



**WESTERN BALKANS
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MEETING**
Vienna - 9-10 July 2019

Towards Steering Platform meeting 2019

Update from the Western Balkan 6
*Follow-up Sarajevo, R&I Strategies, R&I budgets,
status of Smart Specialization Strategies*

Albania

Research Institutions and R&D now

- Currently in Albania we have 12 public universities, 24 non-public universities, 5 Centres of Agricultural Technology Transfer QTTB (Fushë – Krujë , Lushnjë , Vlorë , Korçë , Shkodër) and around 30 think tank in Albania.
- Across Albania universities and research institutions run their research activities about 3,800 academic staff of different levels

Albania

Implementation of higher education reform

- In January 2017, the government approved the 2017-2021 action plan to support the development of innovative policies. This action plan aims to promote better links between academia, industry and government
- A new draft on law scientific research in the Republic of Albania has been finalised. It is scheduled to be presented in the Parliament in 2019 together with the new draft law on the Academy of Science. In response to students requests, in December 2018 the Council of Ministers approved some decisions on reductions in fees, monitoring of the performance of lecturers, transparency in the financial administration of universities, access to online virtual libraries, digital archives of lecturers' publications and representation issues. Investments in research and other measures to strengthen research and innovation capacity at national level, will be stepped up.

Albania

Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)

- In September 2017, the development of a smart specialisation strategy (S3) started under the lead of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, in cooperation with the European Commission. However, the strategy still needs to be adopted. The S3 process will follow JRC's methodological framework for smart specialisation in the EU enlargement and neighbourhood countries.
- In 2018, Albania formed an S3 Working Group that is currently coordinating further steps in preparing the collection of data and the entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP). A road map for the S3 process has been drafted and the mapping process is being prepared with TAIEX support. Albania's smart specialisation process will be organised at the national level but take a regional perspective by looking at the development state and potential of each of Albania's 12 counties (qark).

Albania

Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)

- The National Strategy of Scientific Research, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022 was approved in 2017 and is now being implemented by two agencies, the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI) and the Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA). In July 2018, a well-attended awareness raising event took place in Tirana. The event was funded by UNDP and co-organised by JRC. Presentations covered main steps in the S3 process and overall challenges with a special focus on mapping.
- In November 2018, a TAIEX workshop on smart specialisation took place in Brussels. During the workshop, good practice examples from the EU and the Western Balkans on how to organise the mapping process and the EDP and how to monitor smart specialisation were introduced.

Albania

Technology Transfer Capacity Building

- Albania is covered by the Technology Transfer Capacity Building in the Western Balkans (EU4Tech) project funded by DG NEAR. This project aims at enhancing technology transfer, contract research, management of science parks and incubators, financial instruments for technology transfer, and investor readiness.
- The S3 process in Albania is led by the S3 Working Group whose work is coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. The same institution will have important role in the implementation of the RIS3. Inter-agency cooperation will be important for the efficient implementation of the RIS. In particular, since NASRI implements research-oriented policies and AIDA implements policies directed at private-sector innovation, there is a need for ensuring the coordination between these two agencies (OECD). The EDP can serve to align the work of these and other agencies and stakeholders.
- Albania is still in the early stages of the S3 process. In the upcoming steps, the country will be able to benefit from experiences made by regional frontrunners and from DG NEAR and JRC assistance.

Albania

National Research Database

- Some progress was made on the creation of the national research database, which will be managed by the National Agency of Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI).
- Albania has no national roadmap for research infrastructure, whose mapping is expected to be completed by July 2019

Albania

Participation in EU research framework programmes

- **Horizon 2020**

- NASRI organized information and training days for 124 HEI
- Webpage updated with relevant info on EU programmes
- Renewed list of NCP will be approved by MESY
- Helpdesk established at NASRI for researchers that participate in Horizon 2020
- 325 applications, Requested EU Contribution 67.864.044 (Euro), Funded Projects 29, H2020 Net EU Contribution 2.636.461 Euro

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Follow-up Sarajevo:

- 5th SEE-IST Steering Committee meeting was held in Sarajevo on 27 June 2019;
- Council of Ministers and Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted and approved MoU for SEE-IST;

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- R&I Strategies
 - Strategy of Development of Science in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2017-2022 - Revised Framework Document,
 - Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Srpska 2017-2021 “Knowledge for Development”
 - Strategy of Development of Science in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2011-2021 (draft)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- *R&I budgets*
 - Very modest level of investments in R&I,
 - State level, Planned budget for 2019 same as in 2018, not approved yet,
 - Republic of Srpska: + 21% in 2019,
 - Federation of BiH: +10% in 2019,

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Status of Smart Specialization Strategy

- Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina officially supported the decision to join the S3 for BiH on June 10, 2019
- Focal point for S3 – Directorate for Economic Planning of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- ResInfra@DR Project finished, Prepared set of Recommendations and Methodology for upcoming RI Road Map to be finished by the end of the year
- Pilot (Pre-survey) before launching the official full EDP for the ICT in RS has been initiated;

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.)

- Law on scientific innovation and knowledge transfer, approved November 2018.
- Next steps
 - Adapting secondary legislation to give guidance on implementation.
 - Working group consisting of MEST, Research Institutes, donors, etc.
 - Incubators, licensing research institutes, voucher schemes etc.

Kosovo*

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- **Kosovo Strategy for innovation and entrepreneurship approved (2019- 2023).**
- Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship has responsibility for implementation.
- Currently focusing on:
 1. Schemes for start ups: during 2018 –supported 162 start ups;
 2. Focus on NGOs- during 2018 -62 funded;
 3. SMEs – 5 grants;
 4. Capital Investments for Centers Innovation and Entrepreneurship – 3 centers established;

Kosovo*

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Other research and innovation developments

- Venture UP <http://venture-up.org/venture-incubation-program/>
 - Focuses on helping students transfer their learning into products and applications.
- Center for Sponsored research has been established
 - Support researchers with grant administration, writing, implementation, etc.

Kosovo* R&D Budget

(*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.)

- **MEST is supporting national research schemes with direct support to researchers**
 - **Research grants, Small grants for publications, mobility support;**
- **MEST for 2019 increased budgeting for 1 million more to be used in national research schemes.**
- **Total 2018 budget for Science = 0.044 % GDP equivalent to 2.97 million euro, distributed MEST, Academy of Science, Research Institutes.**
- **Beginning in 2018 Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship established, funded with 9.8 million.**
- **Kosovo overall budget spent for R&D is 0.19 % of GDP (MEST, Academy of Science, Research Institutes, Ministry of Innovation).**
- **The Kosovo policies and measures are to increase the budget for research and innovation – with aim to foster the research and innovation activities on the ground.**

Kosovo*

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- Early stage in the process of developing S3
- Team for Smart Specialization Platform established in 2018/all stakeholders included.
- First steps on data collection initiated.
- Exchange experiences within the region/workshop in Montenegro.
- S3 expected to be finalised by 2020.

Kosovo*

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- Capacity Building/ Innovation & research
- Training for different stakeholders in H2020
 - In the upcoming EU framework program “HorizonEU” Kosovo will try to upgrade the status.
 - Requires knowledge of the parameters of the new status and additional policy making.
 - Workshops & Trainings for stakeholders with an emphasis on proposal writing.

Kosovo*

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Follow up Sarajevo meeting:

- **Adapting secondary legislation on Law on scientific innovation and knowledge transfer which was approved November 2018.**
 - voucher schemes adapted.
- Short term activities
 - Adopting secondary legislation for licensing research institutes, Incubators, etc.

Budget:

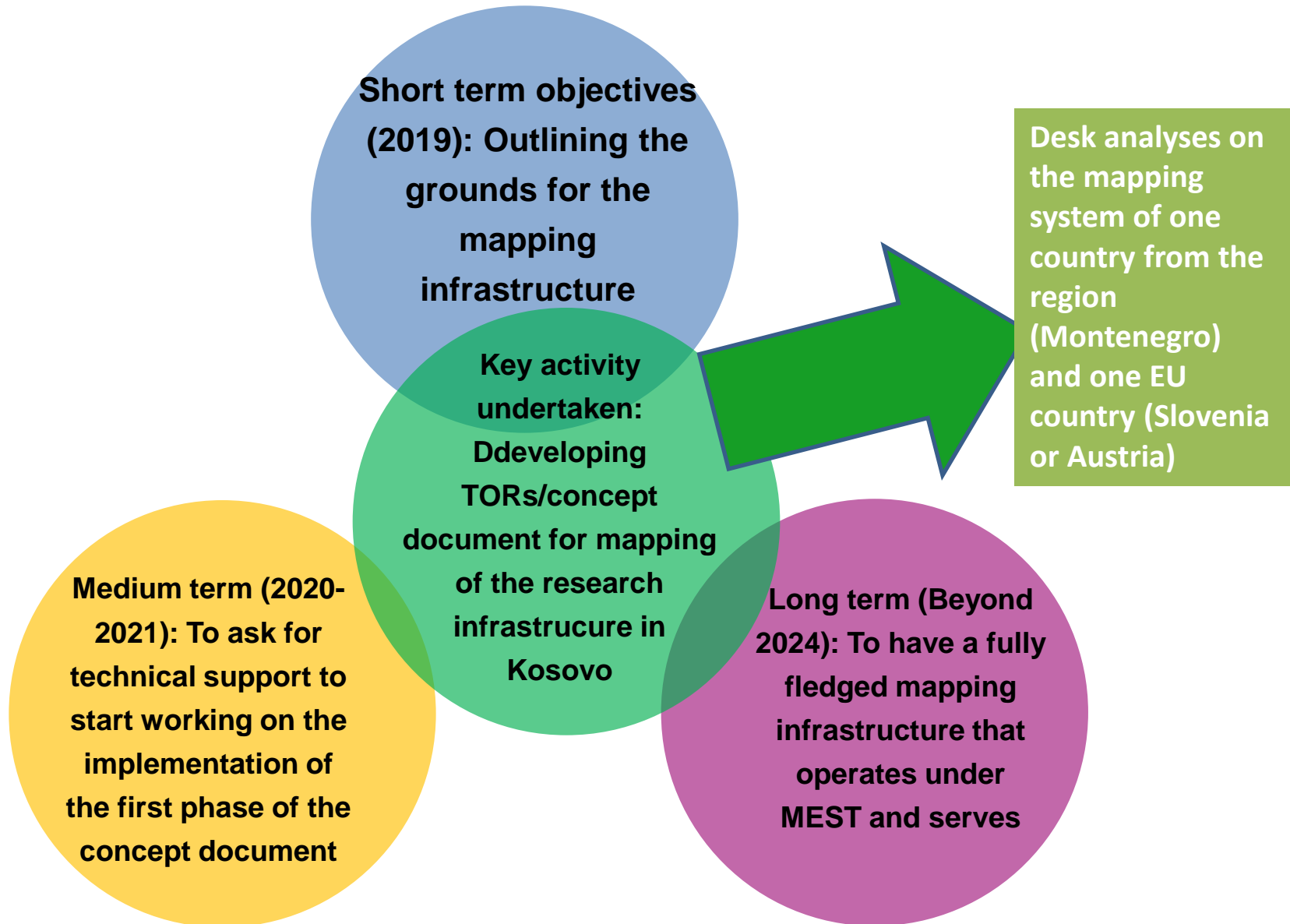
- **MEST support for R & D activities is being used on supporting national research schemes with direct support to researchers such as:**
 - **Research grants, Small grants for publications, mobility support; support for PhD studies.**
- **Bilateral Agreement with Albania**
 - Promotes bilateral and regional cooperation in Research and Innovation.

Kosovo*

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- **COST Association (Near Neighbour Country)**
 - Promoting COST to stakeholders (info sessions, personalised meetings, trainings etc.);
 - Increased participation in COST from research community
 - 7 running actions with participants from Kosovo, 6 in the evaluation procedure. Researchers are involved also as a secondary proposals.
- **CEEPUS**
 - Increased participation in CEEPUS
 - Until now 100 mobility have been granted (incoming and outgoing) out of 150 planned for 2019

Priority: Research infrastructure mapping



Montenegro

- The Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3.me) has been adopted on 20 June 2019 by the Montenegrin Government
- Montenegro is the first country outside of the EU28 to adopt the S3
- Public debate on S3.me held on June 10, 2019



Great thanks to the JRC team!

Vertical priorities

Sustainable
agriculture and
food value chain

Energy and
sustainable
environment

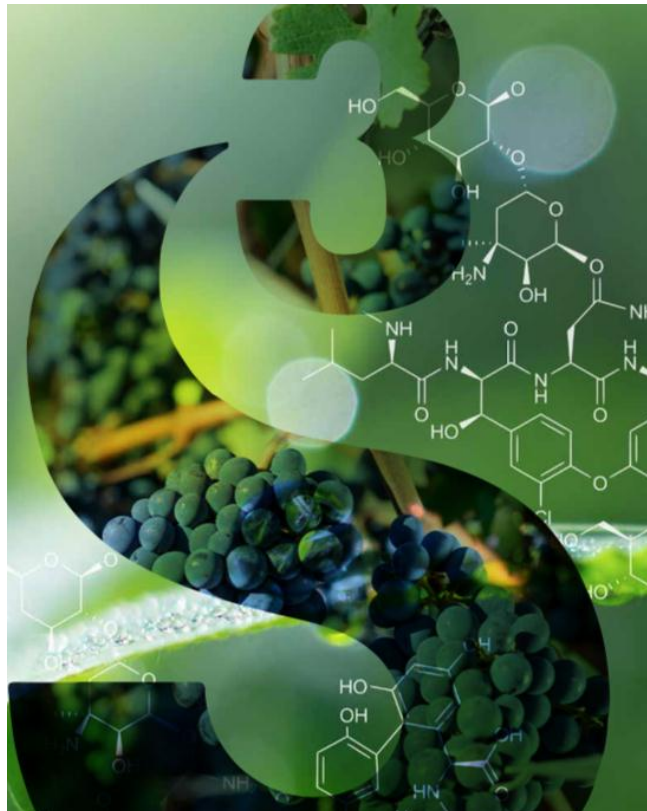
Sustainable
and health
tourism

ICT

Horizontal priority

Montenegro

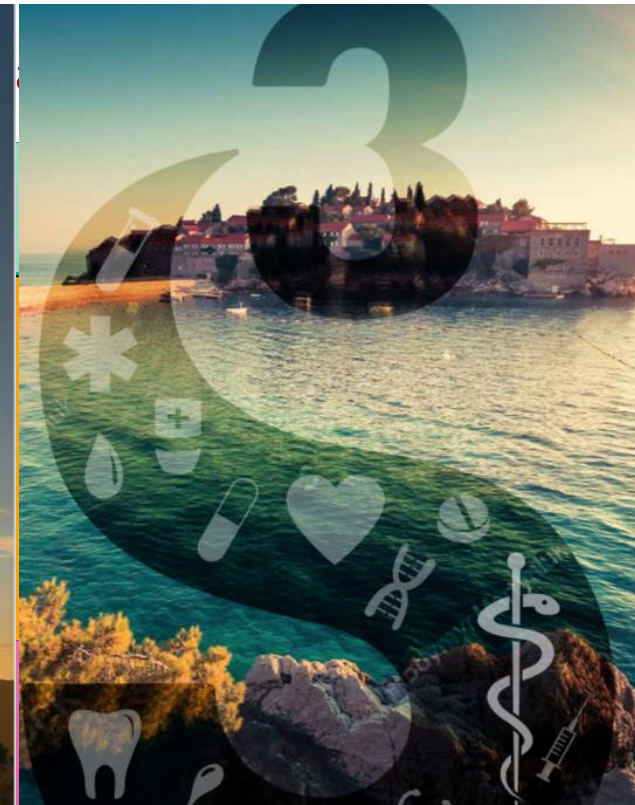
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Sustainable Agriculture and Food Value Chain



Energy and Sustainable Environment



Sustainable and Health Tourism

Update on the Regional Project: South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies (SEEIIST; <http://seeiist.eu>)

➤ Design Phase of the SEEIIST has started

First direct financial support of 1 MEUR received by the EC DG RDT (contract between EC and DLR signed in June 2019)

Three Working Groups with well defined tasks set-up: WG1@CERN; WG2@GSI; WG3@COSYLAB
(Deliverables: Start of the TDR, Business Plan, Condition for the site; Association, Constitution of Institute, ...)

Creation of the SEEIIST Association expected by the end of July

Capacity building: Regional TC IAEA project prepared and submitted (EUR 500k expected in 2020)

➤ 5th SEEIIST Steering Committee meeting held on 27 June 2019 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

➤ SEEIIST Memorandum of Cooperation signed by six Prime Ministers of the Region at the Summit of the Berlin Process in Poznan, Poland on 5 July 2019

Signatory Parties from the SEE: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro and North Macedonia

➤ Special Event 'Start of the SEEIIST Design Phase' on 18 September 2019 in Budva, Montenegro

Purpose of the event: to inform the public about the advancement of the Project which is now passing from the Phase of Conception to the Phase of Design

You are welcome to attend – Registration under <https://indico.cern.ch/event/807172>



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Montenegro

- **Progress on Establishment of the Science&Technology Park**
 - Project documentation for adaptation of the building almost completed
 - Tender for construction works expected by the end of 2019



Current building at the UoM campus



Future design of the STP building

Montenegro



Montenegro

Revised Research Infrastructure Roadmap (2019-2020)

- Adopted by the Government of Montenegro on 13th June 2019
- The results of the process pointed to the good condition of existing equipment with an estimated total value of 28 MEUR

The document addresses the issue of open access to research infrastructure for the first time, as part of the broader open access policy in science and innovation of the European Union



Some important events held in Montenegro:

- **Workshop on Mapping Research Infrastructure** organised by the **RCC** and the **Ministry of Science of Montenegro** held on 8 April 2019.
- Forum **“Science and Innovation 2030 Vision for the Western Balkans”** organised by the Ministry of Science of Montenegro and Podgorica Club held on 9 April 2019
- **4th Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)** – panel entitled Science, Innovation and Growth: A vision for the Adriatic-Ionian Region, held on 8 May 2019.
- **International Conference Green Days 2019: Unlocking Green Growth Potential** held on 5-6 June 2019

Montenegro

- **Bilateral cooperation has been expanded: Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Czech Republic** signed on 10 June 2019, in Podgorica

Current open calls for funding R&I activities

- **New Call for attractive PhD fellowships** (700kEUR) at Montenegrin universities published on 24 April 2019.
- **New Call for Innovative grants** (700 kEUR) which are in accordance with the S3.me strategic priorities published on 5 July 2019 (up to 100 kEUR per grant)
- **Call for Center of Excellence** (1 MEUR) - the first stage of international evaluation completed
- **Call for Collaborative Innovative Grants (IPA)** (1 MEUR) - the first stage of evaluation completed

North Macedonia

- No major developments since March 2019

NOVELTIES:

- Macedonia officially became member in **two ERIC's** in the field of social sciences and humanities in June 2019:
 - CESSDA (Consortium of Social Sciences Data Archives)
 - ESS (European Social Survey)
- **National Roadmap for Research Infrastructure** -in advanced phase
- **Three new accelerators** started working by the end of June:
 - University Cyril and Methodius in Skopje
 - SEAVUS Accelerator in Skopje (Seavus Education Center)
 - X factor Accelerator in Veles

North Macedonia

- **Fund for Innovation and Technological Development** -a new call was launched under the Instrument for Support - Co-financed Grants for Commercialization of Innovations with a deadline on 15 May 2019.

A total of 448 applications /evaluation procedure is ongoing.

- Establishment of **the first national Science Technology Park** on the campus of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University. National Technology Transfer Office will be incorporated in the STP.
- Continuous support for the establishment of the **South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies**
- In accordance with the new Law on Higher Education, a Call was published enabling the Ministry of Education and Science to cover the costs of researchers **for publishing articles in e-journals with impact factor.**

North Macedonia

- **Strategy for Smart Specialization preparation on-going**
- Mapping of Economic, Innovative and Scientific potentials – an activity financially supported by German Technical Support program in the country – National team led by NCDIEL /Hugo Holanders
- Mapping of existing policies and priorities relevant for S3 for North Macedonia

The results will be announced very soon.

- RIS3 WG will held a meeting with the **German Advisor for Economic Reforms Walter Deffaa** – state of play, measures , possibilities for German support

Serbia

Legislative Framework in the Field of Science

- The Law on the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia was adopted.
Government of the Republic of Serbia appointed Director of the Science Fund, dr Milica Djuric-Jovicic, on 21. February 2019
FIRST CALL HAS BEEN PUBLISHED on 21. June 2019.
- The new Law on Science and Research (that brings the new model of financing of science) was adopted on July 8, 2019.
- Working group formed for drafting the new Law on Innovation activity
- MESTD published Platform on Open Science (9. July 2018) and Platform on Development of Research Infrastructure, (27. December 2018).
- 4S – Final stage of the development

Serbia

National programs implemented by MESTD

- National Program of Basic Research, Program of Technological Development and 3I programme - financing of 773 projects continued.
- National Program of Development of scientific research staff - ongoing
Researchers at scientific meetings, Invited researchers, Scholarship
- Program of international cooperation – ongoing

Bilateral projects: Austria 27, Montenegro 35, Germany, 15 projects, Slovakia 17, Croatia 42
Under evaluation: France, Slovenia, Belarus, Portugal, Germany

Multilateral cooperation: Horizon 2020, EUREKA, COST, Transnational Danube program, BMBF

Serbia

Research capacities

BioSense Institute - ANTARES

National co-founding already being absorbed, construction permit obtain, works start in Jun 2019

First Digital farm in Serbia 20. 03. 2018.

BioSense Accelerator 04. 04. 2019

She's Mercedes 😊

Verrocchio – Institute of Physics Belgrade

Verrocchio Center is currently in its two-year pilot phase which coincides with building and equipping of its specialized facilities: one building primarily dedicated to education and training and another dedicated to prototyping and innovation.

During the pilot phase Verrocchio relies on the existing capacities of IPB and PSC - Petnica Science Center. Full implementation of Verrocchio will start in 2021.

FAMA – Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences

The facility for modification and analysis of materials with ion beams (FAMA), as of 30. 10. 2017. it is part of CERIC-ERIC consortium

Serbia

Important events

Science Meets Parliaments - Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Center for the Promotion of Science, supported by the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), organize the meeting of climate experts and policy makers at Serbian Parliament as the main event on Serbian National Science Day, 10th July 2019.

European Research Council, professor Mauro Ferrari (as of 1st January 2020 president of the ERC) visited Serbia on 1st July 2019 and had the meetings with state secretary and assistant ministers in the MESTD, with directors of Innovation and Science Funds as well as rectors of major public universities.

National conference on 5th June 2019 – presented successful reforms that have been carried out in Serbia in the field of science and technological development over the last two years, and at the same time celebration of the country's accession to the full membership of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

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Serbia: Innovation Fund

Program	Description	Results in the period June 2018-June 2019
Mini Grants Program	Support for private young enterprises which are engaged in the development of technological innovations with a clear market need	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of 33 inovative projects, funded with EUR 2.5M• New call closed n 1st July, 141 projects submitted
Matching Grants Program	Support for enterprises looking for significant financial resources for the commercialization of research and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of 14 inovative projects, funded with EUR 3.04M• New call closed n 1st July, 72 projects submitted
Collaborative Grant Scheme Program	Support for consortia consisting of Serbian private sector company and registered Serbian R&D organization to engage in joint R&D projects with the goal of creating new products and services, as well as innovative technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed implementation of 14 supported projects, EUR 3M• 67 project proposals submitted out of witch 9 awarded
Innovation Vouchers Scheme	Financial incentive that aim to encourage SME to use the services of the R&D sector to raise the level of innovation of their products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two public calls: 324 innovation vouchers for 286 SME, in the total amount of EUR 1.74M
Transfer Technology Program	TTO capacity building, public R&D innovation commercialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 21 R&D projects have been awarded, EUR 430.000