



UNESCO Office in Venice

Science, Technology and Economic Development in South Eastern Europe

The present study analyses the main features of national S&T systems and their inter-relation with the socio-economic development in five countries of South-East Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

The author, Professor Milica Uvalic, underlines the urgent need for decision-makers to take steps to ensure that S&T [re-]gain a leading role in the national development strategies. She points out that increased recognition of the importance of S&T is a key element for the integration of these countries into the knowledge-based society.

The study was carried out within the framework of UNESCO's Strategy for Strengthening Cooperation in South East Europe and the follow-up of the Round Table of Ministries of Science from the region.

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Science, Technology and Economic Development in South Eastern Europe

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Foreword

With the publication of this study on *Science, technology and economic development in South Eastern Europe* the UNESCO Office in Venice – Regional Bureau for Science in Europe (ROSTE) is proud to launch its new Science Policy Series, aimed those involved in science and technology decision-making, in government or elsewhere, science policy specialists, ‘science-watchers’, and all those with more than a passing interest in issues related to science in Europe.

ROSTE, since its establishment in Venice in the late 1980s, has been concerned with the health of the scientific endeavour in the Member States of Central and Eastern Europe. In those countries – all presently with economies in transition – science education and research have tended to remain behind other national priorities deemed more important in the conversion to a market economy and multiparty governance systems. The ROSTE strategy to provide capacity-building opportunities and foster regional and international cooperation in research, and increasingly so for the countries of South-Eastern Europe, was developed through two milestone events both organized within the framework of Director-General’s action for strengthening cooperation between UNESCO and its South-East European Member: a Conference of Experts on *Rebuilding Scientific Cooperation in South East Europe* (Venice, March 2001) and a Round Table of Ministers of Science from the region (Paris, October 2001). As an important strand of that strategy, the new Science Policy Series is intended to review and raise awareness on issues central to the development of viable and active scientific systems. We expect future volumes to cover subjects such as the importance of investment in science for national growth and development, the problems related to access to scientific information and its dissemination, questions related to the availability of science statistics and indicators, as well as other issues deemed to be important for Member States and those involved in science within them.

This first Report in the series examines science, technology and economic development in five countries of South East Europe, most of which have not only undergone – and are still undergoing – economic and social transformation, but have also endured war and privation, and constitute a part of the world towards which ROSTE is directing considerable effort to encourage capacity- building, networking and scientific cooperation. The study provides a broad analysis of the present situation, showing the relationship between socio-economic situation of the countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia & Montenegro) and what is known about their S&T investments and human resource capacities.

The author, Professor Milica Uvalic, presents an overview of the main features of S&T in the sub-region and underlines the need for decision-makers to take steps to ensure that S&T will (re-)gain a leading role in their national developmental strategies as a crucial element for the integration of their countries into the European Research Area and the knowledge-based economy.

We think this book gives an excellent start to the Series, constituting as it does a frame on which more in-depth analysis of national science policies may be carried out in future, and to which the Office will devote its attention in the coming years.



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 Regional Bureau for Science in Europe (ROSTE)

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