# Republic of Serbia

**PROGRESS REPORT[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC**

**(Budapest, June 8-9, 2015)**

# Policy actions

**European integration**

Explanatory and bilateral screening for Chapter 25 - Science and research were succesfully acomplished on 6 October and 1 December, 2014, respectively. Representatives of the Republic of Serbia submitted replies to additional questions to European Commission representatives on 6 January 2015. Submission of the Screening Draft Report by the European Commission is expected by second trimester of 2015. In the course of preparations for the bilateral screening meeting, the representatives of the EC Directorate-General for Research and Innovation provided significant support to the delegation of the Republic of Serbia.

Within the process of the EU accession negotiations, bilateral screenings were held for Chapter 8 - Competition policy, in the part which applies to state policy, for Chapter 20 - Enterprise and industrial policy in the part which applies to innovation policy, as well as for Chapter 7 - Intellectual Property Rights.

# Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

**Legislative framework in the field of science, research and innovation**

Preparations of strategic and legislative framework governing the field of science, research and innovation are ongoing, specifically:

* Preparation of the new strategy for scientific and technological development and innovation - the *“Research for Innovation 2020”* Strategy, as well as the Action Plan for Strategy implementation.
* Amendments to the *Law on Scientific and Research Activity* in the part pertaining to strategy, programmes of general interest, competence of the National Council for Science and Technological Development, status of the national institutes, scientific committees as well as the manner of project funding.
* Preparation of the new *Law on Innovation Activity* to facilitate access to funding of innovation and introduce possibility for the Republic of Serbia to be included into the European Innovation Area of the Innovation Union.
* Preparation of the bylaws to govern the categorization of scientific journals, assessment of results of scientific and research work and accreditation of scientific and research organizations.

**Legislative Framework in the Field of Intellectual Property**

In cooperation with the Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development prepares, monitors performance and provides opinions on implementation of provisions in the field of protection and trade of intellectual property rights, and parts of that activity are following:

* Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights has been submitted to procedure according to Rules of Procedure of the Government;
* Text of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on indications of geographical origin is being prepared by the Working Group established by MESTD;
* In respect of the text of the Draft Law on Amendments of the Law on Patents, the public hearing has been established and it is ongoing;
* Text of the Draft Law on special powers for the purpose of efficient protection of intellectual property rights has been submitted to procedure for obtaining the opinion according to Rules of Procedure of the Government;
* Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Legal Protection of Industrial Design has been submitted to the Assembly procedure.

# Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

* On 20 March 2015, an international conference on “Financing of Small and Medium Enterprises through the EU Programmes (Horizon 2020 and COSME) - Opportunities and Challenges” was held at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce in Belgrade, regarding the financing of small and medium enterprises with high-risk innovation ideas through access to funding from other sources.
* Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia organized COST info-day in Belgrade, on 25th March 2015. We had the honour to host president of the COST Association, Dr Angeles Rodriguez- Peña.
* In cooperation with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, within the Summit of leaders of China and Central and Eastern European countries, the exhibition of goods and services executed within the supported innovation projects was organized;

# Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

**Horizon2020**

Serbia continues to participate in the EU programmes for research and innovation. An international agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Serbia on the participation of the Republic of Serbia in the programme of the European Union “Horizon 2020” - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), was signed on 1 July 2014 in Brussels, and through it’s ratification in the parliamentary procedure, became a part of the national legal system.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MESTD), as the state institution responsible for implementation of the Horizon 2020 Programme, initiated numerous activities defined by the Agreement. The network of National Contact Points for all individual aspects of the Horizon 2020 Programme has been formed. Experts and delegates for Strategic and Executive Bodies of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation have been appointed. The appointed representatives of the Republic of Serbia participate in the meetings of the aforementioned bodies that periodically take place in Brussels.

In order to promote the Horizon 2020 Programme, MESTD organized and held numerous Info Days at Universities, Faculties and institutes in the Republic of Serbia. 6 Info Days on the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Programme, 4 Info Days for the European Research Council (ERC) activities, 4 Info Days concerning the area of Information and Communication Technologies, 7 Info Days on the social sciences, 3 for Nanotechnologies, 3 Info Days on Food and Biotechnology, 4 on Health and one Info Day on opportunities for participating in the Joint Research Centre programmes, in Novi Sad on 9 December, 2014. In collaboration with the European Commission workshop for writing projects proposals for H2020 program was held in Belgrade on 9 and 10 October 2014.

In cooperation with the Centre for the Promotion of Science, MESTD organizes “Horizon on Thursdays” activity. A promo session on one of the areas of the Horizon 2020 Programme is organized every Thursday, participated by the highest MESTD officials, National Contact Points as well as researchers successful in the area to which the info session is dedicated.

A lot of attention is focused on the sector of small and medium enterprises, in order to motivate their greater involvement in the Horizon 2020 Programme. MESTD participates in promotion of the Horizon 2020 Programme for small and medium enterprises at the regional level, and to that end, the following 15 Info Days have been organized: 8 Info Days in cooperation with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Europe Network - EEN, 6 Info Days in cooperation with the Centre for the Promotion of Science and 1 Info Day with the German GIZ. On 20 March 2015, an international conference on “Financing of Small and Medium Enterprises through the EU Programmes (Horizon 2020 and COSME) - Opportunities and Challenges” was held at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce in Belgrade, regarding the financing of small and medium enterprises with high-risk innovation ideas through access to funding from other sources.

According to statistical data from February 2015, 428 Serbian institutions participated in 321 projects of the Horizon 2020 Programme. Out of that, 40 projects in which 64 Serbian institutions participate were approved.

**Bilateral cooperation**

* The Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation was signed on 26 November, 2014 with the Republic of Argentina, and agreements with the Russian Federation and Montenegro signed in 2011 were ratified.
* Implementation of bilateral projects with Germany, France, Belarus, Portugal, China, Italy, Slovenia and Slovakia has continued.
* Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Ministry and AREA Science Park of Trieste was signed on 8 July, 2014, providing frameworks for further cooperation.
* The new call for bilateral cooperation with Austria, Germany, Croatia, Slovenia, France and Italy was published.

# Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

N/A

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

**New national funding program** will be launched by the end of October 2015.

1. The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries. Please submit your report to office@danube-inco.net **until June 1, 2015**. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)