

CEI

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

Since the last Steering Platform, the CEI has been focusing on the follow-up of the CEI ministerial meeting on Science & Technology (19 October 2011) and its “Trieste Declaration”.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

In line with the “Trieste Declaration”, the CEI has intensified contacts with the European Commission – DG for Research and Innovation for the establishment of an European Research Infrastructure Consortium – ERIC led by Synchrotron Radiation Facility “Elettra” and the Free Electron Laser Laboratory “Fermi” both located in Trieste.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

The 4th call of the CEI Research Fellowship Programme was finalized last 30 April 2012. The evaluation process is currently under evaluation.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

In line with the “Trieste Declaration”, the CEI has been encouraging some of its Member States to become members of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), one of the CEI partners in the framework of the CEI Science & Technology Network. Montenegro’s membership was recently approved by the Board of Governors. Moreover, also Ukraine expressed some interest in becoming an ICGEB Member State.

The CEI is also working on another major objective of the “Trieste Declaration”, i.e. the mandate to promote a multidisciplinary integrated project in the field of bio-energy with a strong focus on the development of a next generation bio-fuels industry.

Beyond reinforced contacts with the European Commission, the CEI has been undertaking a number of preparatory activities in view of participation to the next FP7 Call (theme “energy”). In this regard, a brainstorming event will be held at the CEI Secretariat on 22 June with some

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.

potentially interested stakeholders in order to create a strong international partnership for jointly drafting the abovementioned project proposal.

The CEI has been particularly active in this field, as demonstrated by the recent study commissioned to Bloomberg New Finance that highlighted the economic potential of a future bio-energy industry in the CEI area.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

CERES 4th call: statistics on submitted applications. 20 applications submitted from 10 CEI Member States, 4 from the Western Balkans (1 Bosnia and Herzegovina; 1 Croatia; 2 Serbia).

Results on the evaluation process will be published by the end of July on the CERES webpage: www.cei.int/CERES.

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

(Optional personal opinion)

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Appendix: additional data

(Delete if not applicable.)

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