



The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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 June 2017, the new Government of the Republic of Macedonia is established and Ms, Renata Deskosa, professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, is appointed as Minister for Education and Science.

During the 2012, The Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the Strategy on Innovation 2013-2020. The main purpose of this Strategy is to initiate the transformation of the Country's economy into knowledge based capable to be competitive on international markets by its well-trained labor force and innovative companies. One of the foreseen measures of this Strategy is the establishment of the Innovation and Technological Development Fond. The Fund provides support for increasing cooperation between business and academia through the instrument for commercialization of innovation and technology extension where such partnerships are encouraged

Beside the establishment of the Innovation and Technological Development Fond, the Strategy foresees some other activities including the human resource strengthening, strengthening the cooperation with Diaspora, strengthening the international cooperation on the field of research and innovation, commercialisation of the research results, establishment of the National Office for Technology Transfer, support on the establishment of the Science and Technological Parks, interactive portals for links with the local and Diaspora research community, register of laboratories, and other.

Advisory Group for Innovation as an operational body was established, in order to have institutionalized mechanism which will provide coherent approach, effective policy

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>



coordination as well as implementation and monitoring of the Strategy on innovation and Action plan on innovation.

This body is consisting of representatives from all the relevant ministries, state institutions and from the private sector.

Our Ministry financially supports several projects and grants for strengthening research and innovation capacities:

- 1 Since 2011, there has been a project on supplying laboratories for scientific research and applied activities within public universities with modern technical equipment. The purpose is to assist them in implementation of their research projects, organizing practical teaching for students, and developing cooperation with the private sector. Within this project 80 laboratories were equipped
- 2 **Grants** to stimulate researchers to publish in international journals with impact factor
- 3 **Grants** for professors and collaborators in Higher Education and Scientific Institutes for creative activities (Arts, Architecture, Music, Theatre and Literature).
- 4 **Support young scientist through** Full scholarships for postgraduate and doctoral studies at the best renowned foreign universities (the top 100 according to Shangai List).
- 5 **Supports** researchers for participation at Scientific Conferences and other events.

Ministry for Education and Science has increased the international scientific cooperation with many countries, especially the EU countries. The scientific cooperation is carried out through the Horizon 2020, COST, EUREKA, NATO, UNESCO, IAEA and JICA.

Ministry of Education and Science strengthen collaboration between academia and industry at national level though financial instrument of the Fund for Innovations and Technological Development. The Fund for Innovations and Technological Development provides support for increasing cooperation between business and academia through the instrument for commercialization of innovation and technology extension where such partnerships are encouraged.

Ministry of Education and Science has initiated establishment of the National Technology Transfer Office as a mechanism for linking and facilitating co-operation between academia, business and government.

It would play a key role in the conversion of the results of research into competitive products and processes, and steer research towards industry needs. The NTTTO is expected to have a mandate that is broader than a typical academic technology transfers office.

Triple Helix partnership as a potential for innovation and economic development in a knowledge based society lies in a more prominent role of universities, industry and government to generate new institutional and social formats for the production, transfer and application of knowledge.

National Office for Technology Transfer is in the process of formation