

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE – EC

PROGRESS REPORT¹

**on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC
(December 2012 / Belgrade till June 2013 / Budva)**

1 Policy actions

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

...

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

...

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

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 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, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.

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

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 May 29, 2013.

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

Activities:

4 – 5th February 2013

Study visit of the Delegation from the Enlargement Countries to JRC Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP) Ispra – Italy.

15 participants coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia and Iceland representing scientific organizations and/or national policy making bodies took part in the initiative.

The objective of this visit was in the context of strengthening of cooperation between the JRC and the Enlargement countries with regard to the preparation and implementation of the JRC Enlargement and Integration Action (E&IA). Health was one of the priority areas for these countries.

The programme of the visit included:

- Presentation of Public Health Activities
- Visit to European Reference Laboratory for Food Contact Materials (FCM)
- Visit to Nanobiotechnology Laboratory
- Presentation of the European Reference Laboratory for GM Food & Feed (GMFF)
- European Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing

27th February 2013

Workshop "Smart grids" - TUBITAK Marmara Research Centre in Gebze – Turkey

The workshop was organised by JRC in cooperation with TUBITAK (Turkey). The event took place at TUBITAK Marmara Research Centre in Gebze – Turkey

35 participants joined the workshop. Two scientists per Enlargement country had been invited to the event.

The programme of the workshop included the following presentations:

- TUBITAK's Smart Grid Studies and Projects
- Strong Ground Motion Detection System Application for Natural Gas Distribution System
- Integration of Large Scale Renewable; Nationwide Wind Monitoring and Forecast Project
- Wide Area Monitoring System for Transmission Grid; National Power Quality Project
- Activities on smart electricity systems and interoperability at JRC
- Integrated modelling of gas and electricity networks
- Smart grid modelling and experiments: JRC work highlights

28th February 2013

Scientific Conference "High Level Dialogue on Scientific Cooperation" - Istanbul – Turkey.

The event was organized in Istanbul – Turkey. 170 participants joined the event.

During the conference was announced that a second MoU between JRC and TUBITAK was signed (October 2012) for other 5 years as a continuation of the first signed in 2007. Under the first MoU 35 Turkish researchers were co-selected by JRC and TUBITAK to do research in JRC laboratories.

The programme of the Conference included the following presentations:

JRC European Reference Laboratories

Science and Innovation to Support the Environment & Sustainability

Science Support to Electromobility

28th February 2013

99TH meeting of the Board of Governors – Istanbul - Turkey

Representatives of the following countries also joined the meeting: Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

14th March 2013

3rd Meeting of the JRC with the National Contact Points (NCPs) from the Enlargement Countries – Brussels - Belgium

The meeting took place in Brussels. NCPs from Albania, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey took part at the event.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- to discuss the existing cooperation, including participation in the JRC Enlargement and Integration Action (E&I A), recent information events and on-going collaboration agreements, and future developments;
- to set the country priorities for the next JRC Enlargement and Integration Action (E&IA 2014);
- to present the JRC activities in support to the Danube Strategy Initiative;
- to present the JRC activities in Foresight and Horizon Scanning.

21-22 March 2013

Scientific meeting on the Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy – Ispra – Italy

More than 130 participants from various scientific organisations from the Danube region took part at the event, among these several representatives from Serbia and Croatia.

The aim of the event was to present the **flagship clusters** identified by the JRC to support the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and to discuss interested partners' **possible contribution to the JRC initiative**.

Most key scientific institutions from 12 out of the 14 Danube countries were represented at the meeting, which gathered representatives from science academies, universities, research and technology organisations and international organisations such as the ICPDR.

11th-12th April 2013

Training Workshop on Smart Specialisation for South East European countries – Belgrade - Serbia

The event took place in Belgrade on 11-12 April 2013. Policy makers from 18 Central and Eastern European countries (among them all the WBC countries) took part at the event.

26th April 2013

S3 Seminar – Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) and Transnational Cooperation for an Innovative Danube Region – Brussels - Belgium

The event took place in Brussels. High level representatives from 14 Danube countries, representatives of the Baltic Sea region, the European Commission and other related organizations took part at the event.

The seminar was organized in 5 sessions:

- First session: The development and implementation of the Smart Specialisation Strategies in the Danube Region - Issues and challenges
- Second session: How to enhance transnational cooperation when drafting RIS3?
- Third session: The transnational aspect of RIS3 - Learning from other regions & an initial assessment of common strengths of the Danube Region
- Fourth session: The transnational dimension of RIS3 in Danube Region countries
- Final panel session: A roadmap for 2013 – Concrete steps towards the development of the transnational dimension

Representatives of the following countries joined the meeting: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

13th May 2013

Launch of Enlargement and Integration Action for 2014

In light of the preparations for the Enlargement and Integration Action (E&IA) 2014, the call for proposals to the JRC Institutes was launched for JRC E&IA activities and E&IA posts for the year 2014.

The JRC is collecting proposals for projects coming from the JRC's Institutes. The projects will be based on the JRC Key Orientation and on the research priorities, as received by the JRC during our annual E&IA NCPs Meeting (March 2013). After their evaluation, the projects will be published on the JRC website (end of July).

15 – 16 May 2013

High Level Event " Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy" – Bratislava - Slovakia

The event took place in Bratislava - Slovakia. High level representatives from the Danube countries, the European Commission and other related organizations took part at the event. The event was attended by the Slovak Prime Minister H.E. Robert Fico, the Vice President of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, and other guests from the political and scientific community

Several participants coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia took part at the event.

The aim of the high-level event of 16 May 2013 in Bratislava, co-hosted by the Minister for Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, was to present the flagship clusters proposals identified by the JRC and its scientific partners to the key high-level stakeholders from the scientific community, industry and policy making of the Danube Region.

These flagship clusters proposals represent concrete solutions to respond to the scientific challenges related to the implementation of the key priorities of the Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy. The clusters will provide scientific evidence to support the Danube Strategy, and will also serve to foster scientific cooperation across the region

It will help 'crossing bridges' between policy-makers and scientists, between different countries and between various policy areas and/or scientific fields.

5TH June 2013

Conference: "Research Cooperation between the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and Croatia" -

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre is organising together with the Croatian Ministry of Science Education and Sport and with the Business Innovation Agency a conference on Research Cooperation between the JRC and Croatia on 5 June 2013.

The objective of the conference is to mark the progress of the relations between the JRC and Croatia and to provide relevant stakeholders with information on further possibilities for developing cooperation with the JRC. The JRC is assisting Croatia since 2001 in the area of scientific and technological (S&T) know-how underpinning complex EU policies. With this event the JRC marks this successful cooperation and the accession of Croatia to the EU. More than 140 participants are expected to take part to the conference. Two representative nominated by each E&IA target countries' NCPs have been invited (travel and accommodation covered by the JRC within the E&IA 2013).

Important EU policy areas will be addressed with separate sessions during the conference: energy and environment as well as food and consumer protection. In addition there will be a session dedicated to the young Croatian scientists.

The final workshop for young Croatian scientists on jobs and cooperation opportunities with the JRC aims at raise awareness of the means put in place by the JRC to support E&IA target countries' researches, namely a Grant holder scheme, workshops and training courses. The main outcomes of E&IA projects are thus the knowledge and skills gained by participants for the transfer of the European Acquis to target countries, and the increased networking between JRC and target countries.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

Number of active cooperation with WBC:

Albania: 3 FP7 Projects; 1 Collaboration Agreement; 1 Institutional Network

Macedonia: 3 FP7 Projects; 1 Institutional Network

Bosnia and Herzegovina: 2 Projects FP7; 1 Institutional Network

Serbia: 6 FP7 Projects; 2 Collaboration Agreements; 1 Institutional Network

Croatia: 11 FP7 Projects; 3 Collaboration Agreements; 2 Institutional Networks

Iceland: 6 FP7 Projects; 3 Collaboration Agreements; 3 Institutional Networks

Montenegro: 2 FP7 Projects; 1 Institutional Network

Turkey: 27 FP7 Projects; 10 Collaboration Agreements; 2 Institutional Networks

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

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

(Optional personal opinion)

The following activities will be organized in the next six months:

Concerning E&I Action:

Study visit of the Enlargement countries to JRC **Petten** site (**NL**) - Institute for Energy and Transport (IET). Tentative date October 2013

Study visit of Enlargement countries to JRC **Ispra** site (**IT**). The main topics of the visit will be Crisis monitoring, climate risk, forest modeling. Tentative date November 2013

Workshop on nanotechnology. The event will be organized by JRC and INL International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory and will take place in **Braga (PT)** in November 2013. Two scientist from Enlargement Countries will be invited (travel and accommodation covered by the JRC within IPA funds).

Concerning Danube Strategy:

During the next six months **concrete activities** concerning each flagship cluster will be undertaken.

Below a short summary/list of scope, work packages and expected outputs for each flagship cluster.

Danube Water Nexus

Scope

- Water availability, water quality, water related risks, preservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity

- Addressing the environmental and socio-economic consequences of changing agriculture-energy pressure on water.

Work packages

- Data Base development
- Hydro-economic modelling
- Scenario analyses

Expected outputs

- Scenarios of environmental and economic impact of alternative water allocation measures across competing water-using sectors for the years 2030-2050
- Methodology for modelling of water resources in the Danube river basin integrating quantity, quality, ecology and hydro-morphology.
- Policy relevant data products, seminars, etc.

Danube Land and Soil Nexus

Scope

- Land and soil availability;
- Land and soil quality;
- Land and soil-related risks;
- Preservation and restoration of above- and belowground ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Harmonised data collection and monitoring.

Expected outputs

- Policy relevant data products describing soil functions and pressures on land and soil
- Awareness raising activities, including awareness raising materials, seminars and summer Schools

Danube Air Nexus

Scope

- Addressing air-related issues in the Region and especially, the assessment of air quality sources and the assessment of the impacts of air pollution on health.

Work packages

- Identifying air pollution sources
- Scenarios of future air quality emissions
- Climate impact on air quality and health

- Assessing impacts of PAH on health

Expected outputs

- Identification of air pollution sources
- Future emission scenarios for air pollutants
- Evaluation of impacts of atmospheric Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons on child development

Danube Bioenergy Nexus

Scope

- Addressing challenges of energy production in the Danube Region while focusing on the development of bioenergy and its possible impacts on the agriculture sector in the Region as well as on the environment

Work packages

- Mapping potential of the Danube Region as concerns the development of bioenergy
- Assessment of relevant technological options
- Assessment of the impacts of bioenergy development on agriculture, climate change, soil quality and on biodiversity

Expected outputs

- Extension of National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) databases to non-EU Danube countries and update of EU countries data
- Detailed maps of raw resources potential (e.g. crop residues, forest residues, sewage and other waste, manure for biogas)
- Methodologies for assessing different sustainability aspects of bioenergy exploitation (e.g. water consumption and quality, soil erosion, etc.) for the preparation of further impact maps.

Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure (DRDSI)

Pilot Project

Aim and scope

- Offering a global view on various data sets covering a wide-range of areas (e.g. water & soil quality, population, landscapes)
- Providing access to, and exchange of, quality-documented data and services on large scale projects which will form the key elements of the EUSDR implementation.