# Germany

**PROGRESS REPORT[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC**

**(September 2014 – June 2015)**

# Policy actions

* Ongoing implementation of the Initiative “Strengthening Germany’s role in the global knowledge society – Strategy of the Federal Government for the Internationalization of Science and Research” (launched in 2008). The text (in German and English) can be found under: [http://www.bmbf.de/pub/deutschlands\_rolle\_in\_globaler\_wissensgesellschaft\_staerken\_de \_en.pdf](http://www.bmbf.de/pub/deutschlands_rolle_in_globaler_wissensgesellschaft_staerken_de%20_en.pdf).
* The related “International Cooperation Action Plan of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)” was published in October 2014 (<http://www.bmbf.de/pub/International_Cooperatin_Action_Plan.pdf>).
* Goals and priorities for the fields of innovation are introduced by the new High-Tech Strategy 2020 for Germany (<http://www.bmbf.de/en/6618.php>).
* With the “Strategy of the Federal Government on the European Research Area (ERA)“ ([http://www.bmbf.de/pubRD/Strategy\_of\_the\_Federal\_Government\_on\_the\_European\_Research\_(ERA.pdf)](http://www.bmbf.de/pubRD/Strategy_of_the_Federal_Government_on_the_European_Research_%28ERA.pdf%29)) Germany was the first EU member state with its own timetable for further development of the European Research Area. The strategy was launched in July 2014 and comprises three pillars: ERA as driver for Europe’s future viability, guidelines for further shaping the European Research Area, national roadmap on the European Research Area based on the ERA priorities.
* Internet Platform for information on the German research system and landscape, “Research in Germany” (<http://www.research-in-germany.de/52/home.html>). The portal provides an overview of the research and funding opportunities (also for foreigners) in Germany. It also delivers the latest science and research news from Germany and upcoming events.

# Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

*N/A*

# Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

A 2nd German Danube call for proposals is planned to be launched by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) on June 24, 2015. It follows up a successful first Danube call implemented in 2013, and it addresses the countries from the Danube region including also some Western Balkan countries (Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Croatia, Montenegro) and supports the development and the establishment of innovative research networks. Ministries and funding agencies from Hungary, Moldova and Serbia followed the invitation of BMBF to contribute to the 2nd German Danube call. On March 16, 2015 a preparatory meeting for the 2nd BMBF Danube call took place in Vienna In order to assure a smooth and successful implementation of the call – especially with regard to the co-funding approach of the regional partners – BMBF together with the DLR Project Management Agency will implement this call according to the lead agency principle. Funding partners would benefit not only from reduced administrative efforts, but have the opportunity to fund their scientists in already reviewed and highly recommended projects with excellent partners from Germany and other countries in the Danube region.

# Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

4.1 CESEER (Central European and South East European Region)

By November 3, 2014 BMBF launched the call entitled “International Cooperation in Education and Research - Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region”. The call addresses all Western Balkan countries and is open until December 29, 2017. With this BMBF programme, funds are being made available for preparatory projects in the field of applied research, development and education in order to support project applications under Horizon2020 and other EU programmes that are relevant to research as well as Eurostars Programme and IPA.

The electronic version of the call can be found in German under <http://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/25110.php> and in English under

<http://www.internationales-buero.de/en/7101.php>.

4.2. Joint Research Structures

The call entitled “Establishment and Expansion of Joint Research Structures in Europe" was launched by the BMBF on December 15, 2014 and closed on March 20, 2015. Institutions form Albania, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia are eligible international partners in this call. The call is part of the Federal Governments Internationalisation Strategy and supports German institutions in benefitting as strategic partners from access to research capacities and centres of excellence that have been or are being newly established in the CESEER. This will also improve the latter's prospects for cooperation in the European Research Area and narrow the innovation gap within Europe. A total of 117 applications were submitted by the deadline. The meeting of the “Scientific Council” will take place on June 9, 2015 in Bonn. First projects are expected to start by October 1, 2015.

The electronic version of the call can be found in German under <http://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/25493.php> and in English under <http://www.bmbf.de/en/furtherance/25493.php>.

# Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

1st German Call for innovative R&D networks with partners in the Danube States:

31 projects were altogether funded within this call (published in 2013); some of them are already finished, others are still running or have submitted an application for support in a second funding phase. Funding phase 1 served to establish a new R&D network or to develop an existing R&D network to include partners from the Danube States. In the funding phase 2, funding will be provided for the initiation of specific joint projects.

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

*N/A*

1. The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries. Please submit your report to office@danube-inco.net **until June 1, 2015**.

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