

Greece

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (2st half 2012 or - June 2012 / Tirana till December 2012 / Belgrade)

1 Policy actions

With regard to a sustainable economic development five main areas of strategic importance to the country have been identified and serve as priorities. These include: 1) Agro-food, 2) Information and Communication Technologies, 3) Materials/Chemicals, 4) Energy-Environment, and 5) Health/Biomedical.

The process for meeting those priorities (and serving the country's research needs) is based on 4 dimensions/categories of calls. 1) Strengthening and supporting the scientific/research personnel and research infrastructure. This includes a variety of calls such as calls for interdisciplinary research, researcher-initiated research, support for graduate studies and for postdoctoral research. A major new initiative under this category is a call, identical to that for the ERC starting grants for young researchers (expected to be announced by the end of the year). The aim of this call is to attract top young Greek talent in Greece at a moment in time where there are many incentives for good Greek scientists to leave Greece. 2) Encouraging links between the scientific/research community and businesses and entrepreneurs. This program includes calls for spin-offs, innovative cluster creation, and collaborative efforts between private sector and public research institutions. 3) Supporting bilateral and international collaboration (and support of multilateral ERANET joint calls), and 4) Outreach and Education for research to the community (particularly youngsters).

Moreover, horizontal actions running through all thematic areas are to:

- a) encourage the mobility of researchers, thus facilitating their integration into more competitive environments abroad, and
- b) assure the transfer of "Best Practices" on RIs and Innovation developed in several EU m-s National Programmes focus on the "knowledge triangle" with emphasis on Excellence and Innovation as the cornerstones of the strategy -back -to -growth path. Hence, the promotion of the scientific and technological excellence and the selection of projects on a competitive basis are the core objectives of the national Calls.

In this respect, the Greek government has elaborated the "National Action Plan for the Enhancement of the Research, Technological Development and Innovation" aiming at:

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 December 1, 2012.

- functional integration of the national research “fabric” with an integrated political oversight
- improvement of the investment climate for R&D
- strengthening the linkages between research and innovation
- strengthening the Greek research system and its potential for supporting the economic development of the country
- improving the effectiveness of public financing

With regard the strengthening of the Greek research system important activities relate to the development of a culture of outward orientation in the Greek scientific and technological community which will, among others, further support the achievements of the country in European research programmes.

In relation to the WB region, new opportunities for enhanced cooperation between Greece and WBC are anticipated in the context of the initiatives/actions for RTDI activities in the Framework of the GREEK NATIONAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (2007-2013) operational programmes.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

The new Investment law forecasts 100million euros for investments under the category R&D, and 50 million euros for investment schemes in the category “Networking”, (Clusters). There are synergies with the R&D sector which are summarised below:

It is foreseen that the investment plans which come under the provisions of the present law shall receive aid for the following expenditure: Research, development and innovation projects and programmes relating to the enterprise's business and products implemented by the enterprise either on its own or in collaboration with research foundations and agencies and advanced and higher education establishments in Greece or the EU.

General investment plans shall be divided into 3 categories, one of which concerns investments in research and technological development. This category comprises investment plans intended for the technological modernisation of enterprises through the use of technological and operational innovations, such as quality assurance and control systems, certification, energy-saving technology, research and development projects and programmes and deployment of specialized scientific and research personnel. More specifically this category shall be granted financing or are designed to bring certain geographically defined production activities and services into line with the modern economic and technological environment. These configurations shall comprise at least ten enterprises in the Region of Attica and the Thessaloniki prefecture and at least five enterprises in other prefectures, operating in the form of a consortium, which may include enterprises from other Member States of the European Union. Universities, research institutions and legal persons under private law may participate up to a rate of 20%. The investment plans subsidised include joint operations, such as joint production facilities and equipment, quality control, storage, distribution networks, transport and product and service exhibition and sale facilities and equipment, joint trademarks and e-sales system, joint certification and quality marks, joint staff training etc.

Despite the deep recession of the Greek Economy, it is recognized the role of research and innovation in the exertion for growth. In this context, a restructure of the R & T is going on the last six months, with political measures and activities that promote the national priorities for

economic and social growth, supporting and encouraging regional innovation and development. aid in the form of grants and leasing subsidies.

Every investment plan that satisfies the requirements of this category shall be evaluated and graded on the basis of the following criteria:

- ✓ Criteria relating to technological development, innovation and new products and services.
- ✓ Application of advanced technology and innovation (expenditure on know-how, research and development, product design and marketing, quality assurance and control systems, certification and patenting).
- ✓ Development of new products and activities.
- ✓ Application of clean technologies and waste management.
- ✓ Amount of added value.

Among the categories of the special investment plans is the category of Partnerships and networking. This category includes investment plans filed by partnership and networking configurations, the aim of which is to implement programmes which either make use of the enterprises' competitive advantages or infrastructures created with national and Community

3 Important events, meetings, training activities etc.

I_SEEMob FINAL CONFERENCE, 27-28 JUNE 2012

The Final Conference of the I-SEEMob (Inter-sectoral mobility of researchers in South-Eastern Europe) Project has been held on 27-28 June 2012 at the premises of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey in Ankara, Turkey.

This final event brought together the partner countries as well as researchers, industry representatives and policy experts to discuss the results of the project and share recommendations to enhance industry-academia collaboration and promoting inter-sectoral mobility of researchers at the South Eastern Europe Countries.

OSCE Mediterranean Conference, Rome, 30 & 31 October 2012

The 2012 OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Mediterranean Conference hosted by Italy, in Rome, on 30 and 31 October 2012. The conference, on economic co-operation with Mediterranean partners in the democratic transition processes and political reforms, will be conducted in three sessions, focussing on:

- Economic and social challenges in the Mediterranean Partner countries,
- OSCE experience in addressing transnational threats to security,
- Enhancing the participation of women in political and public life.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

Projects where Greece participate along with WBCs:

WBC-INCO.NET	Coordination of research policies with the Western Balkan Countries
SEERA-EI	Coordinating activities in e-Infrastructures among the countries of South Eastern Europe
SEE-ERA.NET	Facilitating joint R&D projects in various thematic fields in South East Europe

In general international bilateral cooperation on R & D we had:

Joint R&D Calls
Greece-Israel S&T Cooperation
Greece-France S&T Cooperation
Greece-Turkey S&T Cooperation

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

Greece being partner in several networking projects focused on the WB region will be actively involved in future cooperative activities aiming at coordinating the national R&D policies.

In general, Greece striving to return in growth orbit, will invest in research excellence in both public and private sectors. Greece will encourage and boost regional innovation strategies for smart specialization. A restructuring of the research and innovation web of the country is being going on, aiming to develop the human resources from academia, research centers and industry. We look forward to assessing the results of the new policy implementation both in short term actions and in long term plans.