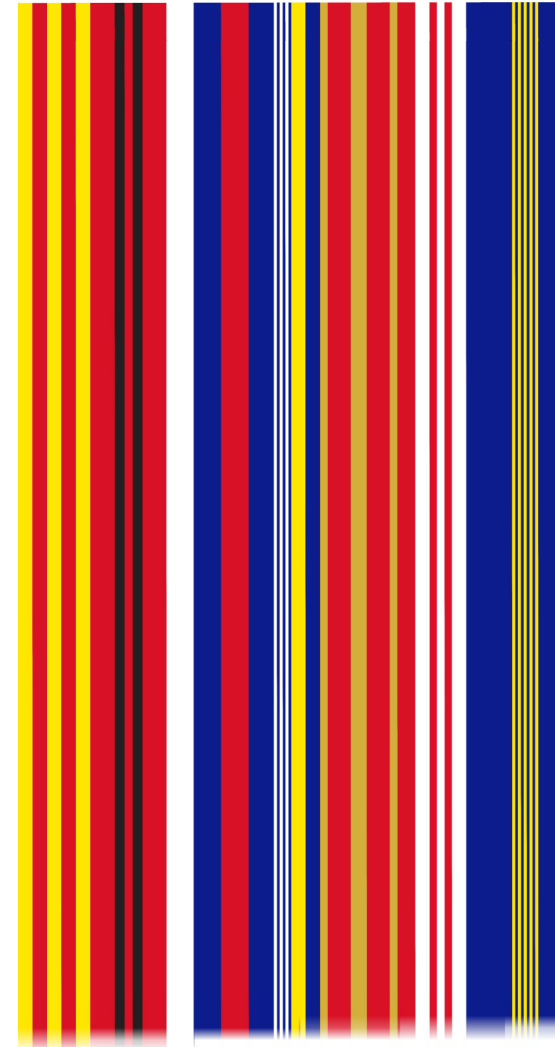


Policy Dialogue / Policy Support Measures

*The Western Balkans: a good
practice?*

Elke Dall, Centre for Social Innovation
Policy Stakeholder Conference EECA
Warsaw, 15. November 2011

wbc-inco.net
Co-ordination of Research Policies
with the Western Balkan Countries



wbc-inco.net

Co-ordination of Research Policies
with the Western Balkan Countries



The Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET

- supports the bi-regional dialogue on science and technology
- identifies RTD potentials and priorities
- enhances participation of researchers from the region
in European projects



<http://www.wbc-inco.net> - contact: office@wbc-inco.net



WBC-INCO.NET is a project, co-funded by the European Community's
Capacities Programme on International Cooperation under the 7th
Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development
(2007-2013) (contract number: 212029).

WBC-INCO.NET



- Overall aim: Integration of Western Balkan Countries (WBC) in the European Research Area
- Project aim: Coordination of Research Policies with the WBC
- Funded under FP7 Capacities - INCO
- Start: January 2008; end: December 2013
- Networking project (Coordination Action)
- Regular dialogue activities, trainings, analyses, studies

Partners



- 29 partners from 16 countries
 - 14 Partners from the WBC
 - 15 Partners from the EU MS / AC
- Coordinator: Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria
- Institutions: Ministries responsible for Science and/or Innovation/Economy, R&D institutes and agencies, analytical partners

Partners



Steering Platform on Research

- Regular meetings co-chaired by
 - European Commission
 - Council Presidency
 - Western Balkan countries

Current co-chairs are EC, BiH, Poland
handing over to EC, Albania, Denmark

- Members: EU27 + AC + EC (Ministries responsible for Science)
- Supported by WBC-INCO.NET (logistically, administrative)

Next meeting will be held in Sarajevo, **December 1, 2011**

Time	Place		Co-Chair / Presidency	Co-Chair WBC	Co- Chair EC
June 26, 2006	Austria (Vienna)		Austria	-	EC
March 29, 2007	Germany (Berlin)		Germany	-	EC
October 29, 2007	Greece (Thessaloniki)		-	-	EC
June 13, 2008	Slovenia (Ljubljana)		Slovenia	Montenegro	EC
December 19, 2008	France (Paris)		France	Serbia	EC
May 27-28, 2010	Czech Republic (Liblice)		Czech Republic	Albania	EC
October 28-30, 2009	Croatia (Zagreb)		Sweden	Croatia	EC
June 24, 2010	Serbia (Belgrade)		Spain	Serbia	EC
November 11, 2010	Montenegro (Becici)		Belgium	Montenegro	EC
May 26, 2011	FYR of Macedonia (Ohrid)		Hungary	FYR of Macedonia	EC
December 1, 2011	BiH (Sarajevo)		Poland	BiH	EC

Guidelines (Mission)

The Platform **facilitates the interaction** between the Western Balkan Countries, the EU member states, the candidate and potential candidate countries and other states associated to the Framework Programmes for RTD and the European Commission. Its main objective is to **support the enhanced integration of the WBCs in the European Research Area**. It is a **strategic body** to deal with European, multilateral and regional issues of Science and Technology policies in and with the WBCs. It acts as an **information exchange** centre, clearing house for joint ideas and activities, and **coordination forum** for needs, suggestions and proposals of the WBCs to the European Commission, the EU27, Candidate and Potential Countries and the countries associated to FP7 (AC) and vice versa. In this spirit, the Platform continues and intensifies the progress achieved under the EU-Balkan Countries Action Plan on Science and Technology.

Scope of the Platform

With a view to promoting the implementation and development of European research cooperation and thereby also supporting the technological and economic development in the Western Balkan Countries, the Platform will:

- Act as a **forum for exchanging information and views, elaborating recommendations** on the RTD policy, and **coordinating needs, suggestions and proposals** in and towards the WBCs, especially regarding the Framework Programmes;
- **Monitor RTD policies and developments** including interactions with innovation and higher education, and intervene with specific recommendations, if deemed necessary;
- **Propose concrete actions** to be taken in the context of furthering the EU-WBC cooperation on RTD and the bi- and multilateral cooperation activities;
- **Identify issues of mutual importance** to be addressed in the context of the Platform; and,
- **Seek synergies with other instruments, organisations and stakeholders** to strengthen the research capacity in the Western Balkan countries.

Steering Platform



Steering Platform



Steering Platform



Steering Platform



What is being discussed at the Steering Platform?



DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting of Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan Countries

Meeting in Sarajevo on 1 December 2011

Opening

Statements by:
- Presidency (including presentation of Presidency)
- European Commission;
- Representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina

9.30 - 9.45

Approval of the Agenda.
Approval of the Minutes of the last Steering Platform Meeting (Ohrid, 26 May 2011).

Stocktaking

since May 2011:
Implementation Conclusions Steering Platform BC-INCO.NET).

Presentation of recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBCs (see Information Sheets for more details) by:
- European Commission (DG RTD and JRC);
- Western Balkan countries;
- Steering Platform members: EU Member States and countries associated to FP7;
- Representatives from WBC-INCO.NET, SEE-ERA.NET PLUS, COST, RCC, EUREKA, UNESCO and CEL

11.15 - 11.30

Family photo
Coffee break

11.30 - 12.30

Preparations for HORIZON 2020 and synergy with Pre-

Horizon 2020 / IPA synergy

12.30 - 13.00

Regional dimension of research cooperation: Implementation

Regional Dimension / Strategy Project

14.15 - 15.30

Innovation Union:

- Presentation by COM on commitments relevant for WBCs;
- How to prepare...
- Importance of
- Presentation of innovation.

Innovation Union

15.30 - 15.45

Coffee break

Innovation Systems Research

WBC-INCO.NET Results

- presentation and adoption of conclusions including recommendations on future actions and work.

AOB

Announcement of the next Steer

Conclusions

19.00 -

Social event



DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting of Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan Countries

Meeting in Ohrid, 26 May 2011

9.00 - 9.30

Opening Statements by:

- Hungarian Presidency (including presentation of Presidency);
- European Commission;
- Representative from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Opening

9.30 - 9.45

Approval of the Agenda.
Approval of the Minutes of the last Steering Platform Meeting (Becici, 11 November 2010).

9.45 - 11.15

What has been done since November 2010:

Stocktaking

Implementation Conclusions Steering Platform WBC-INCO.NET).

Recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in with the WBCs (see Information Sheets for more details) by:

- European Commission (DG RTD and JRC);
- Western Balkan countries;
- Steering Platform members: EU Member States and countries associated to FP7;
- Representatives from WBC-INCO.NET, SEE-ERA.NET PLUS, COST, RCC, EUREKA, UNESCO and CEL

11.15 - 11.30

Family photo

Common Strategic Framework

- Presentation position paper Enlargement Countries by Fitiz HAYIRLI from Tubitak.

Danube Strategy

13.00 - 14.15

Lunch

14.15 - 15.15

Synergy between Research and Innovation and Pre-Accession Instrument (IPA):

- Presentation by COM (DG Elarg, H. VISSER) on use of IPA for research and innovation based on MIPD for 2011-2013:

Instrument for Pre-Accession

INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION (IPA)

15.30 - 15.45

Coffee break

15.45 - 16.30

Innovation Union:

Innovation Union

Innovation Infrastructures

Enlargement Countries (European Commission).

16.30 - 17.30

Concluding Remarks

- Presentation and adoption recommendations on future

Conclusions

AOB

Announcement of the next Steering Platform Meeting

19.00 -

Social event



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE,
EDUCATION AND SPORTS



SWEDISH PRESIDENCY

DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting of Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan Countries

October 29, 2009
Meeting in Hotel Dubrovnik
Zagreb, Republic of Croatia

9.00 - 9.30

Opening Statements by:
- Swedish Presidency;
- European Commission;
- representative from Croatia

Opening

Approval of the Agenda
Approval of the Minutes of the last Steering Platform Meeting
(Ljubljana, 28 May 2009)

9.45 - 11.30

What has been done since May 2009:

Presentation of recent developments regarding S&T
cooperation in/with the WBCs (see Information sheets for
more details) by:

Stocktaking

Commission (DG RTD and JRC)
countries;
platform members: EU Member States and
candidate countries;
- Representatives from SEE-ERA.NET PLUS, WBC-
INCO.NET, COST, RCC and Eureka.

11.30 - 11.45

Family photo
Coffee break

11.45 - 12.45

ERA - Vision: what is in for WBCs:

- Presentation of ERA-Vision (Swedish Presidency)
- Integration of WBCs in ERA: state of play (European
Commission)

ERA Vision, ERA Integration

12.45 - 14.00

Lunch Participation in FP7

14.00 - 14.30

Parisi
- First results of the call on research potential for WBC (RegPot
2010/5);

Regional Research Priorities Joint Action Plan (SEE-ERA.NET)

15.45 - 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 - 17.00

Research Infrastructure:
- Presentation and discussion of WBC-INCO.NET study on
Research Infrastructures

Research Infrastructures

17.00 - 17.30

Concluding Remarks
Presentation and adoption of conclusions including
recommendations on future actions and work

AOB

Announcement of the next Steering

Conclusions

19.00 -

Social event

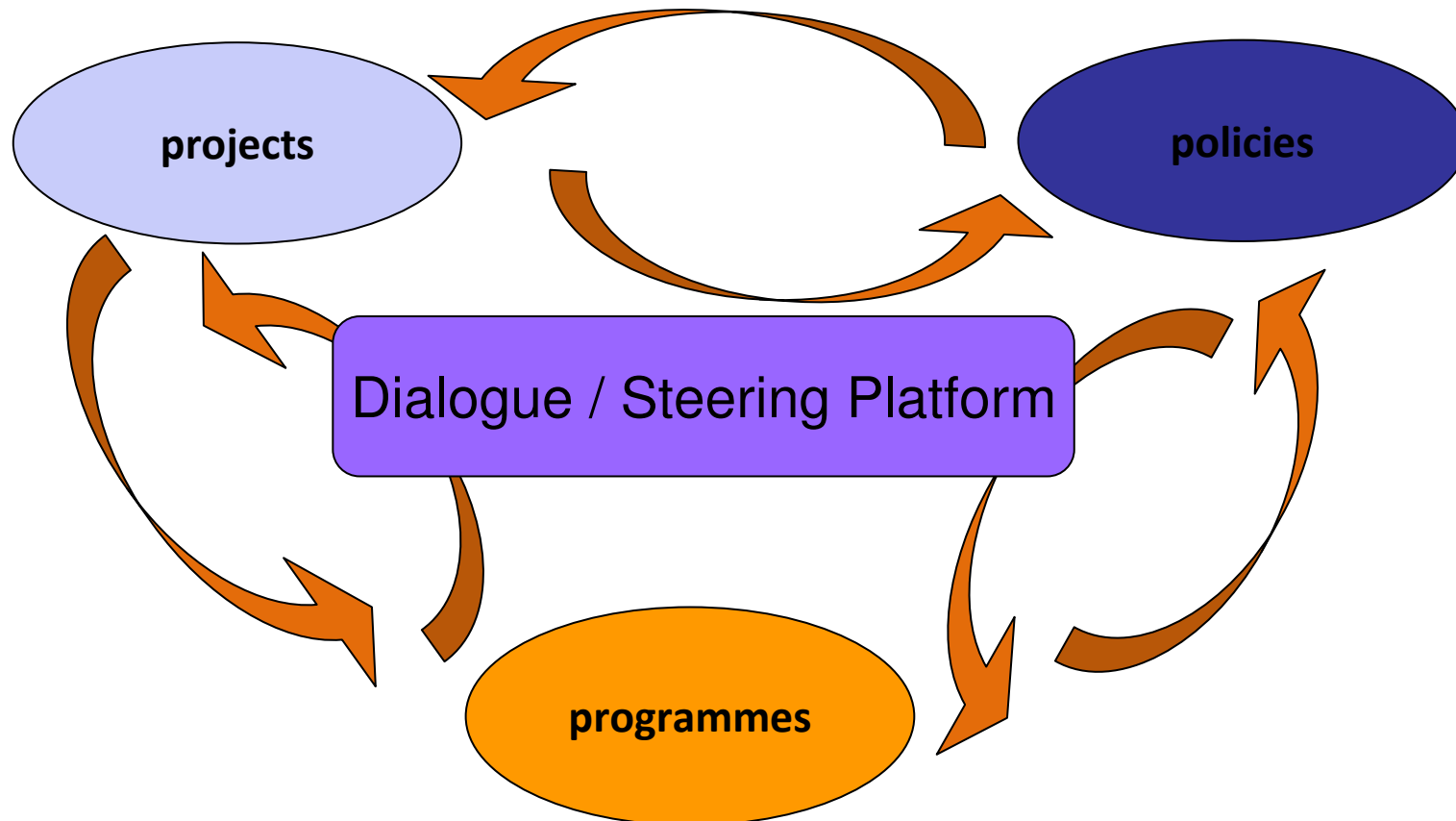
Conclusions of meeting of Steering Platform on Research for
Western Balkan Countries
Ohrid, 26 May 2011

The Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries met in Ohrid on 26 May 2011. The meeting was co-chaired by the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on behalf of the Western Balkan Countries – who hosted the event – and the European Commission.

The Platform welcomed the presentation from RCC and the Worldbank outlining the preliminary ideas on how to implement the project “Regional Strategy on Research and Development for Innovation for Western Balkans” on the basis of the Joint Statement of the Ministerial Conference held in April 2009 in Sarajevo. The need to mobilize knowledge and create more leverage was underlined and the importance to build upon work already undertaken, in particular by the WBC-INCO.NET project and input from beneficiary countries.

The Platform welcomed the presentation made on survey on the research and innovation agenda in the region presented by the Institute of Economics in Zagreb. In this context, the importance of collecting data and establishing statistics and indicators was underlined. The Platform also welcomed the opportunity and ideas presented to enhance innovation and took note of the progress made on innovation by the WBC-INCO.NET work package on innovation. Mapping of innovation infrastructures was considered a useful exercise to build upon innovation capacity.

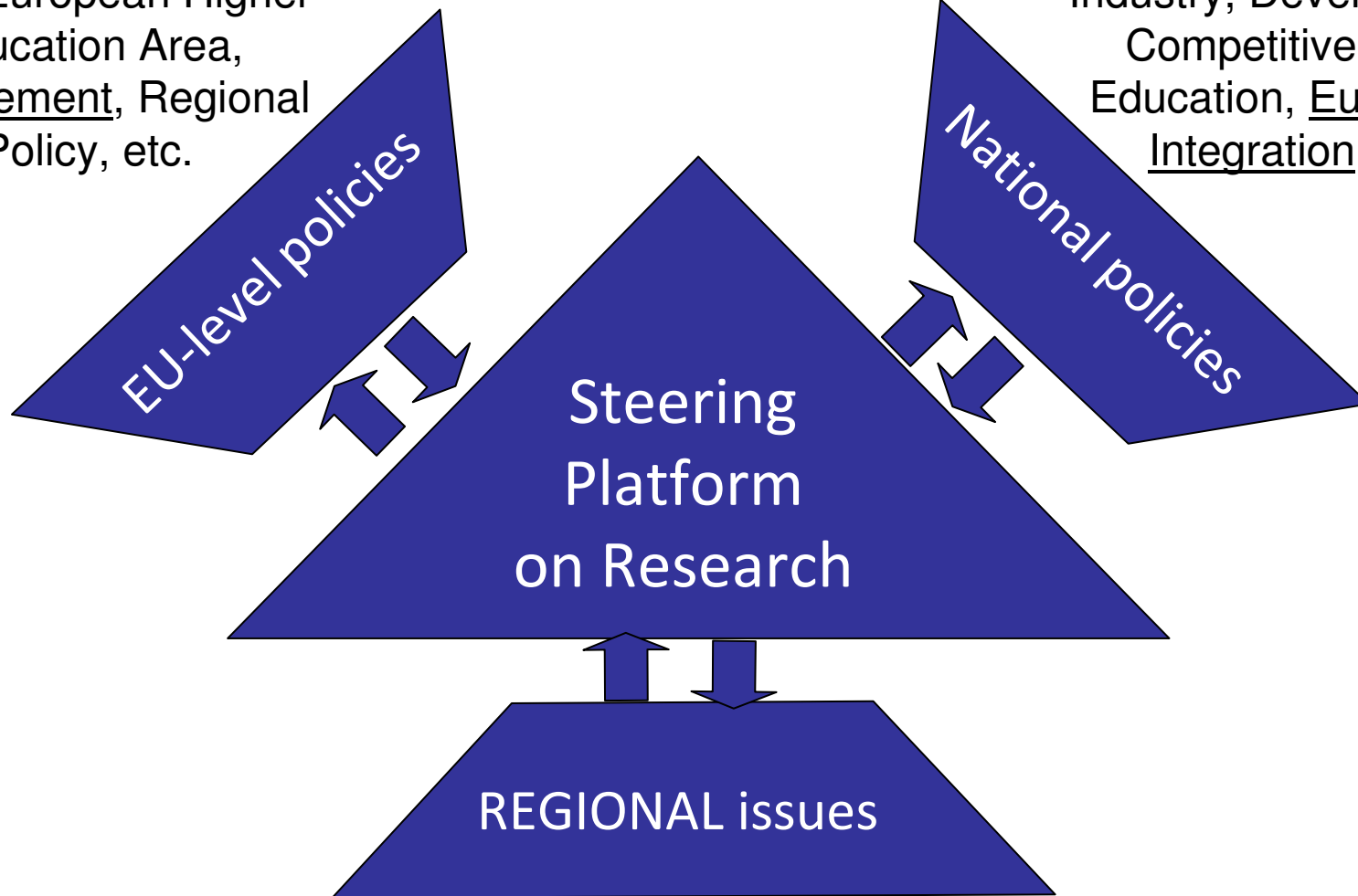
Steering Platform in context



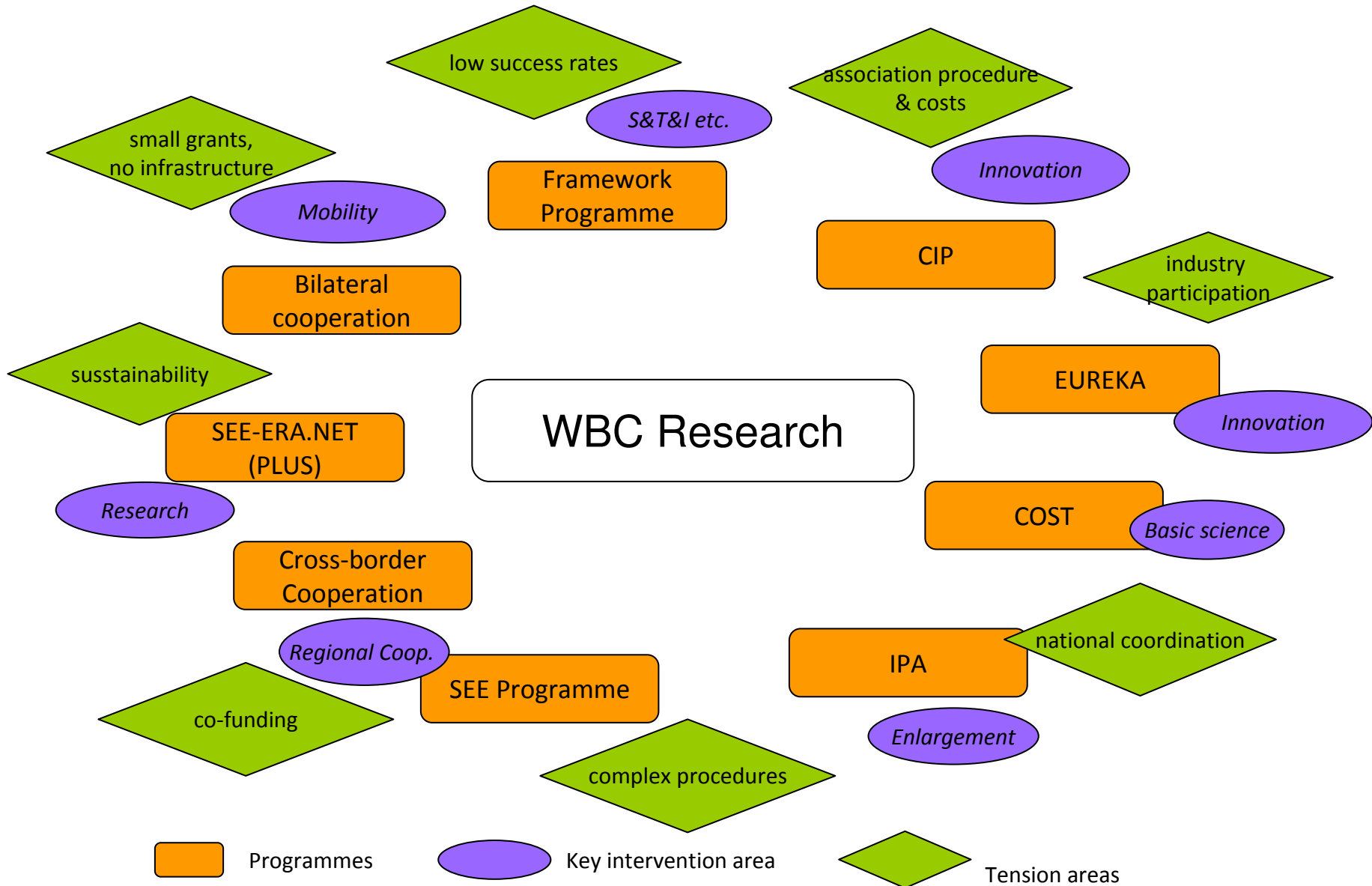
Context: strategies and policies

Europe 2020, Innovation Union, European Research Area, European Higher Education Area, Enlargement, Regional Policy, etc.

Science / Research, Innovation, Economy, Industry, Development, Competitiveness, Education, European Integration etc.



Context: inter-/multi-national funding programmes



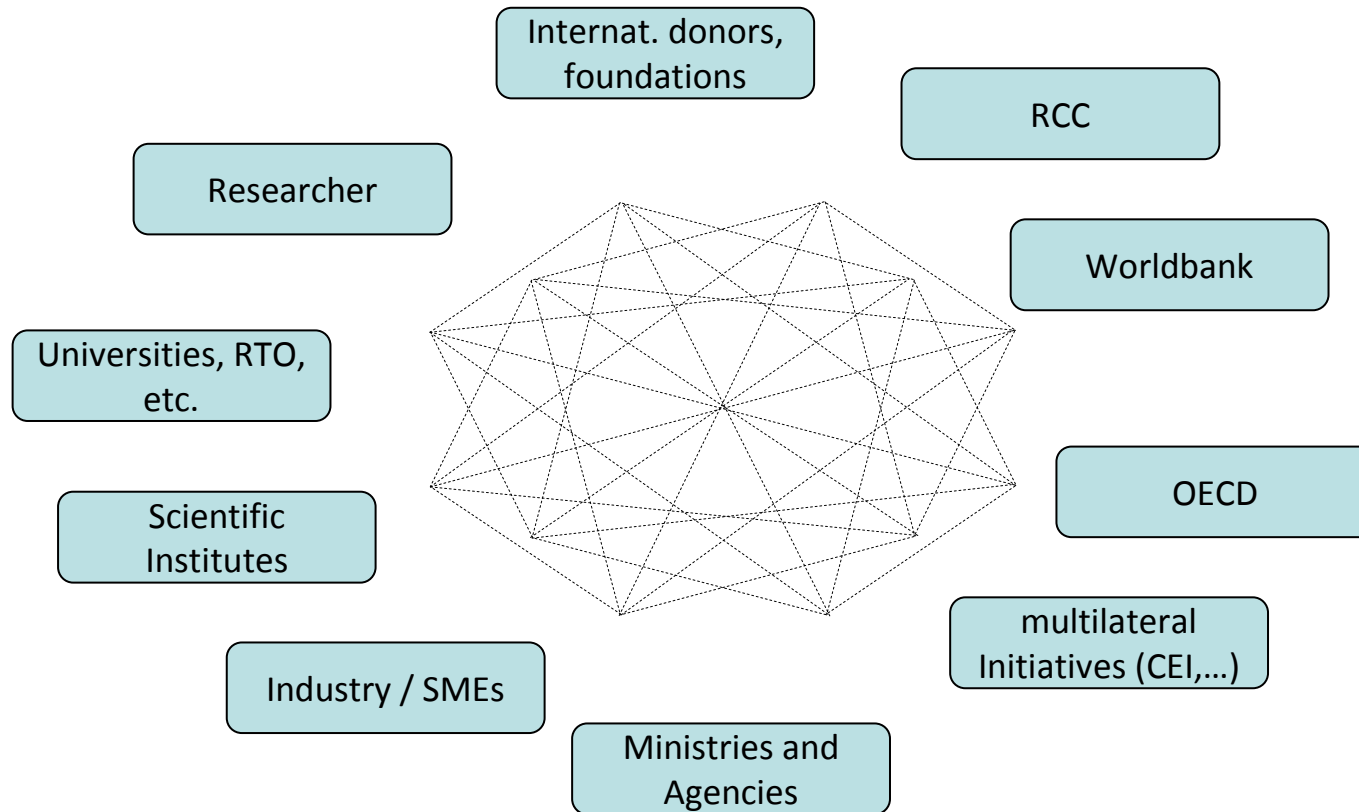
Context: project based support

- FP6 supported „SEE-science.EU“, the **Information Office of the Steering Platform** (till April 2008)
- FP6 supported **SEE-ERA.NET** (development of a pilot joint call for research project proposals -> joint programme & action plan, exchange of information)
- FP6/FP7 support **Coordination and Specific Support Actions** in different fields (ERA WESTBALKAN+, SCORE, Balkan Agro Food Network, SMEs go Health, EPISTEP, ...)
- FP7 supports **Follow-up Activities and Extensions** (WBC-INCO.NET, SEE-ERA.NET PLUS, etc.)

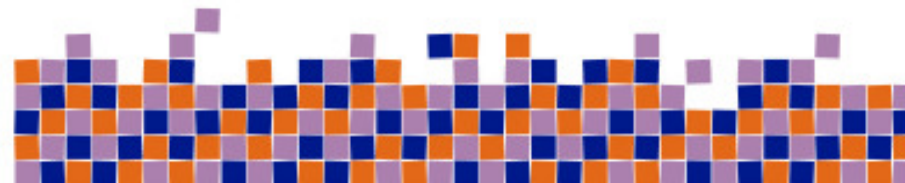
Context: project based support

- **SEE Programme** supports innovation related projects (e.g. foresight, sectoral networking projects, innovation policy support, etc.)
- Some **donor funded projects** (e.g. Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, US, etc.); **technical assistance** supporting research/ science/ innovation systems development

Context: networks and networking



WP	05
D	5.5



seeera net **repsee** REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR COOPERATION WITH SOUTHEAST EUROPE

Joint Action Plan 2009 for Co-operation beyond SEE-ERA.NET

Erika Rost / Karin Wedde-Muehlhausen / Ralf Hanatschek / Izo Abram / Philippe Barré / Snezana Bilic-Sotirovska / Radovan Fuchs / Anca Ghinescu / Adriana Gjonaj / Marion Haberfellner / Slobodanka Koprivica / Slavi Krusic / Viktor Nedovic / Husein Parjeta / Nikos Sidiropoulos / Anneliese Stoklaska / Sándor Szigeti / Albena Vutsova

The SEE-ERA.NET Consortium

Bonn, August 2009

Joint Action Plan

- August 2007 Publication of the “**White Paper** on overlaps, gaps and opportunities in view of the extension of bilateral RTD programmes and initiatives towards multilateral approaches” and its **accompanying Joint Action Plan** (JAP)
- widely distributed – feedback/recommendations
- Second revision now in August 2009
- White Paper is designed as a policy paper, the JAP has to be understood as a working paper reflecting the current situation and proposing respective actual measures, gaining momentum through the combination, coordination and adaptation of the individual measures.

Joint Action Plan – amendments and updates

- Collaborative Research Projects: SEE-ERA.NET PLUS Call, Regional Technology Platforms
- Innovation: WBC-INCO.NET enhanced, future ERA-NET
- Infrastructure: inventory, ESFRI regional issues, regional research infrastructure roadmap, development of e-strategies, development of electronic networks
- Institution building: NCP system, benchmarking and evaluation, science-industry networks, regional strategy on R&D for innovation, participation in ERA governance
- Human potential development: mobility programme for SEE, science management training, diaspora task force, mobility centers, scholarship database, info events and trainings
- Dissemination: website / portal, erawatch network

Example of policy support and coordination (1)

- Definition of priorities (SCORE, BAFN, WBC-INCO.NET)
- Endorsement by the Steering Platform
- Partial take up of specific priorities in the SEE-ERA.NET PLUS Call for Proposals (3.5 mio euro with top-up of EC)



ICT:

Software systems for learning process management and support

ICT for energy efficiency

AgroFood

Preservation of indigenous species and traditional food products (in SEE/WBC)

Interdisciplinary field: Land use impact in agriculture on biodiversity

- 2 stage procedure: September-November 2009: 190 EoI
- Invitation to full proposals, evaluation, decision on projects, negotiations, contracting. 23 projects funded.

Example of policy support and coordination (2)

- WBC-INCO.NET discussions with EC on definition of regional activities
- Regional Dialogue meeting: Endorsed a „Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation“ (2008, WBC-INCO.NET)
- Regional Cooperation Council took the message to EC
- DG Enlargement Multi-beneficiary Programme (IPA) prepared to fund a project (1.5 mio euro)
- Worldbank implements project together with RCC (2011)
- WBC-INCO.NET involved as project and through national representatives

Example of policy support and coordination (3)

- Consultation Process on the Green Paper (“Common Strategic Framework”)
- Regional Dialogue, WBC-INCO.NET workshop to prepare a regional position paper (2011)
- Presentation at the Steering Platform and Stakeholder Conferences
- Discussions on national level, regional level and EU-level, follow-up

Example of policy support and coordination (4)

- Newsletter & communication instruments for networking and information exchange
 - Regular circulated to researchers and policy makers covering news, events, calls, ...
 - Dissemination channel for all interested parties (portal)
 - Invited contributors (journal articles)
 - Approx. 9.000 recipients interested in cooperation in and with the Western Balkan countries
 - Accepted by the community (including EC MS)

wbc-inco.net
Co-ordination of Research Policies
with the Western Balkan Countries



Journal
SPRING/SUMMER | 11

Editorial

Dear readers,

The 7th edition of the WBC-INCO.NET Journal is published on the occasion of the 10th Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries, taking place in Ohrid, FYR of Macedonia on May 20, 2011. One of the key issues to be discussed by the Steering Platform is the state of preparation of the Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation as well as the related Enlargement Countries' Position Paper, compiled in the frame of the Regional Dialogue Initiated by WBC-INCO.NET.

This time, the main focus of our journal lies on Clusters. In this context, we would also like to inform you of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme's third call, which is open for expressions of Interest until June 17. "Policy Learning Mechanisms in Support of Cluster Development" are among the call priorities. Strategic projects will be funded to improve regional public administration stability and capacity to enhance, develop and implement effective regional cluster policy. The SEE Programme Area comprises 16 countries, including all WBCs. For further information, please go to: <http://www.wbc-inco.net/call/110515.html>.

In the upcoming months, WBC-INCO.NET will put special emphasis on the field of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), with a consultation session taking place in Vienna, Austria from September 19 to 21 back-to-back with the Conference "Challenge Social Innovation" (<http://www.wbc-inco.net/object/colander/112258.html>). Further activities in the field of energy research are planned for the year 2012. Our team is also planning to visit some EU conferences. We therefore invite you to send us your dissemination material (brochures, etc.) so that we can share it at suitable occasions. As always, we are also happy to receive information about your planned events and other activities to be published on our website www.wbc-inco.net and in our e-journal. For this purpose, and for any other inquiries, please contact us at office@wbc-inco.net.

Elie Dall and Natacha Robsonner - office@wbc-inco.net

WBC-INCO.NET also publishes a bi-weekly e-newsletter including all recent updates on its web portal. To register, please go to: <http://www.wbc-inco.net/subscribe.html>.

Imprint

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9th Meeting of the Steering Platform, Bečići, Montenegro

9th Steering Platform Meeting: Conclusions

The Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries met in Bečići, Montenegro on November 11, 2010. The meeting was co-chaired by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Montenegro on behalf of the Western Balkan countries – which hosted the event – and the European Commission.

The Steering Platform heard the introductory statements from Montenegro, the Belgian Presidency and the European Commission, highlighting the recent policy actions taken at EU and regional level and notably on the proposed Innovation Union and the impact this will have on future activities in research cooperation already now in the upcoming FP7 calls and certainly in FP8. Platform members asked how actions in support to facilitating integration in the European Research Area and in particular on research capacity building, such as the Research Potential programme, will be addressed in the future. In this context, it was recalled how important it is for the scientific community and innovation actors from the Balkan region to have specific actions in the Research Potential programme within FP7. The Platform took note of this request. As to FP8, the WBCs announced a contribution to the FP8 consultation process which is to be welcomed. The Steering Platform welcomed the progress noted on the research chapter in the "enlargement package" adopted by the Commission. The package also showed the overall progress made towards future integration into the EU.

The presentations of the Progress reports showed that both the Balkan countries and the other Platform members were actively promoting research cooperation under FP7, which is very much to be welcomed, and indeed necessary in order to increase participation and strengthen research capacity. Several actions had also been taken to facilitate future integration in the European Research Area. This was also demonstrated by the activities of COST and EUREKA. With respect to regional cooperation, the Platform took note of the further progress announced by the ROC in the *Continued on page 2*



RESEARCH COOPERATION WITH THE WESTERN BALKANS: A TOOL TO FACILITATE INTEGRATION



RESEARCH POLICY

Through policy dialogue to joint agenda setting and mutual learning

- ✓ **Policy Dialogue:** Steering Platform and others
- ✓ **Joint Agenda Setting:** ministerial meetings, Platform meetings, priority setting excercises, Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation
- ✓ **Mutual learning:** stocktaking and exchange, development of common positions, exchange of good practice, benchmarking activities (e.g. NCP systems), exchange of information (e.g. statistics, research information systems, etc.), trainings (e.g. innovation support measures, financial issues, etc.), brokerage events (in cooperation with EU-level projects, mainly NCP projects) -> implemented in projects!

Some further lessons learnt

Success

- widespread support, political commitment
- driving forces in the European Commission, Member States and target countries
- agreed common priorities and objectives
- outreach on different levels – in particular to the researcher level
- clear benefits for all parties

Challenges

- general timing, delays etc.
- coordination / communication (lack of / too much)
- many stakeholders with different geographical foci
- changing personnel, individual motivation
- “red tape” at the related institutions
- repetitions
- “project rules and regulations” stifling some processes

Thank you for your attention!

Elke Dall

Centre for Social Innovation

Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET

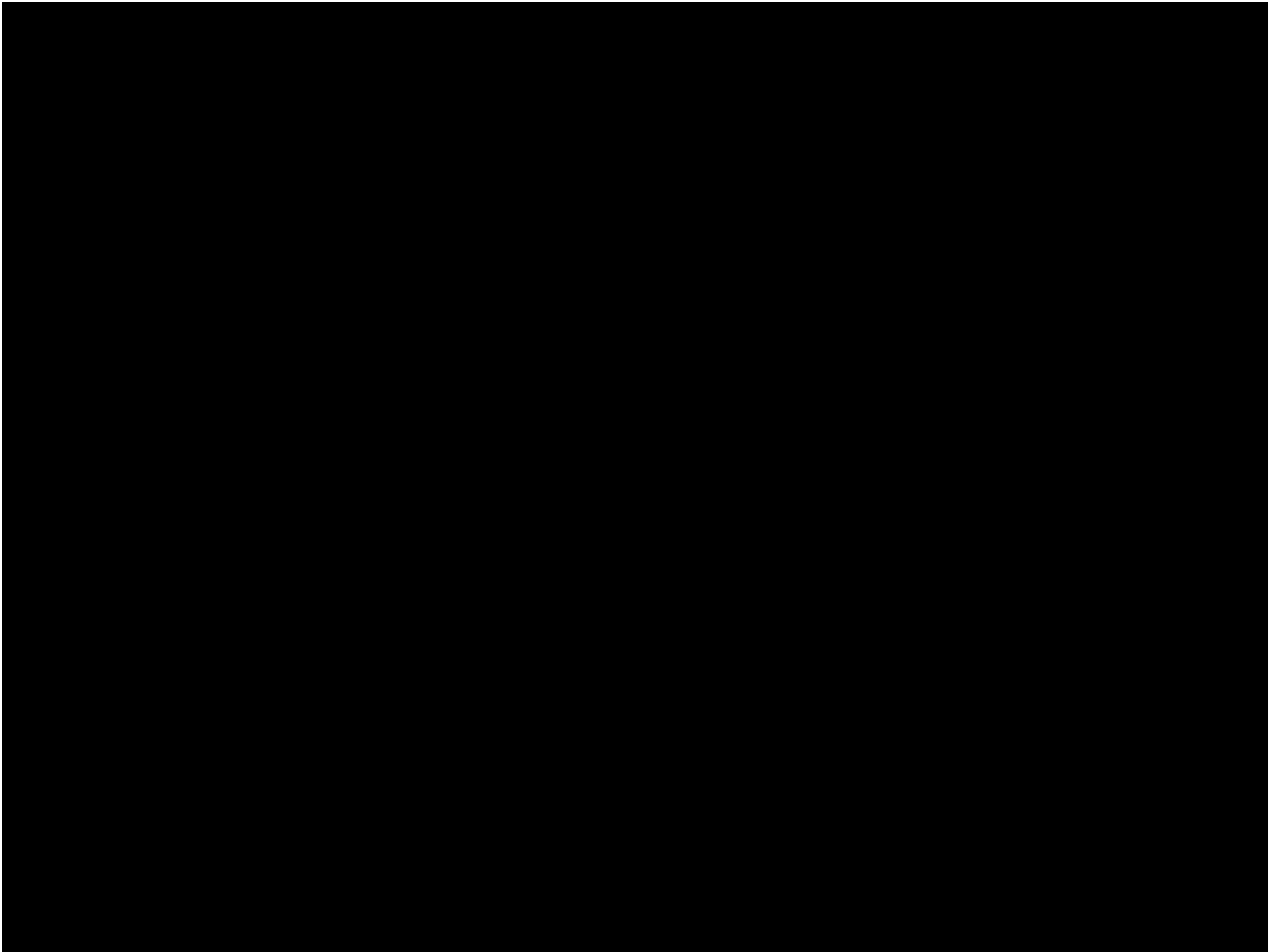
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WBC-EECA

Rankings and Scores of Non-EU Eastern European Countries

Economy	Final Index		Subindexes															
			Information Society		Innovation and R&D		Liberalization		Network Industries		Financial Services		Enterprise Environment		Social Inclusion		Sustainable Development	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Montenegro	1	4.19	2	3.95	3	3.32	2	4.34	2	4.60	1	4.74	6	4.32	2	4.28	2	3.94
Croatia	2	4.18	1	4.04	2	3.36	5	3.85	1	5.23	3	4.34	7	4.16	7	3.72	1	4.70
Azerbaijan	3	4.02	4	3.67	4	3.26	3	4.15	6	4.16	4	4.13	2	4.68	1	4.50	4	3.57
Turkey	4	3.85	5	3.61	5	3.24	1	4.39	3	4.38	2	4.39	5	4.46	10	3.19	9	3.12
Macedonia, FYR	5	3.79	3	3.86	7	2.93	4	3.95	5	4.16	5	4.08	3	4.58	9	3.39	6	3.33
Georgia	6	3.78	6	3.35	9	2.79	6	3.82	8	3.93	7	3.69	1	5.01	6	3.77	3	3.89
Ukraine	7	3.62	9	3.04	1	3.59	10	3.48	4	4.32	11	3.22	9	4.08	4	3.89	5	3.33
Serbia	8	3.51	7	3.29	6	2.95	8	3.66	9	3.83	8	3.68	10	4.01	8	3.45	7	3.19
Armenia	9	3.50	11	2.70	8	2.82	7	3.74	7	3.94	6	3.88	8	4.15	5	3.79	10	2.98
Albania	10	3.47	8	3.13	11	2.52	9	3.65	11	3.46	9	3.41	4	4.48	3	3.94	8	3.13
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11	3.07	10	2.86	10	2.54	11	3.43	10	3.73	10	3.32	11	3.28	11	2.69	11	2.73
EU 27	-	4.81	-	4.73	-	4.23	-	4.80	-	5.39	-	5.05	-	4.60	-	4.51	-	5.16
EU 15	-	5.12	-	5.06	-	4.66	-	5.06	-	5.80	-	5.33	-	4.69	-	4.78	-	5.61
Accession 12	-	4.42	-	4.32	-	3.68	-	4.47	-	4.88	-	4.70	-	4.49	-	4.19	-	4.61

Source: WEF, 2010