

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (December 2012 - June 2013)

1 Policy actions

I) Implementation of the Funding Programmes to Support Science and Research at all levels of the governance in BiH continues throughout 2013 as follows:

State level – Ministry of Civil Affairs implement the Programmes:

1) Support to Participation in the EU Funding Programmes, COST and EUREKA, grant totalling 230 000 euro

2) Support to innovation activities by means of grant totalling 70 000 euro.

-Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska (MNT) continues to promote and implement activities in line with the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Srpska for 2012 -2016 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy.

In this light, the MNT supported innovation activities for the first and second quarter of 2013 through competition by means of grant of 19 500 euro for 8 organizations of innovators and 17 single innovators.

In the march 2013 the MNT published the Calls for applications in the scope of its programmes as follows:

- a) Programme of publishing of scientific publications (80 000 euro),
- b) Programme of provision and maintenance of equipment and facilities for scientific research (50 000 euro),
- c) International scientific cooperation programme (75 000 euro)
- d) Programme for support organization of scientific conferences (210 000 euro).
- e) Programme for talented young researchers and research in the area of technological development will be open soon.
- f) In first quarter of 2013 the MNT supported infrastructural organizations for technology development by means of grant 20 000 euro.

- Ministry of Science and Technology of RS and the Council for Science and Technology RS initiated activities in establishing Centre for scientometric.

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 31, 2013.

The 'Programme to Support Science in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH)' provides funding for the operational costs for research projects in all fields of science on the territory of FBiH. This is the principal instrument for the allocation of competitive-based research grants from the FBiH budget. In 2013 overall budget for this Programme is 1.5 million euro.

The competitive grants include:

- competitive grants for conducting basic research, applied research and experimental development.
- competitive grants for supporting young and gifted scholars in their science and research activity (awarding scholarships for postgraduate and PhD studies, technical preparation of master and PhD thesis).
- competitive grants for publishing scientific and research publications and journals.
- competitive grants for participation in international scientific conferences and development of scientific cooperation.
- competitive grants for the acquisition of research equipment.
- competitive grants for the support of scientific and professional associations.
- competitive grants for the organisation of scientific events.

II) **Implementation of the IPA projects related to RTDI:**

- 1) "Development of institutional capacity of three innovation and research centres in BiH continues throughout 2013.
- 2) "Capacity building of BiH in European RTD Programmes", the project led by International Development Ireland consortium, will be implemented between January 2013 to March 2014.

Project implementation involves three operational components. These are:

- Component 1 – Training for writing and implementation of projects for FP7/Horizon 2020, COST and EUREKA Programmes
- Component 2 – Media campaign about the possibilities of FP7/Horizon 2020, COST and EUREKA Programmes
- Component 3 – Implementing the Communications and Visibility Plan (Horizontal/Cross-Cutting Component)

III)

BiH is undertaking activities regarding the involvement in the "**Western Balkans Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility**" (**WB EDIF**). WB EDIF is a joint initiative of the European financial institutions and the Commission, aiming at improving access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and helping to develop the regional Venture Capital in the WBCs. This process for BiH is led by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska adopted four new rulebooks in the field of scientific and technological development in March 2013 as follows:

1. Rulebook on the conditions and procedure of registration in the Register of researchers,²
2. Rulebook on the conditions and procedure of registration in the Register of scientific and research organizations,³
3. Rulebook on the criteria for the realization of the program of incentives and financing activities of scientific and professional associations and other organizations⁴ and
4. Rulebook of Procedure for registration in the Register of legal entities and individuals engaged in the development of technology⁵.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Framework Programme promotion activities:

In 2013, the MCA organised 9 Info days and 6 round tables at all public universities in the country.

Innovation at regional level:

In the framework of the WG on Innovation of the the Regional Cooperation Council (formerly led by the OECD within the Regional Competitiveness Initiative) the Ministry of Civil Affairs participated in the study-visit to the AREA Science Park in Trieste in January 2013. The Ministry also participated at the meetings on regional innovation and WB EDIF organised by the OECD, March, Paris. The Ministry (MCA) maintains close contacts related to the innovation policy with the Country Economic Team Leader to the Investment Committee for South East Europe (SEEIC). SEEIC is now based at the Regional Cooperation Council.

Federal ministry of Education and Science:

- a) Supported organisation of domestic and international scientific events in the amount of 18 000 euro
- b) Supported participation of the researchers at the domestic and the international conferences in the amount of 77 000 euro in 2012.

The Ministry of Science and Technology of RS:

- a) Organized the final competition for the best technological innovation in the RS; in December 2012, Istočno Sarajevo;
- b) Published the third issue of "INFINITI" *Journal* and contributed to the first television broadcasting of the scientific programme called INFINITI. The programme was broadcasted every Thursday on the RS Radio and Television, in the period between October and December 2012;

² Official Gazette of RS, 8/13

³ Official Gazette of RS, 8/13

⁴ Official Gazette of RS, 8/13

⁵ Official Gazette of RS, 8/13

- c) Supported organisation of the exhibition INOST MLADIH, which was held in Banja Luka in April 2013, as well as a few other international conferences in the RS in last six months.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

The Ministry of Civil Affairs joined the Danube-INCO.NET project consortium.

The MCA participated at the ERAC Mutual Learning Seminar in March 2013 as well as at the meetings of the ERAC and its Working group on cross-border cooperation of research-performing organisations, with the mandate to prepare the ERAC opinion on cross-border cooperation for the Competitiveness Council.

Information for the "Researchers Report - Country Profile Bosnia and Herzegovina" for 2012 and for 2013 were provided to the Deloitte consulting, a company selected by the EC to deliver reports for the EU MS and the Associated Countries. This is part of the activities of the Steering Group for Human Resources and Mobility of Researchers (ERA SGHRM).

Within the scientific and technological cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro the Calls for projects for period 2014/2015, are open in the first half of 2013.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

According to the Action plan of the relevant statistical agencies in BiH, it is expected that BiH has R&D statistics by the end of 2013; statistics for innovation (CIS) for the period 2013-2014 for BiH is expected to be published in early 2015.

Since 2009th, the Institute of Statistics and the Ministry of Science and Technology of RS, carried out statistical research in the field of research and development and innovation activities of enterprises in the Republic of Srpska, in accordance with the methodology recommended by the OECD and Eurostat. On the basis of the document "Research and Development in the 2011⁶" the total investment in research and development (GERD) in the Republic of Srpska in 2011 amounted to 0.3% of GDP. Compared to the previous reporting period, it's an increase of 0.05% of GDP (GERD in 2010 was 0.25% of GDP).

⁶ Institute of Statistics of RS, "Annual report" 233/12, 20.11.2012. god