event on a national level to present the S3 and to propose to initiate preparation activities in order to start with development of such a strategy. Republika Srpska already expressed interest in developing its own Smart Specialisation Strategy.

#### **2 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA**

Regarding the participation in H2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina has so far 29 successful projects with 45 participants from BiH, and has got 4,1 mio EUR with success rate 14,4, against 14,7 EU average. National contact points for Horizon 2020 organised number of info days, workshops and seminars in cooperation with universities, development agencies, and chambers of commerce. Also, within the same structure, the Guideline for the Horizon 2020 programme was published and a grant scheme in amount of 444,000 BAM was allocated for 2018 by the Ministry of Civil Affairs as a support to research and academic institutions, SME's and other R&D institutions for preparing and submitting H2020, COST and EUREKA applications.

Protocols for Joint Calls for projects within Bilateral Cooperation with Austria and Slovenia were signed, and we are preparing similar joint activities with Turkey, Croatia and Serbia, and expect to sign a Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with Russia by the end of the year.

#### **3 Important events, meetings, training activities, studies etc.**

Together with colleagues from the Region, BiH participates in the Multiannual Plan for the Regional Economic Area, and our Ministry was involved in the activities related to Mobility of researchers and professionals and mutual Recognition of Diplomas. Our representatives also participated in meetings, trainings and workshops related to the S3 and Open Science. Bosnia and Herzegovina also participated

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<sup>1</sup> The last Steering Platform was held in Belgrade on September 27-28, 2017. All related information is also available online here: <https://wbc-rti.info/object/event/16372> (including links to the conclusions and minutes).



in the informal meeting in the margin of the ERAC plenary meeting in Brussels, organized by the incoming Austrian EU Council Presidency on FP9 with H2020 Associated Countries. We were also invited to CESSDA ERIC Widening meeting and also to join the Consortium.

#### **4 Outlook and perspectives**

JRC/RCC S3 Training in October.