

MONTENEGRO

PROGRESS REPORT¹

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

1 Policy actions

Following the explanatory and bilateral screening for Chapter 25 - Science and Research, held on 24-25 September 2012 in Brussels, the Negotiation Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for this chapter was prepared. The Negotiation Position was adopted by the Government of Montenegro on 15 November 2012, accepting the EU Acquis in the field of Science and Research at this date.

The Negotiation Position of Montenegro was submitted to the European Commission on 19 November 2012 and it represented the starting point for negotiations. There were no criteria for opening negotiations. The Report for the Negotiation Working Group for Chapter 25 was also prepared.

Montenegro opened and provisionally closed its first negotiating Chapter 25 - Science and Research - at the Intergovernmental Conference on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union in Brussels on 18 of December 2012.

Regarding negotiations on Chapter 25 - Science and Research, the EU considered that, exceptionally, benchmarks for the provisional closure of this chapter were not required, given the good general level of Montenegro's state of preparedness in the area of Science and Research.

The new Council for Scientific -Research Activities is established on 13 March 2013, chaired by prof. dr Andjelko Lojpur, also the Vice-Rector of the University of Montenegro.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Amendments to the Strategy for Scientific Research activities 2012-2016, were adopted on 27 December 2012 by the Government.

The revision of the Strategy has been done in order to: align it with the Law on Scientific Research Activities from 2010; develop the new instruments for development of the scientific research system; identify new priorities; and redefine targets regarding the R&D investment set by the previous Strategy.

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.

The Strategy defines three strategic goals:

- Development of the scientific research community;
- Strengthening the multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation; and
- Strengthening the cooperation between scientific research community and economy.

During the period of implementation of this Strategy, according to the recommendations given in this document, special focus should be placed on:

- Implementation measure for reinforcement of the human resource potential in the scientific research area, by investing in human resource in science and increasing the number of qualified researchers;
- Continuation of stimulating the researchers' activities, with a special focus on young researchers;
- Further enhancement of multilateral, bilateral and international cooperation and involvement in European Research Area (ERA);
- Identification of the research areas of special interest for the development of Montenegro, up-to-dated in the specific developing time in the country and supported in leading topics in the area of research, technology and innovation;
- Enforcement of the research infrastructure through investment in modernization of the existing capacities and their enlargement, and creating an open access; and
- Implementation measures for enhancement of networking of the scientific research with economy sector, by undertaking collaborative research projects and putting more importance on the role of R&D in the companies.

The document also defined 10 research priorities: Energy; Identity; ICT; Competitiveness of national economy; Medicine and Health; Science and Education; New materials, products and services; Sustainable development and Tourism; Agriculture and food; and Transport.

In addition, the Strategy sets as a target to increase the R&D expenditures to the level of 1.4% of GDP by 2016.

The Government of Montenegro adopted the Action Plan on implementation of the Strategy on 28^t March 2013.

At its session held on 27 December 2012, the Government of Montenegro adopted the Strategic Plan for the Introduction of the Scientific and Technological Park (NTP) in Montenegro, and tasked the Ministry of Science to implement the activities identified in the Strategic Plan and to inform the Government thereof.

The Strategic Plan contains the basic measures identified in the Feasibility Study for the Establishment of STP, adopted in 2011, as follows:

1. Development of a detailed strategic concept;
2. Plan of measures and activities for achieving the strategic goals; and
3. Preparation of a detailed cost calculation and financial plan necessary for the establishment of NTP.

In cooperation with its partners, in 2012 the Ministry of Science prepared the draft project design for the reconstruction and adaptation of the Montenegrin Armed Forces Club in Nikšić, which should be the home of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center "TEHNOPOLIS". The first phase of the works should be carried out during 2013.

In addition to the Ministry of Science, the partners involved in drafting the project design and implementation of the plan of reconstruction and adaptation of the Montenegrin Armed Forces Club in Nikšić, for the purposes of establishing “TEHNOPOLIS” are:

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,
- Investment and Development Fund (IDF), and
- the Municipality of Nikšić.

IDF will partly finance “TEHNOPOLIS”, and will have offices in it according to the plans, with a view to providing advisory services and enabling access to credit lines for innovative, micro, and small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will also have offices in “TEHNOPOLIS”, intended for MIDAS programme through which projects will be funded in the field of agriculture and rural development, which will thus encourage further development in this area.

In this initial stage, several organizations from various industrial sectors have expressed their interest in cooperation.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Minister of Science, prof. Sanja Vlahovic participated at the conference on “EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration” on 5 March 2013, in Brussels, hosted by the European Parliament. The conference was opened by Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn and brought together science policymakers, scientists and industry representatives from 100 different countries. Minister Vlahovic was one of the speakers at the opening plenary session.

Also prof. Sanja Vlahovic participated at the Berlin International Economics Congress held in March 2013, and was one of the speakers at the session: The Process and Progress of Nation Branding and National Brands in the 21st Century; as well as at the Euro-Asia Economic Summit, held in April 2013, in Istanbul.

The Montenegrin representative in the Board of Governors, dr Mileta Golubovic, participated at the XIX session of the Board of Governors of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, on 14-15 May 2013.

The representatives of the Ministry of Science participated at EUREKA HL/NCP Meeting held on 5-6 March, 2013 at Kayseri, Turkey.

Representatives of the Ministry of Science and DDSME participated to the following relevant events:

“Training workshop on Smart specialization for South East European Countries”, held in Belgrade in April 2013. The workshop was aimed at defining, discussing and presenting several topics important for successful implementation of S3 Strategy: basic concepts, S3 Platform, priority settings, assessment tools, followed by case studies and practical exercises.

“How to commercialise research results in the Western Balkans?” workshop held in Novi Sad in May 2013. This Workshop aimed at exchanging information between the projects and deepening knowledge of project partners and coordinators (especially from WBC) by inputs from external experts on specific questions and topics, such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), standardisation, support structures like the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), funding possibilities and others. The Workshop was based on the topics raised during the SEE-ERA.NET PLUS. The

Workshop was organised back-to-back with the 80th International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad in order to benefit from the opportunity for information and networking.

Mr Darko Petrusic, the General Director of the Ministry of Science, held the presentation on Experiences of Montenegro in EUREKA and COST programme.

The representatives of the DDSME also participated at the second review meeting “Innovation good practice examples - How to adapt innovation schemes to the Western Balkans”, held in Skopje in April 2013. There were 4 proposed models: Voucher Schemes, Innovation Officer in WBC, Strategic Innovation and Soft Landing Platform, followed by good examples from the region and from EU countries.

The General Director of the Ministry of Science, Mr. Darko Petrusic, participated at the High level event “Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy”, co-organised by the European Commission and the Government of the Slovak Republic on 16 May 2013 in Bratislava. The aim of this high-level event was to present the flagship clusters proposals identified by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and its scientific partners and to discuss 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 key high-level stakeholders of the Danube Region were invited to express their interest and needs.

The representative of the Ministry participated at the Third Meeting of the JRC with the Enlargement Countries, held on 14 March 2013 in Brussels. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the existing cooperation, including participation in the E&IA, 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.

The Ministry of Science, in collaboration with three Montenegrin universities, has organized 3 Info days on Marie Curie Actions – in particular, on the CIG, IEF, IIF and IOF calls, as follows:

- On the University “Mediteran” – 16 May 2013;
- On the University of Montenegro – 17 May 2013; and
- On the University of Donja Gorica – 27 May 2013.

Information on the info days are also available on the web site of the Ministry: (<http://www.mna.gov.me/vijesti/127508/Na-crnogorskim-univerzitetima-uprilicene-prezentacije-posljednja-cetiri-poziva-u-okviru-Marija-Kiri-Akcija.html>); (<http://www.mna.gov.me/vijesti/122404/Najava-Prezentacije-posljednja-cetiri-poziva-u-okviru-Marija-Kiri-Akcija-na-crnogorskim-univerzitetima.html>).

On January 29th 2013, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro in cooperation with the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme, Ministry of Science, Hydrometeorological and Seismological Service of Montenegro, Coordination Team for Implementing Communication Strategy for Euro-Atlantic Integration and University of Montenegro organized an ‘Information Day’ in Podgorica. Participants had opportunity to hear about regional projects funded by the NATO SPS Programme, national projects and to discuss about field for future cooperation and possibilities for utilization of the SPS funds and topics related to security treats and those which are specific for Montenegro.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

Montenegro is actively participating in ERAC Working Group on European Semester and on ERA Monitoring.

The newest policy measures, especially regarding establishment of the new research infrastructure, will be implemented under the **Higher Education and Research for Innovation and Competitiveness Project (HERIC)** in period May 2012-March 2017. The funds for the project are provided through the World Bank (WB) loan in amount of €12M, from which amount of 7 M€ will be allocated for the activities under the component for science. Users of these funds are the Ministry of Science of Montenegro and Ministry of Education of Montenegro, while final beneficiaries are universities and other scientific research institutions.

One of the four components to the project include activities towards the establishment of a pilot **Center of Excellence**, consisting of a scientific research institution or a group of institution's researchers who, on the basis of their originality, significance and actuality of results, achieved excellent and internationally recognized results in their field of scientific research in the last five years. The Center of Excellence is expected to be an institution with internationally recognized results, at the same time ensuring the possibility of creating national and international partnerships, collecting funds for research through cooperation with entrepreneurs and enabling trainings for the new generation of talented scientists, researchers and innovators.

The Ministry of Science published the **Call for consultant for development of the Operations Manual for the pilot Centre of Excellence** on 3 December 2012.

The **Call for Proposals for establishing a pilot CoE** is published in the daily newspaper "Pobjeda" on 30 May 2013 and on the website of the MoS (<http://www.mna.gov.me>) and website of HERIC (www.heric.me) on 31 May 2013.

The Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on scientific and technological cooperation is signed on 12 April 2013. On the same date, Protocol on Cooperation in Science and Technology between the Ministry of Science of Montenegro and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) was signed.

Minister of Science, prof. Sanja Vlahovic met with World Bank representative, Mr Paolo Correa, the main project coordinator of the Regional Strategy on Research and Innovation in the Western Balkan, on 23 May 2013 in Podgorica.

15 Joint Montenegrin-Croatian projects are approved for financing at the Joint Committee meeting, held in Podgorica, on 7 February 2013.

In the scope of cooperation between Montenegro and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), expert mission of the IAEA-Ms. Sandra Marie Steyskal, Project Management Officer and Country Officer for Montenegro and Mr. Jean Pierre Cayol, Programme Coordinator were visited Montenegro in the period of 13-16th of May, 2013. The aim of this mission was overview of former and current cooperation and discussion about possibilities for improving it in future, especially in the light of new mechanism-establishment Scientific and Technological Parks and the Centres of Excellences in Montenegro.

DDSME has realized the Project „Voucher scheme for innovative SMEs“ with the aim to develop investment culture in innovation for the SME sector towards improving competitiveness, and enhancing innovative potential of SME, as well as stimulating capacity building and greater usage of consultancy services, with the final aim to contribute to mitigate regional disparities. 16 companies received the financial support for SME innovative activity costs. Moreover, evaluation process is on going, while the results are expected to be available by the beginning of July 2013.

DDSME started implementation of IPA Adriatic CBC project “Adria Footouring – Adriatic Food and Tourism - Innovative SMEs”. The general objective of ADRIA FOOTOURING project is to boost innovative capacity of traditional sectors such as tourism and food, by improving the innovation environment where existing and new SMEs are operating. In order to improve the effectiveness of business support organizations involved in innovation services, a needs assessment study is undertaken which should highlight needs of food/tourism SMEs in terms of innovation and the gaps of the available innovation support system, providing best practices to improve their performance.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

For the first time, in 2012, the Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT), in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, conducted the statistical research on **R&D investment for 2011**, in line with the EU regulation on statistics on science (Commission regulation (EC) No 753/2004) and Frascati Manual (OECD, 2002). Data were collected through questionnaires sent to the 44 licenced scientific research institutions that were registered in that moment the Ministry of Science Register and 21 private economic subjects with R&D activities. According to the processed statistical data, total R&D investment in 2011, relative to gross domestic product, was 0,41% of GDP (13,1M€). In February 2013, MONSTAT published data in Statistical Yearbook 2011 (<http://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1082&pageid=77>).

According to the abovementioned **statistical research**, 2.303 persons (1.256 women, 54,53%) were engaged on R&D jobs in 2011, out of which 2.134 employed full time in the reporting units and 169 part-time employed. From the total number of the employees engaged on R&D in 2011, there were: 1.699 researchers (852 women, 50,15%), 281 technicians and other equivalent staff (181 women, 64,42%) and 323 other supporting staff (223 women, 69,1%). Considering that R&D activities of some employees require only part-time, full-time equivalent is calculated. Expressed in full time equivalent, 641.9 persons were hired by contractual agreement or author’s contract working full-time in R&D.

The Ministry of Science has its own Register of researchers and by the end of the 2012 there were 1.208 registered researchers, of which 516 were women (42,72%) and 692 men (57,28%).

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

(Optional personal opinion)