

KOSOVO*

PROGRESS REPORT

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

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

For Western Balkan economies:

In regard of national program for research, we are still working with the old one from the 2011. This document is still valid and all activities of the country are developed based in this strategy.

From September last year we have new Ministry for innovations and entrepreneurship with the budget in amount of 8 million. This budget is planned to finance innovation activities in SME-s and medium enterprises.

Government with the line Ministries is in the process of drafting the new strategy for innovation and entrepreneurship. Leading Ministry in this process is Ministry of innovation and Entrepreneurship

Please briefly elaborate also on the following questions:

Research sector is based in the activities and goals from the national program for research. This program was implemented partially because of very little budget that government divide for research. The implementation was more horizontal and was monitored by the Science Council of the Ministry and findings are that this document must be updated as soon as possible but not before our government divide the budget based and foreseen in the law for research activity.

For the moment we don't have Smart Specialization Strategy, but government has created a task force to study possibilities and obstacles of the country in this field. The group of experts has drafted the concept document about the new strategy.

To what extent is business-academia cooperation and exchange taking place? Please name good practice examples.

Cooperation between academia and economy is not good side of Kosovo*. This cooperation happens just in the case that both industry and economy are part of the any joint Project financed from the government or from the donors.

¹ 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).

(*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.)



Based on this we have 5 new cases of cooperation between Technical Faculty and some of the greatest public companies of the country. All this cooperation is based on the activities foreseen by different projects financed from budget of the government or from donors.

Faculty of agriculture is involved in more than ten cooperative projects with agricultural sector.

2 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

We have bilateral agreements with Slovenia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Turkey (TÜBITAK),

In the field of research we have two bilateral projects with Austria (HERAS) and USA (TTL). Both projects are long term projects and overall amount of budget is 11 million Euros.

From April on, we have the status of neighboring country in COST

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

During this period of time we have organized traditional event of science in the country 'Week of science'. This was organized in 9 thematic conferences with more than 300 participants from six countries.

We have participated in trainings for Smart Specialization and financed more than 33 participation of our scientists in important conferences in the world.

In cooperation with Academy of Science, on the occasion of 550th anniversary of the death of our national hero, Scanderbeg, we will organized an international conference with the topic Skanderbeg and his influence in European culture and history. We have confirmations from more than 100 historians from 34 countries of Europe, USA and Asia.

4 Outlook and perspectives

We are in the process of finalizing of all procedures for approval of the Law for innovation and TT and Law of Higher Education. The first one is in final parliamentary procedures for approval.

5 Other relevant information related to Research and Innovation cooperation in/with Western Balkan economies)

From January on, the number of publication in important journals has increased for 20%. Now in this period of time we have 175 papers published in the most known journals of the world.