

## Poland

### PROGRESS REPORT<sup>1</sup>

#### 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.)

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#### 2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

##### **Albania**

Due to the expiry of the Program for Cooperation in the field of science and higher education, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania work on the text of the new program. The program is still consulted by both parties. Polish counter-proposal was submitted to the Albanian party on September 6, 2012.

##### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Department of Public and Cultural Diplomacy of Polish Foreign Ministry sent a draft Agreement between the Government of the Polish Republic and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on cooperation in culture, education and science of April 2011, together with the justification and negotiating instructions for consultations. This agreement would replace the outdated Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the People's Republic and the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia, signed in Belgrade on July 6, 1956. Ongoing consultation process.

##### **Macedonia**

On March 4, 2012, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland has forwarded via the Polish Embassy in Skopje the Polish proposal of Cooperation Programme in science higher education between the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia to the preliminary arrangements. Macedonian side welcomed the Polish

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.wbc-inco.net)) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to [office@wbc-inco.net](mailto:office@wbc-inco.net) until May 29, 2013.

proposal to initiate the conclusion procedure of the agreement. On 1 Dec. 2012, the Polish Prime Minister accepted to start final negotiations. There is a chance to sign the agreement this year.

### **Montenegro**

The Agreement between the Government of the Polish Republic and the Council of Ministers of Montenegro on cooperation in culture, education and science was signed on 26 October 2012 and in January this year submitted for final approval.

### **Serbia**

Department of Public and Cultural Diplomacy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent on April 4, 2012 to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland, the Serbian Ministry counter-proposal to the Agreement between the Government of the Polish Republic and the Council of Ministers of Serbia on cooperation in culture, education and science with a request for comment on the Serbian proposal. Counter-proposal is the response to the Polish project approved by the Prime Ministers on October 2011. Ongoing legislative work.

## **3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.**

### **State visit of the Polish President to Croatia, 13-14 May 2013**

With less than two months before Croatia joins the EU on 1 July, Poland's president Bronislaw Komorowski began a two-day state visit to Zagreb. The purpose of President Komorowski's visit to Croatia was to strengthen bilateral relations, especially in the context of Croatia's accession to the European Union. Poland has consistently supported Croatia on its road to membership of both NATO and the EU.

Both Presidents attended the EU Funding - Opportunities and Challenges seminar in the Croatian capital. A memorandum of cooperation between the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency and the Croatian Agency for Investment and Competitiveness was signed.

### **First RSI (FP7) guarantee agreement in Poland for innovative SMEs (27 May 2013) – Bank Pekao ready to share experience with WBC banks**

This agreement allows Bank Pekao to provide innovative companies in Poland with access to a total of EUR 80 million of debt finance over the next two years and with support of the 50% guarantee offered by the EIF. This will make it easier for Bank Pekao to offer innovative companies additional financing at favourable conditions. This is the **first RSI agreement in Poland** and **eleventh in Europe**, bringing the total loan finance available to innovative businesses across the EU to above EUR 1bn.

The Risk-Sharing Instrument (RSI) is a pilot guarantee scheme which supports the financing of R&D and/or innovation driven SMEs and Small Mid-Caps. The RSI is a joint initiative of the EIF, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission. It is supported by the European Union under FP7 and uses EIF's risk-taking capacity. It is part of, and complements, the existing Risk Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF), managed by the EIB.

Under this facility, the European Investment Fund (EIF) is, in return for a fee, providing guarantees to banks and leasing companies that lend to SMEs and Small Mid-Caps. The guarantee covers, upon default, 50% of the outstanding amount of each loan. Some 25 or so banks are expected to be involved in the pilot phase, allowing the RSI to reach up to 2500 beneficiaries with a total loan volume of up to €2.5 billion.

The call is open to financial or credit institutions, established and operating in the EU and/or countries associated to FP7, including, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway, Switzerland, Israel, Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Faroe Islands and Moldova.

### **Successfully implemented a pioneer in Europe educational/training network for research managers and administrators – PL ready to share experience with WBC**

It is not a common practice in Europe and even beyond Europe, to use a systematic approach in education and training of research managers and administrators. For the last 3 years, the pioneering project entitled “Research Project Management and Commercialization of Research Results. The Postgraduate Studies for Employees of Scientific and Research Institutions” was successfully implemented in Poland. The Project was co-financed by the EU within the European Social Fund and was the result of existing cooperation among Polish universities in the framework of educational projects undertaken by the Association "Education for Entrepreneurship". The two semester studies were implemented by seven Polish universities located in different regions: University of Economics in Cracow (the Project leader), University of Economics in Katowice, Kozminski University in Warsaw, Gdansk University of Technology, Technical University of Lodz, Wroclaw University of Technology and University of Szczecin. The universities cooperated with other Project partners: EdP, NCP-PL and IPMA Polska. The studies were addressed to both scientists and managers/administrators. Uniqueness of the Project concerns the development and implementation of the uniform program of studies, a common database and consistent criteria for recruitment of lecturers at all participating universities. The program consisted of two main modules: (1) general methodology of project management and (2) specific aspects of research project management focused on FP7 projects and commercialization of research results. The added value of the studies was inclusion of four practical workshops provided by experienced Polish and foreign coordinators of FP projects, study visits to technological parks/ clusters - encouraging the cooperation with business, and several seminars/ conferences. The systematic approach was based on taking advantage of close collaboration of the Project with KRAB, EARMA

and NCURA - providers of trainers/coordinators and speakers for seminars and conferences.

Main result of the project was the implementation of 17 postgraduate courses at seven universities (3 pilot and 14 regular editions) which were completed by over 400 academic and administrative staff from 45 universities and 99 research institutes from across Poland. In general, over 50% rate of knowledge gain was achieved. Moreover, about 60% of graduates received the status of Certified Project Management Associate on IPMA Level D. The Project published publication on “Success factors of R&D projects executed in cooperation of scientific units and industry” as well as organized three seminars for policy makers and authorities of Polish scientific institutions and two conferences. The Project as such may be a good example of a successful model of educational/training network in the field of research management and commercialization of research results. In opinion of foreign experts, it is the first initiative of this type and scale in Europe.

#### **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.)

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#### **5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data**

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

*(Optional personal opinion)*

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#### **Appendix: additional data**

*(Delete if not applicable.)*

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