

Special event at the Alpbach Technology Forum 2007

**“Bulgaria and Romania as partners in European science and research”**

**Venue: Hotel Böglerhof, Fichtensaal**  
*Friday, 24 August 2007*

**Conclusions**

On January 1, 2007, Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU and at about the same time the EU launched its 7th Research Framework Programme. A special event at the Alpbach Technology Forum 2007 dedicated to “Bulgaria and Romania as partners in European science and research” provided an opportunity to present the latest developments in science and research in Bulgaria and Romania as well as an outlook on future activities.

Based on these reports, experts from the region and from Austria discussed short and medium term perspectives on how to intensify the cooperation in science and research on a bilateral, regional as well as on a multilateral level with a special focus on the joint participation in FP7.

In order to further strengthen the bi- and trilateral co-operation the following Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research was signed by the Ministers:

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

between

**THE**

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**AND THE**

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND YOUTH  
ROMANIA**

**AND THE**

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA**

**CONCERNING**

**COOPERATION IN THE AREAS OF  
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania and the Federal Ministry of Science and Research of the Republic of Austria

RECOGNIZING the important contribution of joint actions in science and research for the further strengthening of the ties between the partnering countries

DESIRING to further promote the close and friendly relations existing between their countries

CONSIDERING their common interest to promote and encourage their scientific research and technological cooperation

CONVINCED that these measures will enhance the economic and social development of their countries

ACKNOWLEDGING the achievements already obtained in these areas

PURSUANT to the prevailing laws and regulations as well as scientific cooperation policies and procedures in their respective countries

EMPHASISE the importance of the cooperation in science and research between their countries and welcome initiatives to strengthen cooperation such as

- increased networking of high level officials responsible for science and research in the respective countries by regular meetings and mutual invitations to relevant events and activities,
- enhanced cooperation of national, regional or institutional Contact Points in view of the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (FP 7),
- enhanced networking between universities and higher education institutions, also in regional cooperation programmes such as CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Program for University Studies),
- increased efforts in fully integrating South Eastern Europe and the West Balkan Countries in the European Research and Higher Education Areas, e.g. in the framework of the SEE-ERA.Net activities and in the core objective "Fostering and Building Human Capital" in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.
- Enhanced cooperation between funding organizations for mutual exchange of evaluators for national research projects and programmes

The present Memorandum of Understanding does not result in the creation of any obligation regarding international law nor shall it have any effect on existing legislation.

Done in three original documents in English, all three texts being equally authentic

in Alpbach on August 24, 2007:

Cristian Mihai ADOMNIȚEI,  
Minister for Education, Research and Youth of Romania

Johannes HAHN,  
Austrian Federal Minister for Science and Research

in Salzburg on August 24, 2007:

Daniel Vassilev VALTCHEV,  
Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria