

Republic of Serbia

PROGRESS REPORT¹

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

1 Policy actions

The new statute on internal organization and systematization of posts in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development was adopted on 4/12/2012, modifying the organizational structure of the Ministry so that competences of the Department for Preschool and Primary Education encompasses adult education; those of the Department of Higher Education investments, pupils' and students' standard and public procurement and new unit was introduced within the Department for European Integrations, Development and Research Programmes and Projects in Education and Science: Group for monitoring work and business operations - beneficiaries of budgetary subsidies and funding from foreign loans and grants.

The main task and responsibility of this Group is to monitor implementation of programmes and projects of the following institutions:

- Innovation Fund <http://www.inovacionifond.rs>
- Centre for Promotion of Science <http://www.cpn.rs/>,
- Agency for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety <http://www.srbatom.gov.rs/srbatom/>,
- Public Company "Nuclear Facilities of Serbia" <http://www.nuklearniobjekti.rs>,
- Project Implementation Unit - PIU Research and Development <http://www.piu.rs>.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

In the normative area of Science and Innovation following documents are adopted:

- Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights ("Official Gazette" No119/12);
- Law on Changes and Amendments to the Trademark Law ("RS Official Gazette", No.10/13);
- Regulation on innovation activity programmes for 2013 ("Official Gazette", No. 30/2013),

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Promotional activities have continued on the FP7 Call for proposals for individual scientific fields of research. During this period a number of Information Days and consultation with researchers were held (Pharmaceutical Faculty - 30 January 2013, Clinical Centre of Serbia, 21 February 2013, University of Kragujevac, 26 March 2013, and University of Novi Sad, scheduled

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.

for 18 April 2013). Within the framework of the FP7 People Programme information sessions was held regarding the current Open Calls on 9 May 2013 in Novi Sad, May 10 in Nis, May 16 in Belgrade, May 23 in Kragujevac. Within the PeopleNetwork+ project, a Twinning workshop was organized on May 16 and 17 with counterparts from Turkey, Malta, Ukraine, Romania and Croatia.

"Training Workshop on Smart Specialization for South East European countries" was organised within the WBC INCO.NET project in early April as the basis and beginning of the preparation of a Country position paper as an important document for drafting Smart specialization strategy.

One of the results of FP7 project EVAL-INNO is publishing of the brochure *RTDI Evaluation Standards*.

The Centre for Materials and Nanoscience, was opened on 29/04/2013. Centre is designed as a laboratory space where capital research projects will be conducted in the interdisciplinary research fields of Micro-fabrication and Nanosciences, New Materials and Supercomputing "Blue Danube". The laboratory will have a modern infrastructure in line with the standards of the European Research Area (ERA) with the strategic aim to contribute to the European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructure (ESFRI).

INNOVATION PROJECTS ACTIVITIES - Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development finished implementation of 4th call for proposals. It is expected that final reports of project results would be submitted to the Ministry by the end of June 2013. In the next period Ministry will work on preparation for the 5th call for proposal.

THE BEST TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION COMPETITION – BTI 2013 - Ministry together with Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Technical faculty of Novi Sad has opened up competition "The best technological innovation competition 2013" in March 2013. In this cycle of competition 130 applicants (teams) from Serbia and Republika Srpska were applied in category "Realized innovation". Statistical data show that large number of proposals were submitted in field of energy, mechanical engineering and ICT. Final list of registered teams and innovations were published on 29. April 2013. Currently, submitted proposals are under process of evaluation.

FP7 WORKSHOP - Ministry of education, science and technological development and Ministry of foreign and internal trade and telecommunications with the support of Access Program of German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) organized 4 WORKSHOPS "**How to improve the success of implementation of FP7 projects**" in biggest University centers in Serbia (Beograd, Kragujevac, Novi Sad and Nis). The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of research institutions in the implementation of approved projects FP7.

57th INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF TECHNIQUE AND TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN BELGRADE FAIR – Ministry of education, science and technological development were participating on 57th International fair of technique and technical achievements in the period 13-17 May 2013. MESTD supported 61 exhibitors who presented their research, technological and innovative achievements within exhibition "Research for Innovation". The participants were from national science and research&development institutes, faculties, innovation centers and innovative SMEs. The aim of the exhibition was representation of market oriented results of research.



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.)

Republic of Serbia is involved in a number of European initiatives such as the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Danube Strategy, Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation in the Western Balkans. Draft proposal of the Regional Strategy was presented to the various stakeholders at a meeting which was held in Belgrade on 27/03/2013. The final adoption of the Strategy by the ministers of science of the Western Balkan countries is expected in the summer of 2013.

IPA 2010 project “Integrated Innovation Support Program” (IISP) with the overall objective to improve national innovation system and access to finance for SMEs through development of new financial instruments. IISP project prepared recommendations on strategic options for equity capital support in Serbia. IISP also prepared a guide to mezzanine finance, identified barriers to equity investments in Serbia and ways to address these, supported the work of Serbian Business Angels Network and started the development of innovation voucher scheme. In the upcoming period, IISP will organize high level Government workshop which should result in “Roadmap for Reform” in VC area in Serbia. IISP will deliver the investment readiness training for 100 SMEs in line with the best EU practice. Training program is currently being developed to include upgrading of all areas and personal skills necessary to attract investors. In addition, capacities of local consultancy market will be built in order to insure sustainability of this service for SMEs.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

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

In cooperation with the Intellectual Property Office, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development is preparing, monitoring and giving its opinions on the implementation of regulations in the field of protection of intellectual property rights, which has resulted in the following:

-Public hearing is being prepared for the new amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights ("Official Gazette" No.104/09, 99/11 and 119/12), in which the procedure will be carried out towards further alignment with the acquis;

-Draft Law on Protection of Topographies of semiconductor products was submitted to the Parliamentary procedure and adoption is expected in the next month;

-Working Group, formed by the Minister of Education, Science and Technology Development, prepared text of the new Law on Special Powers for effective protection of intellectual property rights, which will be submitted for public debate by the end of May;

- Draft Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on the Legal Protection of Industrial Design ("RS Official Gazette", No. 104/09), was prepared and submitted to the Governmental procedure and it is expected that final text of the Law will be adopted by the end of June;

- Draft of the Decree on the Register of Representatives is prepared and will be submitted to the Government for approval in June;

- Draft of the Decision on Fees Charged by the Intellectual Property Office is prepared and will be forwarded to the Government for approval in June;

- Draft of the Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Indications of Geographical Origins ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 18/10) is currently being prepared;

- Draft of the Law on Amending the Patent Law ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 99/11) is being prepared for the Governmental procedures.

- Text of the Rules of Procedure and method of evaluation and quantitative expression of scientific research results of researchers is prepared. Adoption of this bylaw will regulate and govern the evaluation of the quality of scientific research, allowing for a more comprehensive way of regulating the process of acquisition of scientific or research positions, and re-election to these positions (with specified procedures), the method of assessing the quality of scientific research results and the quantitative expression of scientific research results, elements for a qualitative assessment of the scientific contributions of candidates for election methods of guidance and classification of scientific research results, type and quantification of individual scientific research results, the minimum quantification levels for obtaining certain scientific positions, etc.

The Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy of scientific and technological development of the RS for the period 2010-2015 has been prepared and sent to the competent ministries for approval. National Scientific and Technology Council already gave its positive opinion on this document.