

Lithuania (Country/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.)

After Parliamentary elections, newly appointed Lithuanian Government started its work in December 2012.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Law on Higher Education and Research (2009) started a systematic restructuring of Lithuania's higher education and scientific research system;

Lithuanian Innovation Strategy for the Years 2010-2020 (2010) aims at mobilising and managing state resources more efficiently to create a competitive knowledge economy;

National Development Programme for Higher Education and R&D for the years 2013-2020 (2012) identifies the main directions for the development of Higher Education and R&D, which would foster sustainable societal development, strengthen the competitiveness of the country and correspond to the main provisions of Lithuania's Progress strategy 'Lithuania 2030' and the European Commission Communication: EUROPE 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

The major and most important event is a very soon upcoming Lithuanian Presidency, the meetings and conferences of which are listed below:

- Informal Meeting of Research Ministers of the Competitiveness Council, 23-24 July 2013, Vilnius;
- Conference 'Horizons for Social Sciences and Humanities' (23-24 September 2013) invites elaboration of the potential that social sciences and the humanities (SSH) can bring to the goals defined in the new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon 2020' and how best to integrate the knowledge, methods and experience the SSH have to offer over a wide range of phenomena and problem spaces;
- Conference 'Enhancement of European International Cooperation and Eastern Partnership in R&D&I' (30 September - 1 October 2013).⁶⁺ The conference will look at perspectives of strengthening the international cooperation and the Eastern Partnership in R&D&I area;

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.

- Conference on the Future of Manufacturing in Europe 'MANUFUTURE 2013' (6-8 October 2013) will focus on exploring the possibilities of the Horizon 2020 and Member States initiatives to identify the needs of the manufacturing industry and regional strengths of R&D capacities related to key enabling technologies;
- Joint FISA 2013 and Euradwaste'13 conference (14-17 October 2013). FISA 2013 is a conference on research and training in reactor systems, and EURADWASTE '13 is a conference on radioactive waste management. Joint opening and closing sessions will facilitate in-depth discussion on issues and policies in R&D development programmes in both reactor systems and radioactive waste management in Europe;
- Conference 'Human Resources on R&D' (10-11 October 2013). The aim of the conference is to discuss the key factors which have impact on the attractiveness of the researcher's profession;
- Vilnius Innovation Forum (4-6 December 2013). The Forum 2013 is an international event meant to create a high-level discussion platform about innovation and research trends, best practice and impact on European economy growth and well-being, including the situation in the Baltic-Nordic countries.

For more information: <http://www.eu2013.lt>

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.)

Four Agreements with Western Balkan Countries - the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Croatia, Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Slovenia - in the Fields of Education, Science, Culture and Sports and on the Promotion and Protection of Investments have been signed. However, so far there is no active collaboration in the above mentioned areas between Lithuania and WBC.

But it should be noted that there are established quotas for students who want to study the Lithuanian language. The students from WBC are most welcome to participate in summer school for studying the language and receive a grant for that. In 2011-2013, four students from Slovenia, Serbia and Macedonia received grants to study the Lithuanian language.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

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

(Optional personal opinion)

