

European Commission
Research and Innovation DG

PROGRESS REPORT¹

**on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC
(1st half 2011 or November 2010 / Becici - May 2011 / Ohrid)**

1 Policy actions

Since 1 January the official name of the Directorate General is Research and Innovation DG. It reflects the policy objectives set by the Commission Barroso II, as adopted in the EU 2020 strategy, and the importance of innovation in the research cycle.

The DG has also been re-organised to reflect the new priorities. Amongst others, a new Directorate on Innovation has been created. As to International cooperation, a new Director has been nominated: mr. Isi Saragossi (replacing Ms M. Minch) and a new Head of Unit responsible for International cooperation policy: Mr Laurent Bochereau (replacing A. Damiani).

DG RTD is fully engaged in the preparations for the post 2013 research and innovation funding framework (green paper on Common Strategic Framework). From a policy point of view, implementation of the Innovation Union is very high on the EU's political agenda.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

Preparations for the launch of the 2012 FP7 Work programmes (to be launched on 20 July 2012).

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@wbc-inco.net until Monday, May 16, 2011.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc

Meeting of first EU-FYR of Macedonia Research Committee took place in Skopje on 25 February: useful monitoring of participation and consider ways of improving cooperation.

Monitoring of progress on accession chapter 25 on science and research in context of overall EU and enlargement country relations, took place with respectively Croatia, Montenegro, Kosovo UN 1244/99 and Serbia.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

A strategy for international cooperation is being designed, in which our relations with the candidate and potential candidate countries will be an integral part of. As part of that strategy, the importance of creating good synergies with other EU funding instruments, such as the Pre-Accession Instrument (IPA), is of key importance.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

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

in view of the preparation for the annual progress reports to be prepared by the Commission, the next months are very important to assess progress made on research and innovation policy with the enlargement countries. Assessment of progress will also be important to determine cooperation and involvement of enlargement countries in the post 2013 financial frameworks.

A meeting at Ministerial level, upon invitation from the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation Marie Geoghegan Quinn, is scheduled on 15 September 2011 in Brussels with all Ministers from the Balkan to discuss the way forward on the key political issues with respect to research and innovation, taking into account the pre-accession context.

Meetings with respectively Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarejevo mid June 2011 and Albania on 30 June in Tirana in context of the Stabilisation and association process.

