

Betreff: [WBC-RTI.info Newsletter] WBC-RTI.info Thematic Newsletter (Aug 31, 2015)

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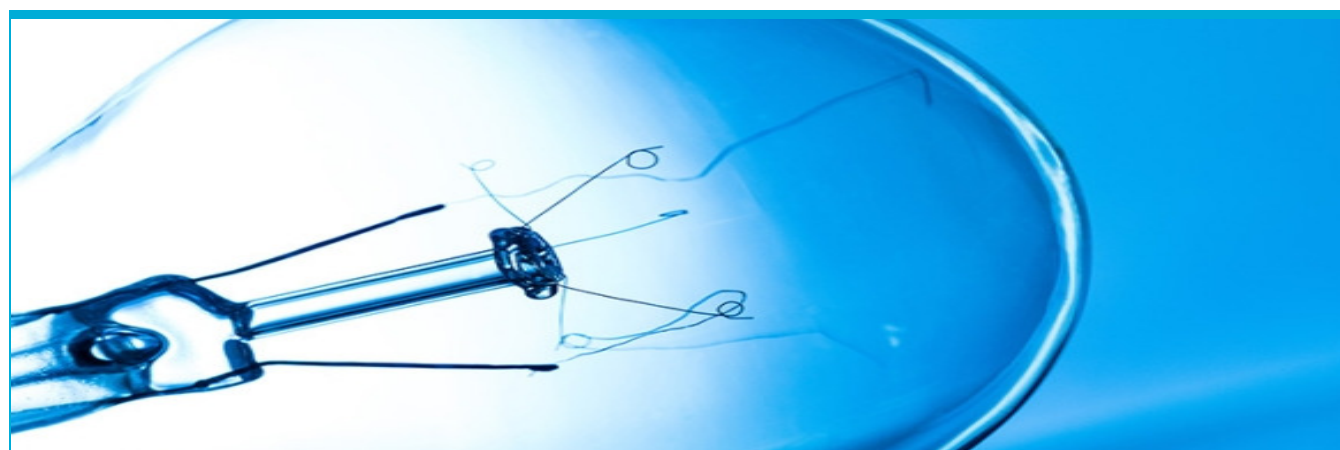
August 2015

WBC-RTI.info thematic Newsletter!

Welcome to the online Info-Platform & Newsletter dedicated to Research, Technology and Innovation exclusively related to Western Balkan Countries! WBC-RTI.info builds upon the WBC-INCO.NET platform and closely cooperates with the Danube-INCO.NET platform (more information [here](#)).



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Theme in focus: Research and Innovation Policy in Western Balkans - some recent developments

In recent years the Western Balkan countries have made some important efforts to overcome the negative consequences of the economic and political transition and its impact on the region's research and innovation sectors: They adopted a variety of strategies, laws and programs to improve the performance of the sector on the national level and they improved the regional cooperation in R&D for example by committing themselves to "Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation" and Smart Growth pillar

of the “South East European 2020 Strategy” (SEE 2020).

All countries are also associated to Horizon 2020; the preliminary results show some first success stories however overall participation rate is quite low.

WBC also agreed on the establishment of “*Western Balkans Research and Innovation Centre*” (WISE) by the end of 2015 aiming at strengthening the regional research, innovation and technology systems by providing support, advice and recommendations to the states, public and private institutions, non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders.

However, social and political problems are still more pressing in WBC than the low level of R&D investment (Serbia and Montenegro spend around 1% of GDP on R&D, while other countries in the region spend up to 0,3% of GDP) or support for technology transfer activities.

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[WESTERN BALKAN REGIONAL R&D STRATEGY FOR INNOVATION](#)

Improving the perspective of young generations...



**WESTERN
BALKANS
SUMMIT
VIENNA 2015**

...is of "paramount importance in ensuring stability, sustainable development and progress of the region"!

The importance of the education, research and innovation for the overall success of the **EU-integration efforts of the Western Balkans** was again confirmed during the **1st Joint Science Conference** held on July 15-17, 2015 in Halle and Berlin and during the **second Summit Meeting on the Western Balkans** held in Vienna on August 27, 2015 – both events in the framework of the Western Balkans Process, also known as the 'Berlin process'.

Furthermore, the participants of the Vienna Summit clearly recognized that improving the perspective of young generations is of "*paramount importance in ensuring stability, sustainable development and progress of the region*".

Having in mind the weak economic structure, low level of industrial production, low performance results of the educational systems, high unemployment levels, as well as in some cases the lack of motivation, commitment and trust – to name just few challenges in the region which all had negative impact on human capital development in the WB countries and led to severe brain drain from the region – **it can only be welcomed that political commitment and strong emphasis is put on initiatives related to youth**, such as the establishment of the "*Regional Youth Cooperation Office of the Western Balkans*" or proposal of the European Commission to organize an Enlargement Conference in the first half of 2016 focusing on youth issues.

Another challenge related to young people from the region is the fact that they are often formally well-educated but not necessarily equipped with the right skills needed at the local labor market. Furthermore, the education system in this region does not encourage creativity and entrepreneurial culture among pupils and students at satisfactory level. Specific direct and indirect measures would help to foster entrepreneurial culture in WBC, improve the perspective of young generations and subsequently contribute to long-term knowledge-based economic growth, as suggested by SEE2020 (South East European 2020 Strategy). (...)

Read the full article...

WBC-RTI.info website will be regularly updated, in particular focusing one selected theme pro month. The upcoming topics are: "**From Research to Market**" (end of September); "**Research funding and performance of WBC**" (end of October); "**RTDI capacity and capacity building in WBC**" (end of November); "**South East European Diaspora - success stories in research and innovation**" (end of December).

If you would like **to contribute to one of these topic**, if you have published some interesting papers you would like to share with the community, or you have some other related news or documents - please contact us at office@wbc-rti.info.

More information on Research, Technology and Innovation in/for/with Western Balkan countries is available on our website:

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NEWS | 3527 Entries

SELECTED NEWS, EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REVIEWS; THEMATIC ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS etc.

EVENTS | 161 Entries

SELECTED EVENTS OF RELEVANCE FOR STAKEHOLDER FROM THE WBC REGION

CALLS | 1 Entries

SELECTED NATIONAL AND EU CALLS FOR FUNDING OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE FOR WB COUNTRIES

DOCUMENTS | 1218 Entries

COLLECTION OF RELEVANT POLICY DOCUMENTS AND STRATEGIES, ANALYTICAL REPORTS AND PRACTICAL GUIDES

PROJECTS | 216 Entries

LIST OF INTERESTING CLOSED AND RUNNING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

ORGANISATIONS | 1538 Entries

LIST OF RTI STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE REGION AND/OR CLOSE COOPERATING WITH THE REGION

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES | 118 Entries

NUMBER OF (RIs9), IMPORTANT RESEARCH FACILITIES AND RESEARCH EQUIPMENT IN WBC

LINKS | 378 Entries

SELECTION OF USEFUL LINKS



The [WBC-RTI.info](#) platform acts as a source of high quality targeted information on research, technology and innovation in/with/for the Western Balkan countries (WBCs). The Platform is funded by [Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy \(BMWFW\)](#) and implemented by [Centre for Social Innovation \(ZSI\)](#). It builds upon very successful [WBC-INCO.NET](#) platform. (project funded under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, Contract Number: 212029).



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