

Austria

PROGRESS REPORT¹

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

Bilateral agreements on scientific cooperation:

Montenegro:

In June 2009 a bilateral "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of Montenegro on Scientific and Technological Cooperation" was signed in Podgorica and entered into force on August 1, 2010. The first meeting of the Austrian-Montenegrin Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation implementing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of Montenegro on Scientific and Technological Cooperation has been held in June 24, 2011 in Vienna. At this meeting 5 bilateral cooperation projects for the runtime 2011-2013 has been selected for funding. The 2nd Meeting of the Austrian-Montenegrin Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Co-operation took place in Vienna on 10th of September 2012. The Joint Commission agreed upon financing mobility costs of 11 cooperation projects lasting from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2014. The Joint Commission will hold its next meeting in the 2nd half of 2014 in Podgorica and the call for project proposals will be open from 1st February 2014 to 30th April 2014. Montenegro:

Multilateral cooperation:

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research is an active partner in European initiatives and cooperation projects within the EU Framework Programmes dedicated to foster and further develop the research cooperation with the Balkan region (i.e. **Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries; Western Balkan Countries INCO.NET (WBC-INCO.NET)**(coordination ZSI, partner FFG), **Southeast European ERA.Net PLUS (SEE-ERA.NET PLUS)**(coordination ZSI).

Most activities on regional level, directly from / in Austria in this period:

- SEE-ERA.NET PLUS Steering Board Meeting organised by MSTD and ZSI; December 4, 2012 in Belgrade

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.

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Austria is strongly involved in the implementation of the EUSDR and participates in several of its 11 Priority Areas (PA). It acts as co-coordinator of PA 1 “To improve mobility and intermodality”, PA 9 “To invest in people and skills” and PA 10 “To set up institutional capacity and cooperation”.

The Austrian federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF) is member in the Steering Group of the Priority Area 7 “To develop the knowledge society (research, education and ICT)” coordinated by Slovakia and Serbia, which is at the moment focusing its efforts on one main ‘Flagship Activity’ the so-called “Danube Region Research and Innovation Fund” (DRRIF), which aims at the coordination of national and regional research and innovation funds in the Danube Region, following the model of the BONUS programme. This activity is strongly supported by the EC and PA7 is one of only 4 priority areas that received an extra financial aid. This “Technical Assistance of DG REGIO” will support the set-up of the DRRIF. At the moment the tender for a feasibility study and the set-up of the DRRIF is being finalized and should be launched in the next weeks. The establishment of the DRRIF will also be supported by the Danube region INCO.NET. BMWF and the ZSI will be part of the consortium of the DR-INCO.NET.

The last meeting of the Steering Group of PA7 has taken place in Vienna on 26.-27. June 2012. In the frame of this event the Steering Group met with Commissioner Johannes Hahn, who appreciated this initiative and assured his full support. On 9.July 2012 at their meeting in Ulm eleven Research Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Danube States declared their interest to establish the DRRIF. As immediate action the set-up of a Danube Region Research, Innovation and Networking Fund (DRRINF - a kind of "pre-DRRIF") has been initiated. A working group, coordinated by Germany met on 18th October 2012 in Ulm. This group will also discuss, if the respective bilateral agreements on S&T cooperation with the countries from the Danube Region could be utilized for feeding the DRRIF or a pilot joint call.

Beside this present main activity, the Steering Group puts the emphasis on the development of Mobility/Joint University Programmes, of Smart Specialization strategies and the identification and endorsement of Flagship projects.

EVAL-INNO (Fostering Evaluation Competencies in Research, Technology and Innovation in the SEE Region)

EVAL-INNO partners developed RTDI Evaluation standards in five local languages+english in the frame of the project funded under the SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme, involving partners from Austria (ZSI as Lead Partner co-financed by BMWF), Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia. Trainings are planned to take place and will be announced soon:

- Bulgaria 18-22 March 2013
- Hungary 15-19 April 2013
- Montenegro 17-21 June 2013
- Serbia 7-11 October 2013

A consultation workshop “Public procurement for SEE innovation evaluation: a comparative and needs assessment study” will take place in Athens on 28-29 January 2013 (invitation forthcoming).

**ADA – Austrian Development Agency, ZSI – Centre of Social Innovation, WUS Austria–
World University Service, OeAD GmbH - Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in
Education and Research**

In December 2011 the project „**Higher KOS – Promoting Institutional Development in Higher Education and Research in Kosovo***“ has been launched. Its purpose is to effectively and sustainably implement the principles of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in the public Kosovar Higher Education (HE) institutions and to sustainably enhance Kosovo's* integration into the European Research Area (ERA). The project is financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and co-financed by the Kosovo* Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

The intervention focuses on three thematic areas, leading to three expected results each contributing to the above mentioned objectives:

- (1) The **quality of education** offered at public HE institutions will be enhanced through improved and labour market oriented teaching and learning (didactics, planning), and improved quality assurance mechanisms.
- (2) The system of **research promotion** in Kosovo* will be improved substantially through developing capacities and establishing a national research fund and administration that is functioning according to international standards.
- (3) **Quality management and governance** as well as administrative capacities of main stakeholders (MEST, universities) will be further developed in order to be more efficient, transparent, effective and customer-oriented.

The three thematic areas are divided into ten components, thus allowing tailor-made measures for each of the expected results, specifically targeted at the direct beneficiaries.

Outlook: **Programmatic Partnerships** are currently being formed between Kosovar and Austrian public education institutions and will be launched in the second half of 2012.

The project is implemented by a consortium of the WUS Austria -World University Service (Consortium leader), the Zentrum für Soziale Innovation (ZSI) and the OeAD (Österreichische Austauschdienst-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung) with a duration of 36 months.

There have been two meetings in this period: 22. June 2012 and 6. November 2012

WUS Austria

WUS Austria implements a variety of projects in the Western Balkan Region; the main activities carried out/ developments which occurred in the last 6 months are listed below, a list of all running projects² can be obtained from here: <http://www.wus-austria.org/allprojects/38/15.html>.

KOSOVO*

SUMMARY: Since June 2012 the project Higher KOS implemented by WUS Austria in consortium with ZSI and Oead-GmbH has progressed from the Inception Phase of the project Higher KOS

² Projects with participation of Austrian Universities are highlighted in light blue.

towards implementation of several activities. In other projects study programs have been accredited and equipment for scientific work has been bought for the University of Prishtina.

- **HIGHER KOS** (*Higher KOS – Promoting Institutional Development in Higher Education and Research in Kosovo**; <http://www.wus-austria.org/project/0/95.html>): start of the project Higher KOS in December 2011 with official launch in March 2012; the project is implemented by WUS Austria (Consortium leader) together with ZSI and OeAD GmbH, financed by the ADC and co-financed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo*. The projects consists of 3 components:
 - Education Quality
 - Research Promotion
 - Quality Management and Governance

Outlook:

- Potential **programmatic partnerships** between Kosovar* and Austrian higher education institutions were formed and respective applications handed in; the partnerships will start by mid of December 2012.
- Call launched for 10 new **collaborative research projects** (launched by ZSI); the deadline for this call is December 14,2012.
- Call launched for 15 PhD and **post-doc fellowships** (launched by Oead-GmbH); the selection panel will take place on December 11, 2012.
- **PhD@UP** (*PhD in Food Science & Technology & Creating Capacities for PhD Reform at the University of Pristina/Kosovo**; <http://www.phdatup.org/>); PhD program has been developed and accredited and the call for the enrollment of students is about to be published; it serves as **model for PhD curricula** in conformity with European/Bologna standards.
- **KIKT** (*Kosovo* Interdisciplinary Knowledge Triangle Center – PhD based Education, Research and Training for Medical and Natural Sciences*; <http://www.wus-austria.org/project/0/77.html>): This project aims at improving the conditions for the development of professional research capacities and PhD study programs for Medical & Natural Sciences at the University of Prishtina (UP). This includes the establishment of a center for PhD studies, research, innovation and training and the development of a PhD program. On March 30, 2012, the official opening of the IKTC_ Interdisciplinary Knowledge Triangle Center for PhD studies, research, innovation and training in Medical and Natural Sciences took place in the premises of the University Clinical Center of Kosova. In July 2012 the PhD program in the framework of the TEMPUS project KIKT has been accredited for three years by the Kosovo* Accreditation Agency (KAA).

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SUMMARY: In the last half year/currently WUS Austria was/is involved in projects which contribute to the **enhancement of the PhD structure**, with WUS Austria as one of the driving figures. Furthermore, the further **enhancement of quality management** structures at the 8 public universities remains a key issue.

- ESABIH (*European Union Standards for Accreditation of Study Programmes at BiH Universities*; <http://www.wus-austria.org/project/0/86.html>): project in final phase; final conference was held on November 19th, 2012, at University of East Sarajevo.
- EQADE (*Embedding Quality Assurance in Doctoral Education*; <http://www.wus-austria.org/project/0/89.html>): Scientific affiliations at 8 BiH universities conducted a thorough evaluation of all current PhD offerings at their institution, research capacities (available competent mentors, infrastructure, funds, etc.), cooperation with industry, international partnerships and bi and/ or multi-lateral agreements in order to collect institutionally scattered data into one centralized focal point - UDE (Unit for Doctoral Education).

REGIONAL

- QinR (*Quality in Research*; <http://www.wus-austria.org/project/0/92.html>; BiH, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia): 1st workshop for drafting of guidelines held in September 2012 in Novi Sad, 2nd workshop/study visit held in Paris in November 2012> guidelines are planned to be finalized by March 2013.
- PATTERNS Lectures (<http://www.erstestiftung.org/patterns-lectures/>); project implemented in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukraine; PATTERNS Lectures encourages the development of new university courses in the fields of art history, cultural theory, and cultural studies in Central and South Eastern Europe; guest lectures within the newly established courses contribute to trans-institutional cooperation and internationalization of the higher education sector in the countries; project funded by ERSTE Stiftung, implemented by WUS Austria. The new courses of PATTERNS Lectures 2012/2013 are starting to be implemented in the academic year 2012/2013.

ZSI – Centre of Social Innovation

Research Cooperation and Networking between Austria, Kosovo* and the Western Balkan Region

(In the framework of the project "Higher KOS – Promoting Institutional Development in Higher Education and Research in Kosovo*")

The Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) in Vienna launched a call for **scientific networking and project cooperation between research institutions in Austria, in Kosovo* and the Western Balkan region with special attention to young and early stage researchers in Kosovo***. Funding is provided by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) in the framework of the project "Higher KOS – Promoting Institutional Development in Higher Education and Research in Kosovo*". The activities in the funded projects shall enable researchers from Austria, Kosovo* and the Western Balkan region to work together on mutually beneficial science driven projects and empower especially young researchers in Kosovo* to cooperate within international projects.

The total funding available for this call for proposals is **180.000 Euro**. Funding is foreseen for a maximum duration of 15 months and the max. funding per project is €15.000. The allowable funding per project must be justified by the content, work load, duration and number of teams involved. For projects with higher financial costs, co-financing is expected.

Possible project activities are: comparative studies, small empirical investigations, mapping and know-how exchange on European standards and practices in the chosen research areas etc. The activities should therefore build on already existing scientific results.

The contractor has to be a research institution from Austria.

The compulsory consortium composition has to include one partner from Austria, at least one partner from Kosovo* and at least one partner from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia. Research institutions from other European countries can participate in the projects but without funding provided under this call (as so-called 'silent partners').

All ethnic groups in Kosovo* are explicitly invited to participate in the call.

Proposals should contribute to significant scientific regional cooperation with (a) research institution(s) in Kosovo*. The extent and quality of regional collaboration will be an important criteria for the evaluation.

Deadline for the submission of proposals is December 14, 2012. The project activities must be completed after signing the contract and before August 31, 2014.

Contact for further information:

Hanna Scheck
Linke Wienzeile 246
A-1150 Vienna
e-mail: scheck@zsi.at
Tel: +43 1 495 04 42 76

Research Training Programme for Kosovan Researchers in International Social Scientific Research Qualifications

Enhancing Social Scientific Research in Kosovo* and its integration into the European Research Area (ESSle) is a European Union funded project managed by European Union Office in Kosovo* and implemented by the Kosovo* Education Center (KEC) in partnership with University of Pristina - Institute for Social Studies and Humanities (ISSH), University of Vienna and non-university research institutes from Vienna: Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Institute for Social Research and Analysis (SORA) and Working Life Research Centre (FORBA).

ESSle launches a call for participation in a research training programme for International Social Scientific Research Qualifications aiming to improve the methodological and managerial skills of Kosovan researchers.

Target Group of the training programme: This programme targets social scientists from public and private sector. Academic staff and researchers of the Kosovo* higher education and/or research institutions, researchers and research managers from NGOs and government agencies are invited to apply for participation in the training programme. A total number of 35 candidates will be selected to attend the programme.

The training programme consists of three modules to be delivered from February-November 2013 with a total duration of 15 days, and is based on SOQUA, a training programme offered to academics and researchers in Austrian institutions. The programme will be delivered in English language by the Austrian and Kosovan trainers, and no translation will be provided. Applicants are expected to submit an initial research project idea which can be further developed during the

programme. 10 programme graduates will be selected for participation in a mentorship programme which includes a two week fellowship in Vienna.

Application process: Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- Application form
- Curriculum Vitae which includes the list of publications
- Proofs of qualifications (diplomas, certificates and similar)
- Proof of employment in one of the targeted institutions
- Letter of motivation
- Initial research project idea
- ID copy

Documents indicated should be send by e-mail to essie@uni-pr.edu by 18 November 2012.

An information day for the research training programme and the call for applications was organized in the Faculty of Philosophy of University of Pristina on 18 October 2012.

Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC) of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

The TFBHC is chaired by Mr. Remus Pricopie on behalf of the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports. The Co-chairs are Austria (represented on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture by Director General Mr. Anton Dobart and on behalf of Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research by Director General Ms. Barbara Weitgruber), and the second Co-chair is Republic of Croatia represented by the Ministry of Science and Education.

The TFBHC Secretariat is located in Vienna and jointly financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, and Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research.

Cluster of Knowledge Activities

Based on the results of a study commissioned by the TFBHC *Evidence Based Policy Making in Education in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Rep. Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia* it was decided to peruse to develop a regional project on this topic and submit for the EU funding. AT has will continue to support the process of project drafting which will be submitted for MB IPA funding in 2013.

The TFBHC will also continue to support and participate in three Clusters of Knowledge activities in cooperation with the Education Reform Initiative of South East Europe (ERI SEE), and the Cluster leaders on the following topics: 1) "Evidence-based Policy Making in Education" under RS leadership, "Development of National Qualification Framework" under HR leadership, and "Modernizing VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET" under RO leadership

Activities

In autumn 2012 the TFBHC implement this year's phase of the TFBHC Capacity Building Mobility Programme. The programme was open to SEE civil servants, and consists of short-term placements at key institutions and networks in the area of cooperation aimed at furthering human capital development. The placements were offered in Belgrade, Chisinau, Podgorica, Sofia, Sarajevo, Vienna and Zagreb. In 2012 six civil servants, four from Montenegro and two from Albania participated in the programme.

Planned Activities

Early in 2013 the TFBHC plans to organize a Workshop for Development of Regional Projects. This event will gather regional stakeholders, and allow them to identify common regional topic in harmony with the "ET2020" benchmark(s), and subsequently develop a project under the regional leadership to be submitted for the EU funding.

Information Exchange

With the aim of enhancing information exchange and better coordination among the WB stakeholders as well as the EU, the TFBHC website (www.taksforcehumancapital.info) is being updated regularly. The E-Calendar of events is especially significant as it gives an overview of not only TFBHC events, but also other events in the WB in the field of human capital development.

Education Reform Initiative South East Europe (ERI SEE)

AT, via the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital of the Regional Cooperation Council holds a Co-chairmanship of the ERI SEE, and is represented by Mr. Jürgen Schick from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. Additionally, AT is represented in the ERI SEE Governing Board by Ms. Monika Mott from KulturKontakt Austria.

ERI SEE Work Programme 2012

Current ERI SEE Work Programme focuses on: Institutional cooperation in the area of Vocational Education and Training and Quality Assurance in Higher Education; Support to the development of Regional Projects; and Cooperation in the fields of teacher professional development.

ERI SEE also focuses on and supports the above mentioned Clusters of Knowledge. AT, via the TFBHC cooperates intensely with the ERI SEE around the Clusters of Knowledge, especially within the framework of the "Evidence-based Policy Making" Cluster of Knowledge, and the planned regional project.

Establishment of the international ERI SEE Secretariat

Within the framework of the ERI SEE, AT supports the process of establishment of the international ERI SEE secretariat in Belgrade. The establishment process is to conclude in the near future.

IDM – Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe

Project: A common history? Austrian and Serbian Myths from 1914 to 2014

Research project: September 1st, 2012 to August 31st, 2014

This IDM research project runs from September 2012 to August 2014. It is carried out under the direction of the IDM Chairman Dr. Erhard Busek, and funded by the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria. The project staff consists of Mag. Dr. Silvia Nadjivan, Mag. Eva Tamara Titz and Mag. Dr. Wolfgang Pensold who is responsible for the project coordination.

This research project aims to systematically reveal and analyse propaganda myths from 1914 to 2014 with regard to the often contradictory and conflicting relations between Austria and Serbia. Those relations between Austria and Serbia are up today demonstrated by various public debates and discourses in both countries.

The highly differentiated research design which takes into account both the official Austrian as well as Serbian perspective, including oppositional positions therein as well, serves to reveal and scrutinise the most influential myths of the investigation period of 100 years. Therefore, the construction, circulation, political use and outcomes of myths are analysed and interpreted in the specific historical and sociocultural context as well as from a comparative point of view.

So, the central objective of this project is to significantly contribute to a mutual and 'neighborly' understanding and to a consensual historiography during the current European integration process of the Western Balkans. After the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) has increased political, economic, ecological and cultural networking and cooperation among the 14 Danube Region countries (including Austria and Serbia), this interdisciplinary project shall support the intercultural understanding within the Danube Region.

Project: Democracy in Unstable Social Spaces: Interrelations of Migration and Democracy in Serbia

Research project: April 1st, 2010 to March 31st, 2012

This research project was carried out under the direction of Vice Rector Univ. Dr. Heinz Fassmann (Chairman of the IDM Scientific Advisory Board), Univ. Dr. Dieter Segert (IDM Board Member) and Mag Dr. Vedran Džihij_. Collaboration partners were the research platform "Wiener Osteuropaforum" at the University of Vienna and the Institute of Social Sciences, Centre for Political Studies and Public Opinion Research, Belgrade. The project staff consisted of Mag. Simone Poli_-Tögel (October 2010 to December 2011 on leave), Mag. Katarina Kuja_i_ (waiting representation from January to December 2011) and Mag. Dr. Silvia Mag Nadjivan (waiting representation from January to September 2011). The project was funded by the Austrian National Bank (OeNB) and the Federal Ministry for Science and Research (BMWF).

This study revealed the interrelations of democracy and its social environment in Serbia which proves to be a country with a high migration potential. The research findings have been developed through a representative survey and subsequent focus groups throughout Serbia. As a result, practical conclusions about the opportunities and limits of democratisation and the external support for democracy as well as the existing migration potential in Serbia are drawn.

In sum, the study results show that the social pre-conditions for democracy in Serbia are

weakened. According to those results people are dissatisfied with the poor performance of the now twelve year old democracy (after the regime change in 2000). Instead of a consolidated democracy, a hybrid system was established in Serbia where the gap between rich and poor as well as the wish to migrate have increased, while the political participation has decreased due to missed expectations.

The everyday life of the respondents has nothing in common with the basic notion of a (social welfare) democracy which implies certain benefits such as social security and the rule of law. In that sense, democracy is based on positive economic and social developments within stable political institutions so that the government is supported and legitimized by all parties and citizens. Otherwise elections degenerate into political deal-making among an exclusive power elite.

The citizens of Serbia have a sober, realistic view of the problems within their society. As a matter of fact, the majority considers democracy as a suitable form of government, but judges the Serbian one to be a “mixed” or unfinished democracy. According to the classical theory of transformation research the Serbian way of democracy could be defined as a hybrid, defective and non-consolidated one. However, these project findings ask for reconsidering the assumption that there is a “natural way” of democratisation which each country has to tread. Political systems such as the Serbian one cannot be defined as intermediate or “gray areas” of linear democratisation processes, but rather show the necessity to elaborate new, appropriate system typologies.

In the frame of this project, IDM realised an international conference and panel discussion on November 22nd, 2011 where the key findings were presented and discussed. Moreover, IDM organised an international panel discussion on April 25th, 2012 regarding the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Serbia. In September 2012, the study “Democracy in Unstable Social Spaces: Serbia – Report on the Survey Conducted in November 2011 in Serbia” was published. The special issue of the IDM Journal “Der Donauraum” under the editorship of Heinz Fassmann and Dieter Segert is currently in production

University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna **(Universität für Bodenkultur Wien)**

Central and South Eastern Europe (including the Western Balkans) is one of the focus areas of BOKU's strategy for Internationalisation, therefore BOKU actively co-operates with Institutions in those countries in the framework of the following networks:

1) ICA- CASEE (www.ica-casee.eu):

In 2010, Rector Gerzabek initiated the founding of this Regional Network of Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Life Science Universities (ICA-CASEE). The Network has 30 founding members and is actively involved in Priority Area 7 (Knowledge society) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Further objectives of CASEE are – among others - the development of joint research, educational and other projects (e.g. joint curricula, joint continuous educational offers, structural development, human resource development, QA, know-how-transfer, e.g. via an e-platform)

Current CASEE members of the West Balkan countries include the following **Croatian** Institutions: **Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, University of Zagreb, University of Rijeka, University of Belgrade.**

2) Danube Rector's Conference (www.d-r-c.org):

BOKU currently has the presidency of this Network, which is also actively involved in PA7 of the EUSDR. The general aim of the Conference is the improvement of higher education in teaching

and research in the region, and in particular the advancement of member universities, by establishing and facilitating bilateral and multilateral contacts between the universities.

Currently, **the following West Balkan Universities are DRC-Members:**

- **BiH:** University of Mostar, University of Sarajevo
- **Croatia:** Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, University of Zagreb, University of Zadar, University of Dubrovnik, Center for Academic Development and Cooperation (CADAC)
- **Serbia:** University of Novi Sad, University of Nis, Megatrend University, University of Belgrade
- **Kosovo*:** University of Prishtina

3) EFICEEC (<http://www.eficeec.efi.int/portal/>)

The European Forest Institute Central-East European Regional Office (EFICEEC) aim to is to foster forest and land-use policy, as well as, innovative and sustainable forest management practices through internationally recognized and practice-oriented research, networking and capacity building, with a special focus on Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. EFICEEC is based at BOKU; and has e.g. the Faculty of Forestry, University of Zagreb among its partners

BOKU-Co-operation details with the different countries:

1) Albania

a) **Co-operation in Educational Projects:**

BOKU is involved in the following CEEPUS networks which include also partner institutions from Albania:

- Landscape management - Sustainable land use perspectives in the Central European Region (CIII-CZ-0311-04-1112)
Co-ordinated by the Mendel University Brno
Albanian partner: University "Fan S. Noli" KORCA
- Agriculture and Environment in the 21st Century - @groen (CIII-HU-0003-07-1112)
Co-ordinated by St.Istvan University Gödöllő
Albanian Partner: Agricultural University of Tirana
- New directions for forestry sciences in Central Europe CIII-PL-0114-06-1112
Co-ordinated by Koszalin University of Technology, PL
Albanian Partner: Agricultural University of Tirana
- Applied Economics and Management CIII-SK-0044-06-1112
Co-ordinated by Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra
Albanian Partner: University "Fan S. Noli" KORCA

2) Croatia

a) **University-wide co-operation agreements with Croatia:**

- **University of Zagreb**
Co-operation agreement since 1997, renewed in 2002, 2006 and 2009
For student and staff exchanges and co-operation in research and education;

- **Josip-Juraj Strossmayer University Osijek**

Co-operation agreement since 1995

For student and staff exchanges and co-operation in research and education.

Additional **bilateral agreements** under ERASMUS conditions for student exchange with University of Zagreb

b) **Educational Projects with Croatia:**

Four CEEPUS-Networks with the following Croatian partners:

CEEPUS Network Title: Applied Economics and Management

Project Number: CII-SK-0044-05-1011

Croatian Partner universities: University of Zagreb

CEEPUS Network Title: Agriculture and Environment in the 21st Century - @groen

Project Number: CII-HU-0003-06-1011

Croatian Partner universities: University of Zagreb and J.J.Strossmayer University in Osijek

CEEPUS Network Title: Rural tourism programs network

Project Number: CII-SK-0505-01-1011

Croatian Partner universities: University of Zagreb

CEEPUS Network Title: For Safe and Healthy Food in Middle Europe

Project Number: CII-HR-0306-03-1011

Croatian Partner universities: University of Zagreb and J.J.Strossmayer University in Osijek

and one **TEMPUS** project:

University of Zagreb , Faculty of Agriculture, Svetosimunska 25, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

[Improving Academia-Industry Links in Food Safety und Quality](#)

Project Leader: [Schreiner Matthias](#) ;

BOKU Research Units: [Institute of Food Science](#) ;

Duration: 15.01.2010-14.01.2013

c) **Research projects with Croatia:** Currently, BOKU is carrying out the following 2 research projects with a total of 2 Croatian partner institutions:

Croatian Waters, Legal entity for water management, Ulica grada Vukovara 220, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia and

Forest Research Institute Jastrebarsko, Cvjetno naselje 41, 10450 Jastrebarsko, Croatia

[Climate Change and Impacts on Water Supply](#)

Project Leader: [Nachtnebel Hans-Peter](#) ;

BOKU Research Units: [Institute for Water Management, Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering](#) ; [Institute of Meteorology](#) ;

Duration: 01.05.2009-30.04.2013

University Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

[Safe food for Europe - Coordination of research activities and dissemination of research results of EC funded research on food safety](#)

Project Leader: [Kneifel Wolfgang](#) ;

BOKU Research Units: [Institute of Food Science](#) ;

Duration: 01.06.2011-31.05.2013

3) Montenegro:

a) **Educational / Mobility Projects with Montenegro :**

One CEEPUS Network

Title: Agriculture and Environment in the 21st Century - @groen

Project Number: CIII-HU-0003-08-1213

Montenegrin Partner universities: University of Montenegro

- **2 WTZ-Projects:**

- **University of Montenegro, Biotechnical Faculty, Mihaila Lalica 1, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro**

- Identity and basic characterization of potential lactic acid bacteria starter cultures isolated from traditionally fermented milk products in Montenegro

Project Leader: [Domig Konrad](#) ;

BOKU Research Units: [Institute of Food Science](#) ;

Duration: 01.07.2011-30.06.2013

„Genotypic and phenotypic characterization types of some varieties in Montenegrin ampelographic collection“

Project Leader: Prof. Astrid Forneck

BOKU Research Units: Institute of Horticultural Sciences

Duration: 1. Jänner 2013 - 31. Dezember 2014

b) **Research projects with Montenegro :** One **REGPOT** Project:

ENHANCING THE RESEARCH POTENTIAL OF THE BIOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE
PODGORICA IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SCIENCE-
BASED DEVELOPMENT OF
MONTENEGRIN AGRICULTURE

Project contact person at BOKU: Prof. Kneifel, Mag. Thomas Guggenberger

And a second research project:

University of Montenegro, Biotechnical Faculty, Mihaila Lalica 1, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro

[Identity and basic characterization of potential lactic acid bacteria starter cultures isolated from traditionally fermented milk products in Montenegro](#)

Project Leader: [Domig Konrad](#) ;

BOKU Research Units: [Institute of Food Science](#) ;

Duration: 01.07.2011-30.06.2013

4) FYR of Macedonia:

- a) **Educational Projects with FYROM** : Currently, one TEMPUS Project with 2 FYROM partners:
Technological Educational Institute of Western Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and University St.'s Cyril and Methodius Skopje, Bul. Aleksander Makedonski bb, 1000 Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
[Improving Academia-Industry Links in Food Safety und Quality](#)
Project Leader: [Schreiner Matthias](#) ;
BOKU Research Units: [Institute of Food Science](#) ;
Duration: 15.01.2010-31.03.2014

University of Graz

The data listed below is based on an analysis of the Database International of the Office of International Relations (IRO) and contains Educational Projects and mobilities, provided that they have been reported to the IRO.

EU-Third-Country-Projects

1. TEMPUS

The University of Graz is currently or has until recently been cooperating with several institutions in the region of South-Eastern Europe in the context of TEMPUS projects:

- *JoinSEE: Example of Excellence for Joint (Degree) Programme Development in South Eastern Europe*
 - An “*Interdisciplinary Joint Master’s Programme in South-Eastern European Studies*“ has been developed in this project.
 - A “*Joint Master’s Programme in History of South-Eastern Europe*” is being developed in this project.
 - Project coordinator: University of Graz
 - Project end: July 2012

- *PhD in Food Science & Technology & Creating Capacities for PhD Reform at the University of Prishtina / Kosovo* (PdD@UP)*
 - Project coordinator: University of Graz
 - Project end: October 2013

- *INTERFACE - Developing and setting up measures for initiating, enhancing and sustaining Higher-Education-Society Cooperation*
 - Project coordinator: University of Graz
 - Project end: October 2013

- *Reforming Foreign Language Studies in Serbia (ReFLeSS)*

- Project coordinator: University of Belgrade
- Project end: October 2013

- *Empowering Universities to fulfil their Responsibility for Quality Assurance (EUREQA)*
 - Project coordinator: European University Association (EUA)
 - Project end: October 2015
 - WB project partners: University of Prishtina; University of Prizren; University of Tirana; Shkodra University “Luigj Gurakuqi”; “Fan S. Noli” University; University of Mostar; University of Sarajevo; University of Banja Luka

2. Erasmus Mundus Action 2

The University of Graz is currently or has until recently been cooperating with several institutions in the region of South-Eastern Europe in the context of Erasmus Mundus Action 2 projects:

- *JoinEU-SEE II: Scholarship Scheme for academic exchange between Western Balkan and EU & Candidate countries*
 - Project coordinator: University of Graz
 - Project end: July 2014

- *JoinEU-SEE III: Scholarship Scheme for academic exchange between Western Balkan and EU & Candidate countries*
 - Project coordinator: University of Graz
 - Project end: July 2015

- *JoinEU-SEE IV: Scholarship Scheme for academic exchange between Western Balkan and EU & Candidate countries*
 - Project coordinator: University of Graz
 - Project end: July 2016

3. Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (EMECW)

- Project *CONNEX: Connecting Europe and China through interuniversity exchange*
 - Project coordinator: University of Antwerp
 - Project end: July 2013

Bilateral Scientific Projects

Since 2011, the University of Graz and the University of Montenegro conduct the joint project “Developing an e-learning module for the seamen educational needs”, which is part of the programme WISSENSCHAFTLICH-TECHNISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (WTZ) of the OeAD.

Educational Projects

The University of Graz is currently or has until recently been cooperating with several institutions in the region of South-Eastern Europe in the context of different projects in diverse LLP programmes:

- *LLP JEAN MONNET, Chairs Ad Personam*
Project: "GOVSEE: Strengthening Governance in SEE through European Integration"
(Project coordinator: University of Graz / Project end: August 2015)
- *LLP ERASMUS (IP)*
Project: "Globalizing Southeastern Europe"
(Project coordinator: University of Leipzig / Project end: August 2012)
- *LLP ERASMUS (IP)*
Project: "FIT: Found in Translation"
(Project coordinator: University of Rijeka / Project end: August 2012 + next year: August 2013)

Best of South-East

Since 2008, the trainee and internship programme "Best of South-East" has been carried out in cooperation with the *Steiermärkische Sparkasse* bank. "Best of South-East" gives outstanding students and graduates of Economics, Business and Law from South-Eastern Europe (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M.)) the opportunity to obtain their first professional experiences. Students from Croatia are entitled to apply for the programme.

On 6 May 2012 the participants of the year 2011/12 were awarded their certificates by Dr. Peter Riedler, Vice Rector for Financial Affairs, Resources and Location Development at the University of Graz, and Sava Dalbokov, MBA, Chairman of the Supervisory board of the Steiermärkischen Bank und Sparkassen AG.

Rudi-Roth Grant

The "Rudi-Roth Grant" supports academic theses that deal with topics concerning Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Since 2001, Rudi Roth, a graduate of the University of Graz, has promoted outstanding students from his alma mater who do research on topics concerning South-Eastern Europe.

On 20 June 2012 the awardees of the year 2011/12 were awarded their scholarships by Honorary Consul Rudi Roth and Prof. Christa Neuper, Rector of the University of Graz.

Further Activities

Institute of Public International Law

The Institute of Public International Law at the University of Graz supervises presently five doctoral theses of university assistants from Kosovo* and Macedonia.

1-Month-Grants-Program for Austria:

The main purpose of the scholarship is to enable scientific staff of universities to do research at Austrian universities in the context of master or doctoral studies (an age limit of 45 years applies).

The implementation of the program is carried out by the Austrian Exchange Service (OeAD-GmbH), which takes care of accommodation arrangements and payment of the grant.

Targeted countries: Applicants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

<http://www.wus-austria.org/project/0/33.html>

European Regional Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democracy in South East Europe (ERMA)

The European Regional Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democracy in South East Europe (ERMA) is an intensive one-year Master programme established through the joint efforts of the participating universities and coordinated by the Universities of Sarajevo and Bologna. In the academic year 2012/2013 ERMA shall be implemented as a double degree programme: one diploma will be issued by the University of Sarajevo and one by the University of Bologna.

Further Activities – partly in German

Zentrum für Südosteuropastudien

Sommerschule: "Globalizing Southeastern Europe", Leipzig (30.08. – 9.9. 2012). Gemeinsam mit den Universitäten Leipzig, Zagreb, University College London, Bogazici Universität Istanbul

Konferenzen und Workshops:

- "Leaving Europe's Waiting Room. Overcoming the Crisis of EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans" (9.-12. November 2012 in Graz)
- "Bringing class back in. The dynamics of social change in (post) Yugoslavia" (7.-9. Dezember 2012; Marija Bistrica, Croatia)
- „Transition in the Balkans – The Artist Interpretation - Filmschaffen und Literatur in Zeiten des Postkommunismus im Gebiet des ehemaligen Jugoslawien“ (21.-22. März 2013; in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Institut für Slawistik)

Neue Projekte:

- „Identity politics and democratisation in Austria and Montenegro“
WISSENSCHAFTLICH-TECHNISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (WTZ), Österreich – Montenegro
2013-2014; Projektlaufzeit: Jänner 2013 – Dezember 2014
- "External Study: Human Rights mainstreaming in EU's enlargement process in the Western Balkans, with special focus on minorities" (gemeinsam mit dem ETC Graz)

Brown Bag Seminars:

Brownbag seminars are organised by the Centre for Southeast European Studies together with the Centre for Southeast European History regularly since 2011. The seminars provide a forum for

scholars at the university and visiting fellows to present their current research projects and discuss them with others in an informal setting.

From June 2012 to January 2013 10 brownbag seminars will be offered.

Diskussionsforum - Historische und aktuelle Entwicklungen im Südöstlichen Europa und im Nahen Osten

gemeinsam mit Südosteuropäische Geschichte und Anthropologie, Center for the Study of Balkan Societies and Cultures

Juni 2012 bis Jänner 2013: 8 Termine

Institut für Pflanzenwissenschaften

Zielgebiet: Kosovo*

Ziel der Aktivität: Anbahnung gemeinsamer Forschungsvorhaben zur Erfassung der Biodiversität von Flechten und flechtenbewohnenden Pilzen im Kosovo*

Dauer: 19.08. bis 25.08.2012

Hintergrund: Die Kenntnis dieser Organismengruppen im Kosovo* ist, abgesehen von einer aktuelleren sehr lokalen Zusammenstellung, sehr schlecht. Aktuell beschäftigt sich keine Forschergruppe im Kosovo* mit diesen Organismen. Die Arbeitsgruppe des Instituts hat in den letzten Jahren umfangreiche Studien ausgehend von Slowenien in Montenegro, Bosnien und Herzegowina, Serbien und Makedonien (FYROM) durchgeführt. Die Ergebnisse wurden in zahlreichen Arbeiten publiziert bzw. sind noch in Bearbeitung, wie eine länderübergreifende Studie zur Flechtenbiodiversität der Albanischen Alpen (Albanien, Kosovo*, Montenegro).

Ergebnisse: Feldarbeiten mit umfangreichen Sammlungen von Flechten und flechtenbewohnenden Pilzen aus den alpinen Lagen der Albanischen Alpen, die derzeit bearbeitet werden und eine wichtige Ergänzung zu den bereits vorhandenen Daten aus Montenegro und Albanien liefern.

Ausblick: Ein österreichischer Dissertant hat unter der Anleitung des Institutsleiter-Stv. seine Studien vor wenigen Wochen aufgenommen und wird als Teil seines Projektes einen Katalog der Flechten des Kosovo* erstellen, basierend auf den spärlichen Daten aus der Literatur und eigenen Feldarbeiten. Die Kontaktpersonen im Kosovo* haben großes Interesse an diesem Projekt und haben bereits logistische Unterstützung für das kommende Jahr zugesagt. Eine Einbeziehung von Studierenden aus dem Kosovo* wird angestrebt.

Zielgebiet: Montenegro

Ziel der Aktivität: Flechtenbiodiversität der Albanischen Alpen

Ergebnisse: Feldarbeiten in der alpinen Stufe der Bogićevica, einem Gebirgszug der Albanischen Alpen. Die gesammelten Flechten sind schon in Graz und werden in den kommenden Monaten bearbeitet.

Ausblick: ein Incoming Forschungsaufenthalt ab Mitte Jänner bis Mitte Februar 2013 am Institut für Pflanzenwissenschaften der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz im Rahmen von JoinEU-SEE. Studierendenexkursion des Instituts für Pflanzenwissenschaften nach Montenegro im Juni 2013

Zielgebiet: Kroatien

Die Kooperationen mit Kroatien werden in den nächsten Monaten verstärkt im Rahmen der Arbeiten an einem Katalog der Flechten Kroatiens.

Institut für Personalpolitik

September 2012: einmonatiger Gastaufenthalt seitens der Universität Sarajevo (ERASMUS Mundus Programm). Anbahnung weiterer Kooperationen: gemeinsame Publikation und gegenseitige Studierenden-Exkursionen (Mai bzw. Herbst 2013).

September 2012: Erhalt eines Stipendiums von der ERSTE Stiftung für Dissertationsprojekt mit dem Titel „Internationalisation and Human Resource Strategies of Austrian Companies in South-Eastern Europe (SEE)“ zur Durchführung von Interviews mit Personalverantwortlichen vor Ort in Südosteuropa.

November 2012: Gastaufenthalt seitens der Universität Mostar. Anbahnung weiterer Kooperation: Unterstützung bei Konferenzorganisation in BiH, 2014.

November 2012: Gastaufenthalt an der University of Novi Sad (Lehrveranstaltungen)

Institut für Slawistik

Publikationen

- Tošović, Branko; Wonisch, Arno (ur.). Srpski pogledi na odnose između srpskog, hrvatskog i bošnjačkoga jezika. Knjiga I/4: 1990-2004. – Graz - Beograd: Institut für Slawistik der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz - Beogradska knjiga, 2012. – 637.
- Tošović, Branko; Wonisch, Arno (Ur./Hg.). Hrvatski pogledi na odnose između hrvatskoga, srpskoga i bosanskoga/bošnjačkoga jezika / Die kroatische Sichtweise des Verhältnisses zwischen dem Kroatischen, Serbischen und Bosnischen/Bosniakischen. Svezak 2 / Band 2. – Graz - Zagreb: Institut für Slawistik der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz - Izvori, 2012. – 632.
- Tošović, Branko (Hg./ur.). Ivo Andrić – Literat und Diplomat im Schatten zweier Weltkriege (1925–1941) - Ivo Andrić – književnik i diplomata u sjeni dvaju svjetskih ratova (1925–1941). – Graz - Beograd: Institut für Slawistik der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz - Beogradska knjiga, 2012. – 4 – 606. – (Andrić-Initiative: Ivo Andrić im europäischen Kontext - Ivo Andrić u evropskom kontekstu)
- Tošović, Branko (ur.). Poetika, stilistika i lingvistika pripovijedanja Branka Ćopića / Poetik, Stilistik und Linguistik der Erzählens von Branko Ćopić. – Graz - Banjaluka: Institut für Slawistik der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz - Narodna i univerzitetska biblioteka Republike Srpske, 2012. – 1 – 389. – (Ćopić-Projekt - Ćopićev projekat)
- Popovska: Narrative Strategien in den Erzählungen von Ivo Andric (im Rahmen des Projekts Andric Initiative, schon erschienen Oktober 2012)
- Popovska: Balkanroadmovie in SERBIAN STUDIES RESEARCH Die Gewaltdarstellung im serbischen Film der 1990er Jahre im Anzeiger
- Wonisch Arno. Prevođenje romana „Derviš i smrt“ Meše Selimovića na njemački jezik. In: Zbornika radova s Međunarodne naučne konferencije „Sarajevski filološki susreti 1“. Sarajevo. (Publikation in Vorbereitung)

Symposien/Tagungen

- Symposium "Die Brücke über die Drina" / "Na Drini ćuprija" - Das Forschungsprojekt "Ivo Andrić im europäischen Kontext / Ivo Andrić u evropskom/europskom kontekstu" (Graz, 2007-2015), Organisator, Višegrad (Bosnien und Herzegowina), 04.10.2012 - 05.10.2012.

- Symposium "Lirski doživljaj sv(ij)eta u Ćopićevim d(j)elima" („Lyrische Welterfahrung in den Werken von Branko Ćopić“) // Projekat "Lirski, humoristički i satirički svijet Branka Ćopića (2010–2016) - Das Projekt "Die lyrische, humoristische und satirische Welt von Branko Ćopić" (2010–2016), Graz, 06.09.2012 - 07.09.2012.
- Pfandl, Heinrich; Tropper, Eva; Wonisch, Arno. "Wie bilden sich nationale und sprachliche Identitäten auf Postkarten der slowenischen Gebiete der Donaumonarchie von 1890-1918 ab?". Tagung: Verbandstagung des Österreichischen Slawistenverbandes 2012. Innsbruck, 9.11.2012.

Geplant in den nächsten 6 Monaten:

Projekte

- (seit 1.11. – 30.4.2013): Forschungsanschubprojekt „Identität im postjugoslawischen Film“, Antragseinreichung FWF Ende April
- Anfang März: Filmprojekt zur Geschichte des BKS Films Lesung/Workshop mit Vladimir Arsenijevic

Publikation

- Publikation des Konferenzbandes „Kind und Jugendlicher in Literatur und Film Bosniens, Kroatiens und Serbiens“- vermutlich noch bis Ende 2012 (Manuskript bereits beim Verlag Kovac, HH)

Tagungen/Symposien/Lesungen

- Tagungen: 'Europe: Crisis and Renewal' in Cambridge
- Facing the Present: Transition in Post-Yugoslavia – The ArtistView – Internationale Tagung in Graz, 21.+22.3.2013, gemeinsam von Institut für Slawistik und Zentrum für Südosteuropastudien, unter Beteiligung namhafter Künstler aus dem Bereich Literatur, Film, Drama in Südosteuropa.

UNIKO - Universities Austria

see Annex 1