

KOSOVO (UNSCR 1244)

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (2st half 2011 or - May 2011 / Ohrid till December 2011 / Sarajevo)

1 Policy actions

(e.g. essential changes in the political authorities, administrative bodies, agencies, institutions, personnel, development/launch of new national funding programmes, etc.)

The mandate of the National Research Council (NRC) expired in July 2011, and new composition of this body has not been appointed yet. It should be done soon by the Kosovo Assembly.

NRC adopted the Framework for Evaluation of Research Institutes in Kosovo, which should serve to benchmark public research institutions in the country.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

University of Prishtina has developed its R&D Strategy for the period 2011-2015.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

In May, the Science Week was organized by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology....

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

(e.g. new bilateral/international agreements, memberships, support structures, important international projects, programmes, etc.)

European Commission Delegation to Kosovo has launched a new programme named Research Capacity Development in Kosovo. The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen research and innovation in Kosovo based on the existing capacities in the Universities as well as the public and private research institutions to benefit the further economic and social development of Kosovo and of Europe.

¹ The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries and will be provided for download from the WBC-INCO.Net homepage (www.wbc-inco.net) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to office@zwbc-inco.net until November 22, 2011.

The program will fund 4-6 research proposals submitted by Kosovo research institutions and has a budget of 1 mil. EUR.

In partnership with MEST, Austrian Development Agency is funding a new project to support development of higher education and research sector, with significant focus on the latter.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

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6 Assessment of the developments and outlook on the next 6 months

Since the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology completed the assessment of proposals for Special Research Grants Programme, and the European Commission announced a Call for Proposals, it is expected that in 6 months we will see 10-15 research projects being implemented in Kosovo Research institutions, both public and private. On the other hand, ADA funded project will support partnerships between Kosovo public research institutions and Austrian institutions aimed at building capacity within the country.

There are plans to explore the possibility of setting up a Research Fund which will operate independently from the Ministry, as specified in the National Research Program 2010-2015.

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