

Republic of Macedonia

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

(e.g. essential changes in the political authorities, administrative bodies, agencies, institutions, personnel, development/launch of new national funding programmes, etc.)

Committee for Technological Development established

Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

- National Programme for Scientific and Research Activity 2012-2016 prepared (in procedure for adoption by the Government)
- Draft - Innovation Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia 2009 – 2020 in final stage of preparation
- Draft Law on Vouchers prepared
- Continuous implementation of multi-annual projects for strengthening overall research capacities: equipment of laboratories, translation of distinguished professional books
- Reward for publishing works in high impact scientific journals increased from 250 to 500 euro.

2 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

- Promotional event “DETOUR: EUROPE VIA COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES“ Research on the use of Community Programmes in Macedonia – 5th March 2012
- Presentation of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and other EU-funding opportunities for the business community – 9th April 2012
- Conference “Europe 2020” Towards Innovative and Inclusive Union – 17th May 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.

- Two-day Workshop - European Training Foundation and DG Employment - Revision of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development 21-22nd May 2012-05-30
- “Business Excellence Show” – One-day multimedia event for Enhancement of work of business community –exchange of know how, networking, exhibitions etc. 31st May 2012

3 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

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

- Memorandum of Understanding between the JRC and the Ministry of Education and Science completed (to be signed in September 2012)
- Bilateral agreement with Monte Negro signed
- Agreement signed between MES, Public Universities and National Library and EBSCO Publishing USA for access to 18.000 full text e-journals
- Agreement with Emerald Publishing for access to 175 e-journals in the field of Management in procedure.
- Increased number of nominations for JRC workshops and trainings as well as for the secondments

4 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

Continuation of positive participation in FP 7 with a total of about 420 applications and 71 approved projects. Latest 8 projects, since January 2012 have been awarded to SME's (6) and Mobility (2). In (Sarajevo reporting, 1st December) 55 projects were noted.

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

(Optional personal opinion)

There are activities going on specially with the business community towards better exploitation of EU and other funds. Ministries, Universities, Chambers of Commerce, Foundations and NGO's have been quite proactive in organizing events for raising awareness and for higher inclusion in EU programmes.

It is expected that this trend continues in the forthcoming period resulting with more SME's involved in them.