



Albania

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding research and innovation cooperation in/with Western Balkans (Period: June 2016 – June 2017)²

1 Policy actions and legislative initiatives (legal and strategic framework)

For Western Balkan economies:

Since 2015 Albania government has started to include research and innovation policies as part of National Economic Reform Program- NERP as it was reflected in the latest Decision of Council of Ministers Nr 52 dated 27.01.2016 On the approval of National Economic Reform Program –NERP 2016-2018 .Meanwhile after the approval of Law Nr 80-2015 dated 22.07,2015 on Higher Education and Research on Higher Education Institutions by 1st June 2016 were established by Minister of Education and Sport three Working Groups which will work for the three important policy and legal documents : 1)Executive Order Nr 298 dated 01.06.2016 of Ministry of Education and Sport On the establishment of Working Group to Draft Law on Science & Technological Development 2) Executive Order Nr 296 dated 01.06.2016 of Ministry of Education and Sport On the establishment of Working Group to Draft National Strategy for Research , Technology and Innovation 2017-2022 , 3) Executive Order Nr 297 dated 01.06.2016 of Ministry of Education and Sport On the establishment of Working Group to Draft Policy Paper on Reform of Institutional Framework of National Research System

The Working Group who has worked to draft the National Strategy on Research, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022 organized five thematic open forums from June – December 2016 with representatives of different research stakeholder institutions. The consultation process was relied upon the legal provisions promulgated from Law Nr 119/2014 dated 18.09.2014 On the information right and public consultation. After written feedback and comments received by academic and research community in Albania the final draft was submitted for the approval at Council of Ministers . National Strategy for Research, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022 has a Action Plan associated with a detailed actions , activates to meet objectives as well as a set of indicators to measure the results. For the first time a National Census on Research Capacities - NCRC took place in close collaboration with Albanian Academic Network – RASH and INSTAT to

¹ **Important Note:** The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meeting of the Steering Platform on Research and Innovation for the Western Balkans and will be made available for the participants. Based on this report, please prepare one PowerPoint slide, which will be used during the meeting to present the main topics of the progress report to all SP members. Please send the report and the PowerPoint slide by September 1, 2017 to Ms. Ines Marinkovic at marinkovic@zsi.at.

² The last Steering Platform was held in Sarajevo on June 7, 2016. All related information is also available online here: <https://wbc-rti.info/object/news/15251>



provide a set of quantity figures on human resource , research infrastructure and scientific library archives. The process will serve as solid basis to establish software and on-line platform ACRIS-Albania Current Research Information System based on euroCRIS and CERIF (Current European Research Information Framework) and is considered as first step toward Open Access& Open Science approach

Also former Agency for Research , Technology and Innovation – ARTI was restructured under a new legal act as Decision of Council of Minister No 607 dated 31.08.2016 On the establishment, structure and functioning of National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation - NASRI(Official Journal Nr 166, Year 2016, 20205 Page) . A set of additional roles and responsibilities on evaluation of research quality and managing the national research databases

At the framework of Decision of Council of Minister-DCM Nr 527 dated 20.07.2016 On the approval of National Strategy of Intellectual Property and Copyrights 2016-2020 (Official Journal Nr 140, Year 206, Page 2213) a set of Action Plan activities are foreseen amongst General Directorate of Patents and Marks , and National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation – NASRI to raise awareness on Intellectual property rights legislation and management in favour of research-industry co-operation.

Meanwhile after was approved Law Nr 35-2016 dated 31.03.2016 On the Copyright and the other rights related to it a set of secondary legislation was initiated and adapted to help researchers regarding copyright issues as Executive Order Nr 158 dated 21.04.2015 On the licensing the Agency of Collective Administration of COPYRIGHTS- ALBAUTOR , Decision of Council of Ministers –DCM Nr 33 dated 18.01.2017 On the approval of tariffs on the services provided by Department of Copyright, Decision of Council of Ministers –DCM Nr 34 dated 18.01.2017 On the procedures of registration, organization and classification of works for COPYRIGHTS

Regarding Smart Specialization Strategy ,an Workshop on RIS3 =Research and Innovation in Smart Specialization Strategy was held in Tirana 6-7 December 2016 , organized by Ministry of Education and Sport in close cooperation with National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation – NASRI with support of Smart Specialization Unit of JRC . As result of workshop follow up . is initiated the idea to establish an Working Group with representatives of Department of Higher Education and Research in Ministry of Education & Sport, National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation , National Chamber of Commerce and Industry , and Agency for Regional Development who will define a Road Map for a Smart Specialization Strategy at regional level with technical assistance of JRC

In 2016 , Albania government launched the First Call of Proposal to fund the projects through the **grant” Digital Albania “**,part **the third Pillar component “ Digital Albania”** of National Regional Development Programme . It was at the framework to implement National Strategy Albanian Digital Agenda 2015-2020 which was approved by Decision of Council of Minister Nr 284 dated 01.04.2015 On the approval of Inter-Sectorial Strategy “ Albanian Digital Agenda 2015-2020 (Official Journal Nr 56., Year 2015, Page 2441)



Meantime a set of policy initiatives and legal measures were undertaken to foster the innovation at business sectors such where could be mentioned the Executive Order of Prime Minister No. 1, date 10.01.2017 On the approval of **Action plan 2017-2021 “Support the development of innovative policies based on Triple Helix approach”** based on recommendation of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) programme for South East Europe , DCM No 580 dated 03.08.2016 On the establishment of **Programme for Economy Support** and defining the beneficiaries and rules for its implementation(Official Journal 153, Viti 2016,Pge 11818) , DCM No 580 dated 03.08.2016 On the approval of the **Investment Policy Guideline of Albania government** (Official Journal 153, Viti 2016,Page 11816)

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For other Steering Platform members: (EU Member States, International Organisations and Initiatives, EU bodies)

Non Applicable ...

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2 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

(e.g. new bilateral/regional/multilateral/international agreements, memberships, support structures, important projects, programmes, etc.)

Albania has continues to strengthen cooperation at bilateral and multilateral regarding the area of research and innovation as are the WISE, CEEPUS etch.. Through the Law Nr 16/2016 dated 10.03.2016 On the ratification of the agreement on the establishment of **Western Balkan Center for Scientific Research and Innovation –WISE** (Official Journal Nr 47, Year 2016, Page 8434) , Albania became member of WISE and by the approval of Law Nr 25-2016 dated 10.03.2016 On the ratification of Agreement on the Programme of Students Exchange in Central Europe – CEEPUS III continue its commitment to participate at CEEPUS III program. Meanwhile Albania since 2013 is implementing Euraxess Albania which provides opportunities on research motilities as well as is promoting Charter & Code of Researcher through a series of information events . Albania has signed 29 Bilateral Agreeemebt on Scientific Cooperation with different countries where are included those with Macedonia, Kosova and Montenegro . An agreement with CNR – Italy was recently signed with Ministry of Education & Sport

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3 Important events, meetings, training activities, studies etc.

National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation – NASRI has organized from June 2016 – June 2017 about 30 INFO Days and training sessions on H2020 EU Program on Research and



Innovation and 3 Capacity Building Workshops on H2020 Project with the support of TAIEX program as follow : **5 December 2016 Workshop Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions MSCA** with DG Research and Innovation :(Opportunities for funding within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, How to submit a successful MSCA project, MSCA Fellow testimony, Research and Innovation Staff Exchange - Success Story, How is a MSCA project evaluated, tips and tricks for a successful proposal). Training experts: Mrs. Maria Tsvirtara, European Commission, DG Education and Culture ,Mrs. Irimi Abdiaj, PhD candidate, ITN Photo4Future project, JANSSEN CILAG SA, Spain Dr. Giovanna Maracchia, MSCA evaluator, University of Teramo, Italy , 2) **01 February 2017 Workshop H2020 NCP- National Contact Points Academy, “Capacity Building Workshop with Albanian NCPs of Horizon 2020 – Sharing Best Practices”**. Training Experts: Mr. Sebastian Serwiak – Poland, National NCP coordinator - Security -. 3) **10 April 2017 Workshop MSCA European Commission: “Networking Workshop “Funding Opportunities under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions”**. Training experts: Mr. Dimitris Kaganis, Project Officer - Research Executive Agency 4) **03 May 2017 Workshop Top III Logo Hr HR Excellence in Research Tema: Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) and a Policy Pensions for Researchers**. Experts: Mr. *Dimitrios Sanopolous* National Coordinator of the Greek EURAXESS Service Network NCP MSCA Greece CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HELLAS (CERTH) Mr. Foteini Ziogou CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HELLAS – CERTH Horizontal Projects Implementation Unit 5) **24-26 May 2017 Taieux Exspert Mission T: TAIEX Expert Mission on Building Mechanisms for Better Participation in Horizon 2020** Training expert: Ms Darija Valančič, Undersecretary and National Contact Point for Legal and Financial Issues in Horizon 2020, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia .About 350 hundred researchers have participated in these training activities

4 Outlook and perspectives

(e.g. upcoming relevant meetings, policy actions etc.)

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An initiative for establishment Albania Research Publication Data Portal as part of introducing Open Science approach is discussed by Ministry of Education and Sports with Albanian American Development Fund – AADF but the process is stil on – going. Meanwhile since 2015 is provided a public funding opportunity through the Digital Albania Fund (Decision Nr 1 dated 19.01.2015) which is managed by National Committee of Regional Development where any university or research institution at country level may apply to receive grants for establishment and management Data Centre on Research Outputs. Also it will be initiated the so-called Forum of Innovation Triple Helix according to research areas of applied sciences by having a discussion platform between government, academia and business community

5 Other relevant information related to Research and Innovation cooperation in/with Western Balkan economies)

The Innovation HUB Tirana was established in 2016 and supported by the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration (MIAP) together with two major partners, the Barleti Institute for Research and Development (BIRD) and Partners Albania (PA), in the framework of Italian – Albanian Debt for Development Swap Program (IADSA). Its objective is to promote and support the social inclusion and sustainable employment programmes for young people by enhancing their active involvement both in the ICT entrepreneurship, as well as in creative, innovative and competitive actions through capacity building, partnership development and growth of



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entrepreneurial activity, start-ups and SMEs. The Innovation HUB intends to change the actual situation by creating an incubator with the goal to enable the innovation community to develop market accepted ideas that have scalable commercial potential by fostering collaboration among the SMEs and ICT innovative people and by introducing business and financing expertise to through training, coaching, and pitching

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