

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on Regional R&D and Innovation Center – WISE

(Period: June 2016 – June 2017)²

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

- *Since signing Split Agreement in September 2015, serving as basis for establishment of WISE facility in Split, Croatia, four countries ratified agreement by today. Those are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro. In October 2016 the last country to ratify agreement was Bosnia and Herzegovina. Slovenia sent high level delegation to WISE signing event in Split.*
- *According to Split Agreement (article 22) when four countries ratify this agreement in their Parliaments WISE can be established. By now, this prerequisite has been fulfilled.*
- *Since September 18, 2015 Croatia has held parliamentary elections two times and has changed three Governments' and three different ministers of science and education and three different foreign ministers and cabinets.*
- *In early December 2016, due to non acceptance of City's budget proposal for 2017 by the City Council overthrown Mayor of Split from his seat. This resulted that for close to 7 months Split did not have a Mayor who could make official decisions on future WISE seat or to sign any important agreement related to City's facilities. Local elections were held in Split in May 2017 and a new Mayor of Split has been approved by the City Council on July 17, 2017.*

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.)

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

- *In 2016 WISE was presented at the OECD high level event in Paris*

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>



- *In September 2016 together with RCC WISE has organized high-level meeting involving officials from all member countries followed by the technology transfer workshop in Split, Croatia. Representatives of the World Bank, The European Commission, the JRC attended the event and presented on the topic. Countries exchanged their practices on Technology transfer with international experts who presented the best TT models worldwide.*

- *In June 2016 while presiding over SEECEP (from June 2016 till June 2017) Croatian high government officials (Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs) promoted WISE as one of the three top priorities for regional cooperation in science and technology.*

- *Croatia as the Host country prepared all necessary documentation (Host country Agreement with WISE and all other relevant documentation necessary for registration and the future operations for this nonprofit international organization.*

- *In addition, since 2015 Croatia till 2017 has reserved funds in its national budget for its part for WISE initial operational cost.*

- *WISE Acting Director held several important meetings promoting WISE in Croatia and with EIB, The World Bank, several other EU countries.*

- *Slovenia (is interested to become WISE associated country), Austria and Norway expressed their interest in collaborating or funding future programs with WISE*

4 Outlook and perspectives

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

Croatia is in the process of notifying countries, which already ratified Split Agreement (2015) on all-important steps that will take place over next month or two related to WISE.

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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