# ALBANIA

**PROGRESS REPORT[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC**

**(Budapest, June 8-9, 2015)**

# Policy actions

On March 2015, the new Director General of Agency for Research Technology and Innovation (ARTI), Mr. Geron Kamberi, was appointed.

# Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

* The draft strategy of Higher Education and Scientific Research is completed. The strategy is now in the process of discussion among stakeholders and groups of interest.
* Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) nr. 406 date 13/05/2015 “On Innovation Fund”. This funds about 290 thousand Euros for the period 2015-2017 will assist SMEs for innovation of products and services.
* Draft DCM “On Voucher Schemes”: The scheme provides aid in the form of direct grants, micro, small and medium enterprises, through co-financing. Depending on the evaluation of the project submitted by the applicant, the scheme covers 85% of the eligible costs from the state budget and no more than 2.500 Euros. The main objective of the scheme is to stimulate micro, small and medium enterprises operating in manufacturing, including agro-processing, to enable them direct transfer of knowledge from service providers, innovation, human resource management, marketing techniques and training needs.

# Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

* October 2014 – ARTI has organised Information Day on European Programmes with different institutions: University of Agriculture, Marlin Barleti, Institute of Public Health, Academy of Science
* 21 October 2014 in Tirana, Triple Helix Best Practice Sharing Seminar was held within the context of Enterprise Development Innovation Facility (EDIF), organised by Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Entrepreneurship in cooperation with OECD.
* November 2014 - ARTI organized the event “National Programmes for Research and Development for the years 2010 – 2014”.
* January – May 2015 – ARTI organized Training Days on Horizon 2020 and Euraxess at the different universities in Tirana, Shkodra etc.
* May 19th, 2015 – the Triple Helix Competition in Albania was launched; organised by the OECD in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Entrepreneurship. The Triple Helix Competition in Albania aims to bring key stakeholders in Albania to jointly develop innovative projects that will improve the competitiveness of the Albanian private sector. Projects are expected to be generated in close collaboration between government institutions, researchers, and businesses. The Competition will support local actors in establishing these partnerships and developing their ideas. The three prize winners will be able to associate their projects with the Competition. **Detailed competition guidelines will be available on the OECD and AIDA websites or can be requested by e-mail.**

<http://www.ekonomia.gov.al/al/dokumente/pdf/konkursi-triple-helix>; <http://aida.gov.al/?page_id=6019>; [Triple Helix competition guidelines Albania](http://aida.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Triple-Helix-competition-guidelines-Albania1.docx)

* 21 May 2015 in Tirana, the second meeting of the SEE 2020 Strategy Governing Board (GB) was held. During this meeting GB presented the SEE 2020 Annual Report: on implementation and progress made so far, overall management and guidance of the strategy and economic context within which it operates.

# Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

* On 17 April 2015 - Albania became officially part of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). The Albanian Consortium is made of 9 participants: Albanian Investment Development Agency, Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation, Agency of Regional Development, Agenda Institute, Business Albania, Faculty of Economics of the University of Tirana, Center for Competitiveness Promotion, Institute for Public Policies and Good Governance, Chamber of Commerce of Albania.
* In September 2014, ARTI has signed the cooperation agreement with Austria.
* In cooperation with Turkey ARTI has launched calls for proposal to funding projects
* Some actions are ongoing in the context of Euraxess network.

# Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

* In June 2013 ARTI has started the cooperation with UNESCO and INSTAT for the statistical survey “Statistical Survey on R&D&I in Albania”. The project is launched for the second time and is still in the ongoing process for the data collection of the public and private institutions in Albania
1. The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries. Please submit your report to office@danube-inco.net **until June 1, 2015**. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)