

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

PROGRESS REPORT¹

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

1 Policy actions

In cooperation with the relevant Entity- and Cantonal institutions, activities are continuously carried out on implementation of the Memorandum between BiH and the EU related to BiH membership in the EU FP7 programme.

Implementation of the **Funding Programmes to Support Science and Research** at all levels of the governance in BiH continues throughout 2013. Ministry of Civil Affairs is implementing the Programmes:

- 1) Support to Participation in the EU Funding Programmes, COST and EUREKA,
- 2) Support to innovation activities

Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska (MNT) opened the Calls in the scope of its programmes aimed to support publishing of scientific publications, maintenance of equipment and facilities for scientific research International scientific cooperation programme, support organization of scientific conferences, support to talented young researchers and research in the area of technological development.

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.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

With the view of implementing the Strategy for Development of Science in BiH, implementation of the Action Plan is continuous and it is being monitored in cooperation with Entity- and Cantonal institutions dealing with science. Particular efforts are undertaken in order to improve the situation in the field of research, development and innovation statistics. For the first time it is included the monitoring of research, development and innovation statistics within the statistical program prepared by the BiH Statistics Agency.

The RS Ministry of Science and Technology is preparing amendments to the Law on scientific-research activities and technological development, planned for the last quarter of 2013 in

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 December 05, 2013.

accordance with the Ministry's operational programme. In the enforcement of the existing law, it was found that certain provisions needed to be more precise, which will be addressed by the amendments to the law.

Participation in development of the Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation:

Declaration supporting the Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation is signed by the relevant Western Balkans ministers on 25 October 2013 in Zagreb.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

With the view of promoting the FP7, as well as other science and research initiatives, info days and other similar events are regularly organised by the Department for Science and Culture of the MCA.

Video material for the promotion of science and possibilities of participation in FP7, COST, EUREKA and the announcement of the next FP Programme – Horizon 2020 was recorded and broadcasted on TV stations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: BHT1, RTRS and FTV, as well as on the internet YouTube channel: NCP System BiH

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc3DvvJgdIJpTGWVScQvxQ/feed>

On 27th September 2013, Sarajevo and Banja Luka celebrated their respective "Researcher's Night". Both cities joined this popular European initiative aiming to bring science closer to all people, as well as to encourage young people to consider science for their carrier that is held in over 300 cities throughout Europe since 2005.

–The INTERA Technology Park (www.intera.ba) hosted the conference CONNECTO 2013 - Business cooperation with diaspora on 26 July in Mostar. The event brought together around 350 participants, representatives of the local business community and representatives of the business-oriented BiH diaspora from 15 countries.

The RS Ministry of Science and Technology implemented the following activities in the period from July 2013: ""Researchers' Night" (Trebinje, 27 September 2013), competition for the best technological innovation in 2013; trainings were held on the topic of business model development in May, June and September) and the fourth edition of the magazine "Infinity" was also published.

EURAXESS conference "The Day of Mobility of Researchers in BiH" was organized in cooperation with the University of Sarajevo and University of Banja Luka and took place in Sarajevo. The Conference was an opportunity for researchers to get informed of the possibilities for mobility (Marie Curie activities) in the region and the EU.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

An open call was published for co-financing visit and travel costs of researchers working on the implementation of joint science & research projects within the framework of science and technology cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2014 - 2015; also, an open call was published for co-financing visit and travel costs within the framework of science and technology cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro for the period 2014 - 2015.

Letter of interest for association to the Horizon 2020 was sent.

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.