

MONTENEGRO

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

The new Deputy Minister of Science, Mr. Darko Petrusic was appointed in September 2011. Darko Petrusic earned his M.Sc. degree in London, majoring in Information Engineering. His areas of research interest and expertise are all areas of IT since he is Accredited IT Architect, including IT strategic planning, business transformations and implementation.

Darko Petrusic was fulfilling role of Advisor to the Minister for IT in the field of e-government in the British Columbia Government in Canada until September 2009. He has had his own consulting company where he was providing services to large corporations (IBM and Telus) and British Columbia Government.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Government of Montenegro, at the session on 29 September 2011, adopted the feasibility study for setting up Science and Technological Park. Ministry of Science and Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications of Montenegro financed the feasibility study for setting up Science and Technological Park in Montenegro, that was developed by consortium consisting of five organizations with extensive experience with setting up STP in the region. The Study gave strategic guidelines and defined the cornerstones of the Science and Technology Park profile. Thematic focus of the Park, that should include characteristics of a technology park, an incubator and a business park, should be: energy efficiency and green energy, agriculture and food processing, information and communication technologies, medical technologies, wood processing and interdisciplinary research, as well as setting up of Center for development of young scientists. The STP shall foster both academic and industrial R&D and build the basis for academic-industrial interaction and provide both infrastructure and a broad range of services.

Government of Montenegro, at the session on 17 November 2011, adopted the feasibility study for setting up Centers of Excellence. The study was financed by the IPA funds at the

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.

EU Delegation to Montenegro, in the amount of 150,000 €. The experts engaged in preparation of Feasibility study on setting up Centers of Excellence presented three models of centers of excellence: model of enhancing the capabilities of selected groups of researchers, model of developing one or more research units at a level well above the national average and model of nurturing interdisciplinary niches of excellence in fields of national priority. These three models can be combined.

The Ministry of Science was engaged in normative development in this period. The Ministry adopted two new rulebooks: rulebook on the criteria for expert appointment and the procedure for expert assessment of scientific-research programs and projects of common interest and the rulebook on conditions for granting and use of funds for programs of common interest.

The Call for funding new national projects was announced on 3 October 2011, and Ministry received 198 applications which are now in the evaluation phase. Ministry of Science in cooperation with: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Culture will finance new national scientific projects of basic, applied and development research, which are in line with the Strategy for scientific research activity (2008-2016) and priority areas in research, established by the Ministry of Science, with the total amount of 5,000,000 euro.

The Government of Montenegro will negotiate on Financial Agreement and Project Appraisal Document with the World Bank team from 7-9 December 2011 in Podgorica. It is expected that Higher Education and Research for Innovation and Competitiveness Project for a World Bank loan starts with implementation in first quarter of 2011, after project approving at the Board of Governors meeting.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

The Ministry of Science, in collaboration with its partners, organized a big promotional event this year called Open Days of Science. Knowledge Factory, EU Science and Innovation Day and Researchers' Night were the main events. The Third Researchers' Night was held on 23 September, attracted a huge number of visitors, especially young people, it had a great publicity and extremely positive reactions of the participants, visitors, educational and scientific institutions.

The Ministry of Science organizing this event aimed to stimulate development and affirmation of science in Montenegro and to bring the science close to all of ages and levels of education.

On 22 September, the Ministry of Science organised European Research and Innovation Day, with the aim to inform the research community about developments in the main European instruments for financing research and innovation – FP7, CIP and EUREKA. Speakers from Brussels were: Mrs Tania Friederichs (DG R&I), Mr Frederico Miranda (DG EAC – Marie Curie Actions), Mr Aleksandar Kedra (DG R&I – Marie Curie FP6 success stories) and Mr Svatopluk Halada (EUREKA Secretariat), while Montenegrin speakers

were – Mr Milan Markovic (REGPOT coordinator) and Mrs Ljiljana Belada (Enterprise European Network Manager). Ms Tania Friederichs presented to the public the achievement of Montenegro in FP7 so far and introduced it with the new EU policy orientation in preparation of Horizon 2020. The agenda comprised topics on Marie Curie Actions and REGPOT, as parts of FP7 where significant capacity building opportunities are laid. Given the action plan to open first calls for EUREKA programme in Montenegro next year, the public could hear from Mr Halada the basic information about this inter-governmental initiative.

As part of the Open Science Days programme, the Ministry of Science organized EUREKA training for project managers. Mr Svatopluk Halada presented schemes and rules of project participation and how to prepare EUREKA project. Prof. dr Aleksandar Sedmak, EUREKA High Level Representative for Serbia, focused on experiences and results of the first decade of Serbia in EUREKA.

In the plan of promoting FP7 Programme for 2011, the Ministry of Science organized Marie Curie Info Day on Opportunities for individual researchers on 10 June 2011.

Directorate for Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises successfully organised one day workshop in Becici in Montenegro, in the field of “Knowledge Transfer: Tools and Mechanisms for supporting Innovation”. Workshop was organised for RTD stakeholders from the WB Countries and provided participants with key issues in the field of technology transfer through training session and demonstration of some practical cases.

Minister of Science participated at Meeting of Ministers of Science and Research from six Western Balkans countries with European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, that was organized on 15 September 2011.

Minister of Science participated at Meeting of CEI Ministers of Science and Technology in Trieste on 19 October 2011.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

Montenegro applied for membership in International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). The Board of Governors of the ICGEB confirmed the acceptance of Montenegro in the membership of this intergovernmental organisation.

The Ministry of Science, Directorate for Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises of Montenegro and Scientific and Technological Park Tecnopolis from Valenzano (Bari, Republic of Italy), signed agreement on cooperation in the field of innovation in scientific and business sectors, on 19 July 2011 in Podgorica.

At the Joint Meeting of Austrian-Montenegrin Committee, held in Vienna on 24 June 2011, 5 bilateral projects have been accepted for financing.

The call for proposals for bilateral projects between Montenegro and Slovenia resulted in 24 projects approved for financing in 2012-2013.

The Call for proposals for bilateral projects between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina is published on 15 November 2011.

Six Montenegrin research teams have been accepted to involve in the current European COST actions, as follows: 3 teams from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Montenegro, 1 team of Biotechnical Faculty, University of Montenegro, 1 team of the Faculty of Information Technology, University of the Mediterranean, and 1 team of Faculty of political sciences, University of Montenegro. Therefore, we expect very soon to acquire the conditions for Montenegro's formal application for COST membership.

The Government of Montenegro sent Application for membership in the EUREKA programme to EUREKA Secretariat in Brussels in June this year. The Ministry of Science as the authorized Government body for coordination of activities related to EUREKA will publish the first call for EUREKA projects in 2012. Deputy Minister of Science will participate at Group of High Level representatives Meeting in Sopron in January 2012.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data