



Croatia

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)

In past 14 months since June 2016 till September 2017 Croatia was actively working on strengthening the cooperation with 6 Western Balkan countries.

Appointed acting director of WISE was actively conducting meeting regarding the establishment of Western Balkan research and innovation centre – WISE. Unfortunately Republic of Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo haven't still ratified, accepted or approved signed Agreement on Western Balkan research and innovation centre – WISE. Serbian support to the WISE facility is relatively important and without strong commitment of all signed parties it is hard to imagine WISE as fully functional body any time soon.

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.)

Croatia is providing support to Montenegro's initiative to establish International science institute for the development of sustainable technologies in the area of SEE. One of the Ministry's representatives was present on high level meeting held in Budva at the beginning of September 2017.

Slovenia, Serbia and Croatia started on-line exchange of expert in the research area. The aim is to strengthen international peer review process and to make it more transparent and reliable.

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>



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

Ministry of science and education and Agency for mobility and EU programmes organized a conference on 20 years of MSCA programme in June 2017. During two days conference round table gathering assistants ministers in charged for research was organized (with among others assistant minister from Serbia and Montenegro) as well panel discussions involving researchers and policy makers from the WB region (Montenegro, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Serbia).

It is important for Croatia to continue to provide support and transfer knowledge and experience regarding mobility programmes, especially EU funded ones such as MSCA-COFUND.

4 Outlook and perspectives

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

It is important to note that Ministry was actively involved in to the drafting of mobility programme for WB which was presented to EC in Vienna in November 2016 and again on preparatory meeting for WB Steering platform in June 2017 held in Podgorica.