

JRC
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.)

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2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

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3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

JRC Board of Governors meeting back to back with the JRC annual NCP meeting - 23, 25 November Ispra

Representatives of Croatia, Serbia and Albania joined the meeting.

Visit of a delegation of the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey to Ispra (IPSC – Digital Tachograph)

The visit was organized on 13 December 2012, upon the request from the Director-General for Metrology and Standardization of the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey and the main subject was the "Digital Tachograph".

Science support for the Danube strategy: kick off meeting in Sofia

Representatives from the "science support for the Danube" strategy signataires met in the Bulgarian Academy of Science on 25/1/2012 to identify the key priorities of the scientific cooperation. This strategy was launched by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Academies of Sciences of four countries in the Danube region in Budapest on 17 November 2011 during the Fifth edition of the World Science Forum. A letter of intent for closer cooperation was signed by the JRC, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS), the Romanian Academy (RA) and the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS).

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.

96th Meeting of the JRC Board of Governors

Representatives of Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania joined the meeting.

High level conference "Scientific support for the Danube Strategy: Environment protection, navigability, energy production, irrigation and agriculture development and European governance"

The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic has joined on 24 April 2012, the JRC initiative to provide scientific support to the Danube strategy. The President of this Academy, Jiří Drahoš, and the JRC Director General, Dominique Ristori, signed the agreement in the context of a high-level conference organised in Brussels.

The conference brought together 100 attendees, among whom policy makers, the scientists and interested stakeholders, including Maroš Šefčovič, vice president of the European Commission. Attendees discussed key challenges in implementing the EU Danube strategy during this meeting, focusing on the four pillars of the initiative: environmental protection, irrigation and agricultural development, navigability and energy production. The need for better European governance in the area, as already identified by the European Council was also addressed, and concrete cooperation and coordination actions were discussed.

This is the seventh Academy of Sciences from the Danube region that joins the initiative. The JRC already signed a Letter of Intent on 17 November 2011 with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS), the Romanian Academy (RA) and the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS). On 8 February 2012 the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) and on 19 March 2012 the Bavarian Academy of Sciences (BAW) joined the initiative.

The initiative is open to other countries' National Academies and relevant research bodies from the region to join in, contribute and benefit from the common activities of the partnership.

The EU strategy for the Danube region was endorsed by the European Council in June 2011, calling on all relevant actors to implement it without delay. The JRC initiative aims at providing a strong scientific base for the implementation of this Strategy.

Conference on Scientific Support for growth, jobs and sustainability: Examples of Eco-Industries

JRC conference "Scientific support for growth, jobs and sustainability: the example of eco-industries", held on Tuesday 15 May in Brussels, emphasised the unique role eco-industries can play in Europe's economic recovery and sustainable future.

Opened by Máire Geoghegan-Quinn European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, and Hannes Swoboda, President of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats at the European Parliament, the conference welcomed high level speakers from businesses, research organisations, governments and EU policymakers. They shared

experience from their fields and discussed how scientific support can boost the growth of eco-industries.

In his closing remarks at the end of the conference, JRC Director-General Dominique Ristori emphasised the need for action. Science and innovation are crucial for technologies to meet the new challenges in this process. Eco-industries can be an answer to the challenge of combining growth and protection of the environment. He also stressed the need to propose integrated solutions, as air, water, waste and energy challenges (the fields in which eco-industries work) are closely interlinked

Annual JRC Meeting with Enlargement countries

The second meeting of the JRC with the Enlargement Countries was organised on 30 May 2012, in Istanbul.

The meeting was financed under the Travel, Accommodation and Conference (TAC) Facility under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA).

The cooperation between the JRC and the enlargement countries was discussed. More specifically, participants exchanged views on:

1. MoU with Turkey;
2. JRC Info Days in BiH, FYRoM, Albania; Workshop on Food Safety and Chemicals in Turkey;
3. E&IA of the JRC;
4. Functioning of JRC NCP Structures;
5. Follow-ups from the first meeting; and
6. Further proposals for cooperation.

Representatives from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Turkey joined the event. Albania, FYRoM, Serbia and Iceland were also invited.

JRC Information Day in Bosnia and Herzegovina – 5 June 2012

The first JRC Info Day was organised in Sarajevo on 5 June 2012; opened by Ms. Denisa SARAJLIĆ – MAGLIĆ, Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were 111 registered participants.

This Info Day is financed under the Travel, Accommodation and Conference (TAC) Facility under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA).

JRC presented its priorities, mission, structure, technology transfer studies, opportunities / examples of cooperation.

JRC visited the Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Sarajevo, on June 6. Cooperation possibilities, including the areas covered by the Danube Strategy were discussed.

Enlargement and Integration Action

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) gives scientific and technical support to countries on the road towards EU membership, New Member States and Associated Countries. It supports the transfer of the EU legal framework (acquis communautaire) to national legislation and facilitates scientific and technical exchange.

The JRC offers altogether 40 temporary positions for Seconded National Experts and Grantholders. They are targeted at experts from research organisations, public administration bodies, national enforcement laboratories and scientists from the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faroe Islands, FYR of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.

There are 10 E&IA Grantholder posts still open for application until 2 July 2012.

In the frame of the Enlargement and Integration Action the JRC offers specialised workshops and advanced training courses within its areas of competence.

The workshops are set up to allow competent organisations in the new Member States, Candidate Countries, Potential Candidate Countries, FP7 Associated Countries, and on an ad-hoc basis European Neighbourhood Policy Countries and Russia to study the scientific and technical methods and techniques underpinning EU policy implementation.

They also provide an opportunity for EU organisations to learn about the methods currently used in those countries and for both parties to discuss how the EU legislation should be implemented in the future

The Grantholders Programme between TUBITAK and the JRC

The Grantholders Programme between TUBITAK and the JRC has been carried for 4 years within the context of a Memorandum of Understanding between TUBITAK and the JRC. Up to now, (2008 - 2011) 31 Turkish researchers were awarded grants, financed by TUBITAK, to do their research activities within JRC institutes.

The result of the 5th Call was announced on 5 June 2012 and 4 researchers were selected to do research in the JRC for 2012 – 2013.

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.)

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

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

97th Meeting of the JRC Board of Governors – 14, 15 June Copenhagen

JRC National Contact Points Annual meeting – 21 June Brussels

Meetings with TUBITAK and renewal of the MoU

JRC information exchange event in FYRoM – 26 September

JRC information exchange event in Albania – 3 October

JRC Event on Food Safety/Chemical Contaminants in Turkey – 11 October

98th Meeting of the JRC Board of Governors – 22, 23 November Ispra

Study visit (*to be funded under IPA funds*) for 2 researchers from the enlargement countries will be organized to JRC Ispra site on "development of a low carbon society & sustainable management of natural resources"

(Optional personal opinion)

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Appendix: additional data

(Delete if not applicable.)

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