

SERBIA

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC
(1st half 2012 or - November 2011 / Sarajevo till June 2012 / Tirana)

1 Policy actions

After parliamentary elections it is expected to constitute new Government by the end of August 2012.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Public consultation on the Strategy on Education is completed. It is expected that Parliament adopt Strategy in June 2012.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

EVENTS

THE BEST TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION COMPETITION - Final competition "The best technological innovation competition 2011" was broadcasted by Serbian Radio-Television (RTS) in December 2011. There were 12 winners in category "Realized Innovations". Teams in ICT, Energy, Health and Environment area were awarded in category "Innovative ideas". Apart from Serbian teams 6 regional teams were awarded and the best students team was declared.

1ST QUARTERLY WORKSHOP "REGIONAL R&D STRATEGY FOR INNOVATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS" including the Advisory Body for the Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation¹ was held in Sarajevo on March 27-28, 2012. The primary objective of the roundtable was to identify areas of possible cooperation to be included in the Strategy and corresponding measures to be included in the Action Plan. The workshop was attended by 50 participants including delegations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, the European Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council, the World Bank, as well as a group of leading regional experts. Delegations included representatives from the government, higher education, research science institutes, and the private sector. Consultation with the Advisory Body on the progress of Strategy preparation will be held through upcoming workshops – the next one planned for June 18-20 in Dubrovnik. The third workshop is planned for November 2012.

¹ The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries and will be provided for download from the WBC-INCO.Net homepage (www.wbc-inco.net) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to office@wbc-inco.net until June 5, 2012.

CONFERENCE “USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION AND SCIENCE”

Belgrade University Computer Centre (RCUB) and the Ministry for Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia organized one day conference “Use of Information Technologies in Education and Science”. The conference took place on Friday, March 30th, 2012 in Belgrade. The event was attended by 50 participants, including e-Infrastructure related high level members from ministries, universities, EU bodies in Serbia, research centres and public bodies and research centres. More info <http://www.seera-ei.eu/>

CELEBRATION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY

On Monday, April 9th, 2012 the Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade (AOB) celebrated its 125th anniversary. The ceremony which took place in the library of the AOB was attended by numerous distinguished guests. On this occasion Minister of Education and Science prof. dr. Zarko Obradovic expressed satisfaction with the fact that Serbia has the Astronomical Observatory as a scientific institution with such a long tradition, adding that it confirms that science is rooted in our society. Among others guests celebration was attended by the President of the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts, prof. Nikola Hajdin. He said "our nation 125 years ago showed that we are a serious country with the knowledge". He added that the Observatory is of great importance for the nation and that astronomy sets many tasks that we should think about.



Director of the AOB, dr Zoran Knezevic, reminded the guests that this is a double anniversary - 125 years since the founding of AOB and 80 years since it is located in the municipality of Zvezdara. The municipality of Zvezdara, as he said, was named after Observatory and by then

it was called the Great Vračar. Knezevic reminded that Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade was founded in 1887 by Milan Nedeljkovic and in that period had only three instruments. Observatory in the early 20th century gradually developed, and since 1929. to 1932. building was built in the municipality of Zvezdara, where they are today. Knezevic ceremony recalled the three-year project "Belisima" started 2010th with the aim to build a telescope, "Milutin Milankovitch" on the mountain Vidojevica, near Prokuplje. More info: www.aob.bg.ac.rs

CERN SEMINAR IN BELGRADE

The Parliament of the Republic of Serbia has recently ratified the agreement concerning the granting of the Republic of Serbia's Associate Membership in the pre-stage to Membership at CERN. This opened a number of new opportunities for the Republic of Serbia's participation at CERN and experts from CERN were invited to Belgrade to elaborate upon these opportunities. The two days Seminar (23-24.5.2012) was intensive and CERN experts had the opportunity to present many different sides of CERN to an audience composed of many distinguished guests from the national authorities and academia as well as from industry. After the opening of the meeting by the Assistant Minister of Education and Science, Prof. Dr. Snežana Pajović, experts gave presentations about CERN mission.

More info: <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/sajt/page.php?page=299>

INFO DAYS AND TRAININGS

Regarding training activities, the project **Improved SME Competitiveness and Innovation Project (ICIP)** which is funded by the EC held a series of workshops on Innovation Coach: ICIPs Capacity Building for Key Business Innovation Support Organizations, specially topics on Innovation from Public R&D Organizations, Introduction to Technology Transfer from PROs and Introduction to IP and Policy Issues.

FP7 Info day in field of Health was organized in Belgrade on 1.6.2012. Dr. Patrick Kola, head of the unit for personalized medicine, Health Directorate presented new call that will be publish on 9. July 2012.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

(e.g. new bilateral/international agreements, memberships, support structures, important international projects, programmes, etc.)

Bilateral Cooperation:

Bilateral call for proposals with Croatia is closed. Around 100 project proposals were submitted.

Ongoing calls for submitting bilateral proposals: Portugal, DAAD-Germany

By the end of June call for submitting bilateral proposals with CNRS will be launched.

FP7 important projects:

SEERA-EI project finished in the end of March 2012 after 3 years of activity, successfully setting the framework for the adoption of a common eInfrastructures vision in South East Europe (SEE), and having carried out a number of concrete policy-level actions in the area of SEE and in relationship to wider European eInfrastructure trends. A number of joint official documents, such as the joint common vision and regional strategy of eInfrastructures were created and signed, enabling future work beyond the project lifetime.

Within SEERA-EI, three other Memoranda of Understanding were signed: SEE MoU on Grid and eInfrastructure development; MoU for High-Performance Computing resource sharing in SEE and MoU on networking collaboration in SEE (signed by Minister Zarko Obradovic on December, 29th 2011). Furthermore, the concept of formulating a joint SEE Initiative led to two studies addressing the setting up of a SEE-level operations body for SEELight network, or the possible regional grouping for High-Performance Computing.

Six countries participating in the SEERA-EI project (Serbia among them) have committed to make national contributions into "Virtual Common Pot" to fund successful joint research projects: the joint call on Scientific Cloud Computing is being published in May. The expected impact is the increase in regional know-how in cloud computing and its potential applications, and paving the way for the regional cloud computing open environment for research and education.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

INNOVATION PROJECTS ACTIVITIES - In December 2011, Ministry of Education and Science launched the 4th call for proposal supported by the Law on innovation activities for legal entities and individual persons-innovators, which are registered in the Ministry by the mention Law. Out of 211 submitted project applications of registered legal entities, 174 applications were evaluated by national reviewers and 98 applicants are on the list for financing from the national budget. Out of 66 submitted applications of individual persons-innovators, 25 are on the list for financing from the national budget after they passed the examine.

6 Assessment of the developments and outlook on the next 6 months

Ministry of Education and Science, together with Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Intellectual property office RS and Technical faculty of Novi Sad has launched competition "The best technological innovation competition 2012" in April 2012. More than 100 applicants in Category of "Realized innovation" applied for award. Statistical data shows that the large number of reported innovations are in the field of Energy, Agriculture, Medicine, Engineering and ICT.