

## e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina

# PROGRESS REPORT<sup>1</sup> on recent developments regarding research and innovation cooperation in/with Western Balkans (Period: June 2016 – June 2017)<sup>2</sup>

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

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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.)

According to its institutional mission and current Plan of Action, CEI's involvement in the field of Research and Innovation aims to:

- Bridge between ERA and non-ERA countries
- Facilitate access of WB scientists and researchers to the institutions of the "Trieste Science System"

Within this framework, the CEI has financed, through its CEI Cooperation Fund, two activities that took place in the WB, namely:

1. **XVII International feed technology symposium "Feed to Food Tech"**, organized by the Institute of Food Technology of the University of Novi Sad (October 2016)
2. **Fifth International Conference on Radiation and Applications in Various Fields of Research (RAD 2017)**, organized by the RAD Association (June 2017)

In this regard, *WB countries are encouraged to make use of the CEI Cooperation Fund* - whose next call for proposals will be issued in the first half of 2018 – in particular to support mobility of their researchers and scientists, as well as their participation in international activities and conferences.

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<sup>1</sup> **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](mailto:marinkovic@zsi.at).

<sup>2</sup> 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>

Two more CEI-funded activities took place in Trieste, in the context of CEI's collaboration with Trieste-based scientific institutions:

1. **The workshop “Training in advanced material characterization in Large Scale Research Infrastructures”**, organized by the Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium – CERIC (June 2017)
2. **The International Advanced Summer School on Sustainable Blue Growth**, organized by the Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics – OGS (July 2017)

In both cases, the financial support provided by the CEI allowed for participation of researchers and scientists from the WB.

Finally, the CEI has recently (January 2017) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with AREA Science Park (<https://www.areasciencepark.it/>), with the aim to contribute to unlocking the innovation potential of non-EU CEI Member States (including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), as a component of their EU integration process, through technical assistance and capacity building actions.

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

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### 4 Outlook and perspectives

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

#### ***Cooperation with the Trieste Science System: activities open to WB researchers***

- **Master in Sustainable Blue Growth**, jointly organized by the University of Trieste and the Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics - OGS to support the creation of stable and attractive blue career pathways throughout strengthening professional skills and enhancing competencies in fields related to marine and maritime sectors. The Master will start in January 2018 and will be held in Trieste in three sessions of 15 days each. Deadlines: Application: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017; Fellowship Application: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Registration at <http://bluegrowth.inogs.it/advanced-master-sustainable-blue-growth>
- **CERIC-ERIC Call for proposals**. Access is offered to nearly 50 instruments and 2 support laboratories, as well as the opportunity of getting support for mobility for 2 users and awards for high quality open access publications (more information at <https://ceric-eric.eu/index.php?n=Users.Homepage>). Deadlines:
  - **1st September**, 17hs CET, to have a pre-evaluation and the possibility to improve your proposal
  - **2nd October**, 17hs CET, recommended only for expert users of all the techniques requestedApplications to be submitted at <https://vuo.elettra.trieste.it/>
- Workshop **“Research meets business to foster collaboration between CERIC and the industry”**, organized by the Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium – CERIC (October 2017, more information at <http://www.ceric-eric.eu/R2B/>)
- Along with a consortium of local authorities, scientific institutions and other actors of the “Trieste Science System”, the CEI has contributed to the successful candidature of Trieste for hosting the **Euro Science Open Forum (ESOF)** in 2020



(<http://www.esof.eu/en/>). ESOF is the largest interdisciplinary science meeting in Europe, which brings together over 4.000 stakeholders (researchers, educators, business actors, policy makers and journalists) from all over the world. ESOF 2020 in Trieste will ensure a projection towards Central and South-Eastern Europe, thus CEI's involvement in the application process. A number of preparatory activities will take place in 2019 (PROESOF), which could be organized in CEI countries (including WB) in order to raise awareness of scientific and business communities on the main event to be held in Trieste in 2020. Moreover, by hosting ESOF 2020 in Trieste ground could be set for a future application from a city in one of CEI Member States (previous hosts were Stockholm, Munich, Barcelona, Turin, Dublin, Copenhagen and Manchester, while next ESOF 2018 will take place in Toulouse)

### ***CEI-funded Cooperation Activities***

Forthcoming CEI-funded Cooperation Activities (from September 2017) either taking place in the WB or open to participation of WB researchers.

1. **7<sup>th</sup> Central European Symposium on Plasma Chemistry**, organized by the Croatian Institute of Physics (Sveti Martin na Muri, September 2017)
2. **Reversing the brain drain through the Scientific Diaspora**, organized by the Albanian Center for Economic and Social Studies (Planned: Tirana, October 2017)

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

(e.g. relevant publications, relevant online (information) platforms etc.)

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