

TURKEY

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 Turkish Ministry of Industry and Trade has recently been converted into Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology. This new ministry is in charge of developing new policies, plans, programmes and strategies in the fields of industry & trade and forming a production culture providing added value based on high technology and innovation with the supports provided for research and development.

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) is currently an associated institution with this Ministry.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

N/A

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

“Enlargement Countries Meeting for JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions” took place on 3rd October 2011 with the initiative of TUBITAK at the premises of TURBO in Brussels, Belgium. At the last meeting of the Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan countries which was held on 26th May 2011, the importance of JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions as well as the possibilities they offer were stressed. The conclusions of the meeting indicates “Several members also stressed the importance of future cooperation such as strengthening cooperation with the JRC for enlargement countries and ...”. With this reference, the Enlargement Countries Meeting for JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions was held with the participation of JRC and Enlargement Countries’ representatives. The meeting focused on optimizing the development and implementation of JRC Enlargement and Integration actions. With this initiative, the Enlargement Countries started the process to develop a joint approach towards the JRC in order to enhance the cooperation in 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.

specification and preparation of JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions. As a result of this initiative, a Common Position Paper on JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions was submitted to the JRC.

The Joint Response of the Enlargement Countries to the EC Consultation on CSFRI was presented by TUBITAK at the INCO NCP meeting which was held on 28 September 2011, at Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Joint Response of the Enlargement Countries to the EC Consultation on CSFRI was presented by TUBITAK at the Launching Event of the IPA project “Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation in the Western Balkans” which was held on 24-25 November 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia. The presentation focused on the capacity building aspect of the Joint Response and recommended to include the EU Enlargement perspective of the Western Balkans into the Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation.

ICTurkey 2011 event was held on 27 September 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. The event has constituted a platform for sharing information and experience on political and technical level in information and communication technologies, establishing new partnerships and cooperating international R&D programmes. 205 Turkish and 75 foreign researchers from 25 countries and business representatives attended to this event. A special offer to host and cover the expenses of at least 2 participants per WBC was circulated among the relevant Ministries in the WBC so that they nominate researchers. The meeting hosted a total of 4 guests from FYRoM, Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina.

A Turkish expert has participated and provided training at the WBC-INCO.NET Workshop “Knowledge Transfer: Tools and Mechanisms for Supporting Innovation” which was held on 23 September, in Becici, Montenegro, organized by Organised by the Directorate for the Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (DDSME) of Montenegro and South East European Research Centre (SEERC) from Thessaloniki, Greece. The Turkish expert suggested to the meeting organizers by TUBITAK, Dr. Omer HIZIROGLU, General Counsel and Licensing Manager of Inovent SA (Turkey) was one of the three trainers of the workshop and gave training on “Building Innovation Management Capacity, How to effectively use IP Agreements. Examples – case studies”, content of which was evaluated quite high by the participants of the training.

In the framework of TransNEW Project a workshop on the South Balkans and Mediterranean Transport Research Capabilities and Potentials was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 3 June 2011 by TUBITAK Framework Programmes National Coordination Office Transport Task Force. The second half of the meeting was concentrated on the overview of transport research in the region. Albania was one of the presented countries and Ali Dedej, Expert Analyst for Research in Transport, in Albkonsults Ltd. shared their experience on the transport R&D potential and capability in Albania.

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.)

Initiatives for bilateral/international agreements towards Western Balkan Countries has slowed down due to the above mentioned restructuring in Turkey.

Following the last Steering Platform meeting which was held on 26 May 2011 in Ohrid, FYROM, where the Joint Response of the Enlargement Countries towards EC Consultation on CSFRI was presented, TUBITAK took the initiative to elaborate a concept on different (soft and hard) types of capacity building activities that could be supported under the future Horizon2020 and future IPA. The elaborated concept was submitted to Ms. Tania Friederichs at the EC DG RTD to be circulated within the relevant units of the DG.

A proposal was prepared by TUBITAK to develop a joint permanent network of Enlargement Countries to consider common approaches towards issues related to EU Framework Programmes and ERA in general. The proposal was taken to the IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme coordination meeting which was held on 16-17 June 2011 in Brussels. The issue is still under consideration and development.

The above mentioned Enlargement Countries meeting for JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions also constitute an important tool towards integration into the ERA. The Joint Research Council (JRC) of the European Commission acts as an important strategic institution for a better integration of Enlargement Countries to the European Union. Particularly when the policies and strategies of science and research are concerned, the JRC offers significant opportunities to the Enlargement Countries.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

N/A

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

(Optional personal opinion)

The bilateral negotiations with the Western Balkan Countries is believed to trigger in the forthcoming 6 months and will hopefully conclude the negotiations.

It is suggested to take ““Enlargement Countries Meeting for JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions” one step further and to have an additional priority setting meeting for upcoming JRC Enlargement and Integration Actions in the first quarter of 2012, in Istanbul, Turkey. The Enlargement Countries will therefore be encouraged to provide their national perspective and set a common ground in order to feed the 2013 JRC Actions Agenda.