# EC DG JRC

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

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

**(Budapest, June 8-9, 2015)**

# Policy actions

N/A

# Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

N/A

# Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

# 3.1 Enlargement and Integration Action 2014

Within its Enlargement and Integration Action the JRC organised in 2014 more than forty workshops, advanced trainings, summer schools and visits for the representatives of the Enlargement and the Neighbourhood Policy countries. Below the list of all the activities organised in 2014:

**List of the workshop, trainings and summers schools organised in 2014.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Training | Danube Innovation Nexus –Summer School | Belgrade |
| 2 | Workshop | Danube Innovation Nexus – Workshops | Vienna |
| 3 | Workshop | Enlarging the European Alien Species Information Network | Ispra |
| 4 | Workshop | Managing Nitrogen and Phosphorus loads to water bodies: characterization and solutions | Ispra |
| 5 | Workshop | From polluting human activities to emission grid maps using the Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) | Ispra |
| 6 | Workshop | 20th Annual GeoCAP Conference | Dresden |
| 7 | Workshop | Kick-off of Development and Control Methods Campaign 2014 | Varese |
| 8 | Workshop | LPIS workshop 2014 | Brussels |
| 9 | Workshop | EUROMED Crop Monitoring Workshop 2014 | Rabat |
| 10 | Workshop | High-resolution Soil Database for the Danube Basin | Ispra |
| 11 | Workshop | Open Data and Spatial Data Infrastructures in Central and Eastern Europe | Belgrade |
| 12 | Workshop | INSPIRE Implementation in the Danube Region | Zagreb |
| 13 | Extra | Ukrainian Study Visit on INSPIRE | Ispra |
| 14 | Extra | Spatial Data Harmonisation workshop | Ispra |
| 15 | Workshop | Innovative Multimedia Tools for Education and Training in the EU | Sarajevo |
| 16 | Workshop | Workshop on "Energy Efficiency Policies, ESCO's and Financing" | Varese |
| 17 | Workshop | Harmonization and standardization of experimental and numerical tools for the characterization of materials and components | Istanbul |
| 18 | Workshop | Physics based modelling of material properties and experimental observations. Special Focus - Plasticity and creep at different length scales | Cesme - Turkey |
| 19 | Workshop | Workshop on bioenergy in Ukraine | Kiev |
| 20 | Workshop | "Costs, benefits and impact assessment of smart grids for Europe and beyond" | Antalya |
| 21 | Training | Training on methods for the implementation of the EC Regulation 994/2010 on Security of Gas Supply | Athens |
| 22 | Workshop | The Future Role of Energy Storage in South Eastern Europe | Tirana |
| 23 | Training | Safety of food contact materials: migration testing and exposure assessment of chemicals in food | Ispra |
| 24 | Training | Monitoring and evaluating the health risks from air pollution in buildings including emissions from building materials and consumer products | Ispra |
| 25 | Workshop | The ageing European consumer – how to prepare? | Orasac |
| 26 | Workshop | International Workshop on Harmonisation of GMO Detection and Analysis | Skopje |
| 27 | Workshop | Nanotechnology based sensors and detection methods | Ispra |
| 28 | Workshop | Workshop on health and safety research with radiotracers and radiolabelled nanoparticles | Ispra |
| 29 | Training | Implementation and Use of the Eurocodes in the Candidate and Potential Countries of the EU in the Balkan region | Skopje |
| 30 | Workshop | International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS) 2014 | Halle |
| 31 | Workshop | Workshop on Agricultural Trade and Food Security in the Euro-Med Area | Antalya |
| 32 | Workshop | Implementing the technical requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 in the laboratory | Ariana Tunisia |
| 33 | Training | Laboratory course on radiochemical separations for practitioners | Ljubljana |
| 34 | Workshop | Theory-3 | Opatja |
| 35 | Workshop | Analysis of food and feed contaminants. The legal and scientific framework behind, including methosd validation and measurement uncertainty | Zagreb |
| 36 | Workshop | GEODISPOSAL 2014 | Manchester |
| 37 | Workshop | 10th School on the Physics and Chemistry of the Actinides (SPCA) | Kibbuz Ein Gedi |
| 38 | Training | Training on core capabilities in nuclear forensics | Karlsruhe |
| 39 | Workshop | Workshop on advanced nuclear forensic analytical and interpretational methodologies - PART A | Soreq |
| 40 | Workshop | Workshop on advanced nuclear forensic analytical and interpretational methodologies - PART B | Karlsruhe |
| 41 | Training | Train the trainers, course on Radiation Detection Techniques | Karlsruhe |

# 3.2 IPA Travel Accommodation and Conference facility 2014

Within the Travel Accommodation and Conference facility (TAC) for Western Balkans and Turkey JRC organized from September 2014 the following activities:

***10th Anniversary of the European Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives (EURL-FA) – IRMM – Geel – 14.11.2014***

In 2004 the newly established European Union Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives (EURL-FA) which is supported by a network of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) went into operation in order to perform the evaluation of the compliance of feed additives with legal conditions. Moreover, the EURL-FA conducted proficiency testing (PTs) of Member States expert laboratories for the analysis of specific feed additives. Since then the EURL-FA/NRL network successfully evaluated analytical methods related to more than 350 dossiers and has organised three PTs.

On November 14, 2014 the EURL-FA celebrated its 10th anniversary with colleagues from DG Health and Consumers of the European Commission, the European Food Safety Authority, the NRLs and industry representatives. A review of the activities during the last 10 years has been presented; feedback from all main stakeholders has been given as well. Lastly, the event has given the opportunity to exchange views and expectations on the activities of the EURL-FA in future, from a policy support perspective. A delegation of 10 representatives from AL, BA, ME, MK, RS and KO took part to the event.

***Seminar "JRC Support to the Enlargement" – Novi Sad – Serbia – 09.12.2014***

On 9 December 2014 a seminar on "JRC Support to the Enlargement" took place in Novi Sad (RS). The seminar was co-organised by the JRC and the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the University of Novi Sad.

The aim of the event was to present to key stakeholders, researchers, experts, PhD Students of the Enlargement area the activities carried out by the JRC and in particular to provide specific examples of projects and collaborations with the Republic of Serbia.

More than 150 researchers and PhD students and experts from Serbia took part in the event. A delegation of 8 representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro took part in the Seminar as well and for them a specific Study Visit was organised in the afternoon.

The Seminar focused on 4 different topics:

1) JRC Activities in the Enlargement process

2) Jobs and opportunities at the JRC

3) EFAS European Flood Awareness System

4) Bioenergy

***Seminar "Analysis of food and feed contaminants – legal requirements and challenges for analysts" – Geel – 27 and 28.01.2015***

The Seminar took place on 27 and 28 January and was focused on food and feed contaminants. Eleven representatives of Universities and Research Institutes from BA, ME, MK, KO, RS and TR took part to the visit.

The aim of the Workshop and Study Visit was to allow the participants to deepen their knowledge on IRMM activities on food safety and quality. The event can be considered a two-day intensive training course; the presentations touched all the main aspects of the challenges the analysts have to face to meet the EU legal requirements. The Programme in fact included several presentations on IRMM activities in the sector of food safety and quality, on performance parameters, as well as the limits of detection and quantification. The workshop included the presentation of a proficiency test and a Study Visit to the food and feed laboratories.

# 3.3 JRC Annual Meeting with National Contact Points from the Enlargement and Associated countries

**The fifth meeting with the National Contact Points from the Enlargement and Associated countries** to Horizon 2020 took place at Grand Hotel Dino - Baveno (IT) on 26 March 2015.

The objectives of the meeting were:

1. to present and discuss the on-going cooperation including the participation in the JRC Enlargement and Integration Action (E&IA), in the Travel and Accommodation Facility IPA TAC, the on-going collaboration agreements, and future developments;
2. to set the country priorities for the next JRC E&IA 2015;
3. to present and share the programmes for IPA TAC 2015;
4. to discuss about possible improvements in JRC-Enlargement/Associated countries to H2020 cooperation.

Vladimir Sucha **(VS)** Director-General of the JRC in his closure remarks of the Annual Meeting underlined JRC's full commitment to help enlargement and associated countries through their own contact with JRC or through common participation and activities in macro-regional strategies. He hopes that having prof. Veskovic (who comes from one of the enlargement countries from WB and has a deep understanding of the region, but macro-regional policies as well) as JRC grant holder proves JRC's dedication to be a reliable partner to enlargement countries in path to full membership in EU. But he also stressed that enlargement countries (with the help of JRC) should go through RIS3 process and stress test process (specially concerning energy and water availability) to understand fully their own position, but also how they can contribute to European, macro-regional, transnational and national development.

# 3.4 Workshops related to the JRC Initiative "Scientific Support to the Danube Region"

# Use of Agricultural Residues for Bioenergy Workshop September 25, 2014 Kiev

# The European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Enlargement and Integration programme in cooperation with: the Scientific Engineering Centre "Biomass" & Bioenergy Association of Ukraine

This Workshop was organized in cooperation with the Scientific Engineering Centre "Biomass” from Ukraine, the Bioenergy Association of Ukraine (UABIO) and the IEA Bioenergy Task 43 on *Biomass feedstock for energy markets*. Countries targeted in this Workshop and which did participate were Albania, Israel, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia and Turkey.

# The Role of Bioenergy for Energy Security and Climate Protection in the Danube Region Contribution of Baden-Württemberg and Serbia 23 April 2015

The parliamentary afternoon aimed to:

* Present the transnational cooperation of the bioenergy partnership between Baden-Württemberg and Serbia as contribution to the EU Action plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and impetus for other countries
* Identify key policy options for favourable framework conditions enhancing the market uptake of sustainable bioenergy
* Stress the importance of transnational cooperation for achieving ambitious renewable energy and climate targets while increasing energy security
* Gain insights from policy-makers about their view on how to develop the bioenergy as renewable and dispatchable energy bringing additional benefits for rural development

The parliamentary afternoon addresses members of the European Parliament and high level representatives of the European Commission, government officials from Danube countries, private sector representatives, development organizations and transnational project consortia.

# International Conference on “Land Quality and Landscape Processes”

# Workshop: Soil information in the Danube basin 3rd June 2015, Budapest

The workshop organised in the framework of the Land and Soil Nexus of the EU’s Danube Strategy addressed the following topics:

I. Harmonising soil information in the Danube basin

Inspire; E-SOTER 2:500.000; Digital soil mapping; Managing legacy data; Novel solutions for soil information supply and use; EU Copernicus program

II. Soil Water – and the Danube basin water cycle

Soil water management; Soil water balance; Ground water level and quality; Topographic relations; Land use effects; Watershed scale evaluation; Climate change; Soil degradation; Scale dependency

# Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

N/A

# Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

Below the most relevant statistics and figures of JRC Enlargement and Integration Action 2014.

Every year a call for proposals is launched to JRC Institutes in order to receive from them projects/proposals within their areas of competence. The activities proposed should be in line with JRC key orientations and Enlargement countries priorities, identified during the JRC Enlargement NCPs Annual Meeting.

**Workshops organised in 2014 by each JRC Institute**

**Workshops' topics**

Workshop's topics included agriculture, energy, environment, health and consumer protection, standardisation and reference materials and measurements, innovation and technology transfer, infrastructure in particular digital and reference data as well as nuclear.

The eligible countries for the Initiative in 2014 were the candidate countries and the potential candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo\*) the new Member State (Croatia), the Associated Countries to the Horizon 2020 Programme (besides Enlargement countries Iceland, Faroe Island, Israel, Moldova, Norway, Switzerland) and the European Neighbourhood Policy Partner Countries (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine) and Russia.

*\*This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence*

Preferably the E&IA workshops and trainings are organised in the target countries as this increases the participation of representatives from these countries. However, some activities need to be organized at the JRC Institutes. In addition the E&IA Initiative supports the participation of the representatives of the target countries in international events particularly related to the Enlargement countries priorities. The graph below shows the graphical location of the workshop in 2014.

The geographical location of the workshops highly influenced the participation from the target countries. The advantage of organising the event in the target country is a higher participation, but the draw-back is that in some cases the event tends to have rather national connotation.

In the table below, some examples of the participation in the activities organised, from representatives of the hosting country. In the last column, the percentage of participants from the hosting country out of the total number of participants.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Workshop, Training, Summer School** | **Location** |  | **N.** | **%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Danube Innovation Nexus –Summer School | Belgrade | RS | 67 | **67.7** |
| Open Data and Spatial Data Infrastructures in Central and Eastern Europe | Belgrade | RS | 43 | **66.2** |
| INSPIRE Implementation in the Danube Region | Zagreb | HR | 6 | **27.3** |
| Analysis of food and feed contaminants. The legal and scientific framework behind, including methosd validation and measurement uncertainty | Zagreb | HR | 24 | **32,0** |
| The Future Role of Energy Storage in South Eastern Europe | Tirana | AL | 10 | **27.8** |
| Physics bades modelling of material properties and experimental observations Special Focus - Plasticity and creep at different length scales | Cesme - Turkey | TR | 27 | **29.3** |
| Workshop on Agricultural Trade and Food Security in the Euro-Med Area | Antalya | TR | 15 | **57.7** |
| "Costs, benefits and impact assessment of smart grids for Europe and beyond" | Antalya | TR | 28 | **47.5** |
| Workshop on bioenergy in Ukraine | Kiev | UA | 24 | **66.7** |
| International Workshop on Harmonisation of GMO Detection and Analysis | Skopje | MK | 14 | **33.3** |
| Implementation and Use of the Eurocodes in the Candidate and Potential Countries of the EU in the Balkan region | Skopje | MK | 12 | **28.6** |
| Implementing the technical requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 in the laboratory | Ariana Tunisia | TN | 44 | **91.7** |
| EUROMED Crop Monitoring Workshop 2014 | Rabat | MA | 30 | **38.5** |
| Workshop on advanced nuclear forensic analytical and interpretational methodologies - PART A | Soreq | IL | 12 | **85.7** |

The high rate of participation of representatives from a hosting country is even more evident in the table below showing the number of participants of a specific country in the events organised in its country and in all the other events.

**Participants from target countries per nationality**

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

*(Optional personal opinion)*

The general programme of JRC Enlargement activities for 2015 has been defined, presented and discussed during the Annual meeting with JRC Enlargement NCPs which took place in Ispra on 26-27 March 2015.

In 2015 the following activities are foreseen:

**List of activities approved for E&IA 2015**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TYPE OF ACTIVITY** | **TITLE** | **PLACE** | **DATE** |
| Training | Training on EC Regulation 994/2010 on Security of Gas Supply | Athens | 26-27/10/2015 |
| Workshop | Workshop Modelling Energy Scenarios for the Western Balkans | Vienna/Zagreb | Oct-15 |
| Workshop | Workshop on policy and technical options for bioenergy production, including from waste | Tel Aviv | Dec-15 |
|
| Workshop | Workshop on Energy Efficiency Policies, Financing and ESCOs | Ispra | 29-30/09/2015 |
| Workshop + Training | Road-transport & Emissions Modelling (REM) Workshop | Skopje | 10-11/09/2015 |
| Training Workshop | Risk assessment for natural-hazard impact on hazardous chemical installations | Ispra | Nov-15 |
| Conference | International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS) 2015 | Kolkata India | 12-16/01/2015 |
| Training Workshop | Adoption of European standards and policies for construction in the Candidate and Potential Countries in the Balkan region | Enlargement country | Nov-15 |
| Workshop | EMM OSINT Information Workshop | Ispra | Oct-15 |
| Training | JRC Summer School on Global Satellite Navigation Systems (GNSS) | tbd | Jul-15 |
| Workshop | Radio Spectrum Workshop –  Radio Spectrum in the Digital Single Market | Ispra | 26-30/10/2015 |
| Workshop | NanoBiotechnology Workshop - Characterisation of nanomaterials with focus on nanomedicine - | Ispra | Nov-15 |
| Workshop | Public Health and Nutrition Economics: the numbers behind prevention? | Enlargement country | Nov-15 |
| Workshop | New interventions to reduce overconsumption of alcohol | Odessa UA | 1-2/10/2015 |
| Workshop | How to increase tax compliance – new tools from behavioural economics | Kiev | 20-21/06/2015 |
| Training | Public Engagement about Science, Technology and Innovation | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Jul-15 |
| Workshop | Danube Innovation Partnership Workshop(s) | tbd |  |
| Workshop | Danube Innovation Partnership – Summer School | tbd | July or August |
| Training Workshop | European Alien Species Information Network: enlargement and training | Istanbul or Ankara | Oct-15 |
| Training Workshop | Twinning Workshop to Exchange Solutions on Urban Water Management | Dubrovnik | 24-25/11/2015 |
| Workshop | Scenarios of regional development for the Danube Region | Ispra | 19-20/11/2015 |
| Training | Introduction to the TM5-FASST web-based Scenario Screening Tool | Ispra | 17-18/11/2015 |
| Workshop | 7th CGMS Expert Meeting | Ispra | Nov-15 |
| Workshop | New approaches in crop mapping and monitoring in the Copernicus/Sentinel era | Kiev | Oct-15 |
| Conference | GTCAP annual Conference | tbd | Nov-15 |
| Workshop and Training | Environmental aspects of CAP first pillar Workshop | tbd | Sep-15 |
| Workshop and Training | LPIS workshop 2015 | tbd | Sep-15 |
| Workshop and Training | Area and features measurement Workshop | tbd | Jun-15 |
| Workshop combined with Training | INSPIRing National Spatial Data Infrastructures Development in Eastern Europe | Chisinau MD | 16-17/04/2015 |
| Workshop | Data Infrastructures for Sustainable Growth | Lisbon | 29/05/2015 |
| Training Course | Producing quality assured measurement data for the research projects of early stage researchers | tbd | Jun-15 |
| Workshop | Supporting the implementation of laboratory accreditation | tbd | Sep-15 |
| Workshop | 20th International Conference on Radionuclide Metrology and its Applications (ICRM 2015) | Vienna, Austria | 8-11 June 2015 |
| Workshop | Indoor Radon workshop | Ispra, Italy | October, 2015 |
| Workshop | 5th Technical Issues and sharing of Best practices on Dual-Use export control workshop | Ispra, Italy | October, 2015 |
| Workshop | Detection and response to radioactive and nuclear material out of regulatory control | Ispra, Italy | 2 sessions of 5 days: one in May and the other in November 2015 |
| Training Course | Training course on the REM Database Submission Tool | Ispra, Italy | maximum 2 sessions of 2 days: one in May and the other in October 2015 |
| Forum | 45èmes Journées des Actinides (JdA 2015) | Prague-Průhonice, Czech Republic | April 15-19, 2015 |
| Workshop | 8th Summer School on Actinide Science & Applications | Karlsruhe | June, 2015 |
| Workshop | Mini-Workshops on advanced nuclear forensics capabilities | Switzerland, and JRC-ITU, 2 | February 2015 and June/July 2015 |
| Workshop | Dissemination of Knowledge & Expertise in the field of nuclear fuel safety | ITU, Karlsruhe | 15-16 June 2015 |
| Workshop | JRC Annual Event "Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy | Ulm | 27/28 Oct 2015 |
| Workshop | Public Participation – A detailed Case Study | Brussels | Nov-15 |
| Workshop | Security of CBRN facilities: EU and Serbia share best practices on their CBRN Action Plans | Tbilisi, Georgia | 23-24 September 2015 |

## SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO THE DANUBE REGION - future events

* Danube S3 Workshop: “Gathering opportunities around RIS3 priorities” Date: 7th July 2015
* Danube Strategy Point- Baden-Wurttemberg representation Brussels – opening 8th July 2015
* JRC Annual event on the "Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy" – 27/28 October 2015: The Annual JRC event 2015 in Ulm will take stock of the continuing JRC activities for the Danube region and will focus on the JRC expertise that supports the Commission priorities of boosting jobs and growth, building a European Energy Union and supporting the digital single market through smart specialisation in the Danube region.

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**. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)