

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

**on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC  
(June 2013 / Budva until December 2013 / Zagreb)**

### **1 Policy actions**

#### **Governmental changes**

The Serbian parliament on Monday 2.9.2013, in Belgrade voted to approve the country's reshuffled government. After the changes, the government will have 18 ministries instead of the current 17, as the Ministry of Finance and Economy will be split into two. New Minister for Education, Science and Technological Development is Prof. dr Tomislav Jovanović.

State Secretary in the Ministry in charge of science, Prof. dr Aleksandar Gajic, was appointed on 14.10.2013.

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

#### **Strategic framework**

The Western Balkans Regional Research and Development (R&D) Strategy for Innovation was adopted on October 25, 2013. in Zagreb by the ministers of science from the region during the ministerial meeting on regional R&D.

#### **Legal framework**

Amendments to the Law of Innovation Activities was adopted on 25. Jun 2013 by the Government. MSTD adopted new Rules and Regulations based on mentioned Law.

#### **National Innovation program**

In November 2013, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development launched the 5<sup>th</sup> call for proposals on innovation activities. MSTD will support innovation project proposals submitted by legal entities, individual persons-innovators and societies of inventors.

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

#### **THE BEST TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION COMPETITION – BTI 2013**

The final of the Best Technological Competition will be held on December 26, 2013. and it will be directly broadcast by Serbian National Television (RST). The winner of this Competition is expected to receive award of 50.000 Euros.

#### **TASK FORCE MEETING “Innovation Officer”-**

Under the WP8 of the WBC-INCO.NET project Task force meeting “Innovation officer” was organized on December 3, 2013. in Mihajlo Pupin Institute. The aim of the meeting was development and setting up of the measure for implementation of IO scheme in Serbia.

### **THE FIRST SEE REGIONAL SCIENCE PROMOTION CONFERENCE (SCIPROM)**

The Center for the Promotion of Science (CPN) organized the First SEE Regional Science Promotion Conference (SCIPROM) on October 2-3, 2013, under the UNESCO patronage, bringing together science promotion professionals, practitioners and enthusiasts to share experience and network in order to strengthen the link between science and society in the Region. Keynote sessions featured around 90 key speakers: international experts and representatives of international organizations, research and education institutions, science camps, science communicators, NGOs, private sector and the media. More than 300 participants have registered for the SCIPROM Conference.

Among keynote speakers who addressed the welcome notes at the Opening session of the Conference were Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development, Government of the Republic of Serbia, prof. Tomislav Jovanovic and Director of the Center for the Promotion of Science Ms. Aleksandra Drecun. More Info at: <http://sciprom.cpn.rs/#home>

### **UNIVERSITY OF NOVI SAD - OPENING OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY BUILDING**

The beginning of the new academic year at the University of Novi Sad was announced by the ceremonial opening of the Central University Building in the University Campus on September 30, 2013. The building is the result of the fruitful cooperation between the republic and provincial governments and was constructed with the support of the financial resources provided through the European Investment Bank for realization of the Project "Public Sector Research and Development" and by the Fund for Capital Investments of AP Vojvodina. In addition, the EU HETIP project provided the support for the technical, IT and multimedia equipment.

The event took place in the main hall of the newly built Central University Building in the presence of the Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia Professor Tomislav Jovanović, the President of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina Bojan Pajtić, the Provincial Secretary of Science and Technological Development Professor Dragoslav Petrović, the rector of the University of Novi Sad Professor Miroslav Vesković and many guests from the academic community and partner institutions of the University.

### **FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE FP7 PROJECT ARTreat**

One of the biggest scientific projects in Europe ARTreat is successfully finished and the final conference was held at the University of Kragujevac in November 2013, in order to present the accomplished results. ARTreat project provides a new concept in the diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases where the goal is to use patient-specific models to predict the development of the disease. Atherosclerosis is the most frequent disease in the Western world and our country. The main objective of the project was to develop software that will be applied in the clinics for direct prediction of the formation and development of the stenosis, with particular emphasis on the clinical studies of the stenosis in coronary and carotid arteries. The project involved 20 partners in almost all European countries. This is one of the largest projects in this area, with the total project cost around 10 million Euros. The project coordinator was CNR, research clinic in Pisa, and the University of Kragujevac was the leader in the computer modelling and for the essential part for the mathematical model. More than 30 researchers were engaged in Serbia, while the entire project engaged more than 300 researchers across Europe. More info at: [www.artreat.org](http://www.artreat.org), [www.artreat.kg.ac.rs](http://www.artreat.kg.ac.rs)

#### **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.)

##### **Bilateral cooperation:**

Most of the meetings of the Joint committees for selection of bilateral projects are foreseen to be held in December 2013-January 2014.

##### **ERA-NETs Activities**

**SAFERA** first joint call was opened on September 23, 2013. Ten European countries and regions participated in this joint call with a total available public funding of about 3.4 million Euro. Deadline for proposal submission was November 29, 2013. This joint call aimed for research proposals on *Human and organizational factors including the value of industrial safety*. The objective was to promote European research in this field taking a proactive, multidisciplinary and innovative approach to developing solutions for sustainable growth and enhanced competitiveness of European industry. More info at: <http://call.safera.eu>

**ERA-CAPS** - the ERA-NET Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences will issue its second Transnational Call for Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects on January 14th, 2014. More info at: <http://www.eracaps.org/news/second-era-caps-joint-call-pre-announced>

##### **INNOVATION Activities**

###### **1. MSTD**

**Integrated innovation support programme (IISP)** - Serbian national network of technology brokers is established and elected the steering committee board. As part of the project, MSTD also held few presentations on the subject "Innovation system in function of development and support of innovative companies".

**New IPA 2014** - Measure 3 under this project envisaged development of New national R&D and Innovation Strategy for the period 2015-2020 and Infrastructure Roadmap.

###### **2. Activities of the Innovation Fund of the Republic of Serbia:**

In early September 2013, the Innovation Fund signed financing agreements with 18 Awardees from this spring's call for proposals and officially began overseeing implementation of a fresh batch of innovative projects. The previous call – with the submission deadline in April and the final decision ceremony in late June - had the highest number of selected projects so far: 13 tech start-ups in the Mini Grants program and another 5 Matching Grants companies found their way to the Innovation Fund's portfolio.

As in the previous rounds, the selected companies and their projects come from various cities throughout Serbia, with one noticeable difference to the past calls: the number of ICT companies made up for about half of this cycle's total Awardees pool. In spite of the ICT project-dominated call, almost all other industrial sectors (agriculture, machinery and mechanical engineering, robotics, construction and architectural engineering, etc.) produced projects with substantial innovations, great market potential and dedicated teams working diligently to bring their ideas to life.

In order to further boost the development of these promising companies, the Fund organized its traditional Enterprise training event. Renowned international consultants led an intense 4-day

workshop with all the Awardees (as well as several Aurea Award nominees), covering various business and product development strategies, IP protection and monetization, financial management and planning, and plans for attracting additional capital to help companies grow and develop.

In the meantime, 10 Awardees from the Fund's inaugural call for proposals (held in January 2012), which started implementation in May 2012, have successfully finished their development objectives in June this year. Several companies have already started selling their products both in Serbia and internationally (Techno Foam and Euro Heat), some have signed international contracts and begun piloting their installations/services (iStreetLight, Dnet and Axon), while others are already well-known and established brands in Serbia and are focusing on growing globally (Strawberry Energy and their novel solar mobile charger – the Strawberry Tree).

Descriptions of all of the Fund's Awardees, as well as their websites, can be found on the IF's official website: <http://www.innovationfund.rs/>

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

### **Results of the Innovation projects financed under 4<sup>th</sup> call for proposals on Innovation activities:**

MSTD financed 99 innovative projects out of which 41 projects resulted with final product ready for market valorisation, 21 projects resulted with software ready for market, 13 projects resulted with new or enhanced technology, 6 projects resulted with service ready to offer on the market, 8 projects had invested in innovative infrastructure and improvement of production, 18 projects resulted with functional prototype, 2 technical solutions, 4 industrial solutions, 31 published paper, 9 patent Applications.

## **6 Assessment of the developments and outlook on the next 6 months** *(Optional personal opinion)*

Final construction phase of the Science and Technology Park Zvezdara is finished and first call for start-up will be published in January 2014.