# MONTENEGRO

**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

The Parliament of Montenegro, at its session of 26 December 2014, adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Scientific and Research Activity. The most important changes refer to: the field of activities of the Center of Excellence is broaden; the Strategy for scientific and Research activities will be adopted for a period of five years; the number of the members of the Council for scientific and research activities is reduced to 9; the licence for scientific research activities is issued for 5 years; and the requirements for awards for scientific achievements are slightly changed.

The working group for drafting the Law on innovation activities has been nominated. The working group prepared the draft Law on innovation activities and the discussion between all interested stakeholders on the draft Law was held on 05 June 2015, at the University of Montenegro. The Law should be adopted by the Parliament by end of the year.

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Tehnopolis, Nikšić is registered in the Central Registry of Companies of Montenegro is September 2014. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Tehnopolis, Nikšić, based on the decision of the Founder and the Statute, has the Board of Directors and Acting Executive Director appointed by the founder of the company, i.e. the Government of Montenegro. At the constitutive meeting of the Board of Directors held in September 2014, Mr. Darko Petrusic, Deputy Minister of Science, is elected as the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The Government of Montenegro, at its session on 27 November 2014, adopted the Analytical Study of Montenegrin Diaspora, which primary aim is to lay ground for upcoming networking events and for closer partnerships between domestic institutions and Montenegrin researchers abroad.

The financial agreement for the Operational Programme for IPA Component IV: Human Resource Development was signed on 31 October 2014 by the Commission's Director General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion and on 5 December 2014 by Montenegro's National IPA Coordinator. By signing the financial agreement, all the formal conditions have been met for using the funds from this Component. The main objective of the Operational Programme is to promote the sustainable development of human resources, modernisation and development of education and research systems in accordance with national policies and EU standards, with a special emphasis on youth employment, in order for Montenegro to prepare for implementing and managing the EU Cohesion Policy.

The annual Call for co-financing of scientific-research activities was announced in March 2015. There are several instruments for scientific-research community of Montenegro: Co-financing of approved H2020 projects and stimulating researchers – project coordinators for submitting applications, which are positively evaluated in H2020; Stimulating participation in EUREKA projects; Scholarships for PhD studies; Participation of researchers at scientific congresses abroad; Stimulating programmes of promotion of science in society; and Stimulating authors of patents and innovative solutions.

In total, in the frame of Collaborative Research and Development Subprojects (CRDS) Programme, agreements for 7 research projects have been signed from May 2014 up to now. The Programme supports projects that will present sustainable partnerships that show potential to integrate research into mainstream economic drivers for Montenegro and to grow into the future centres of excellence. Through these projects, the development of innovations, patents, commercial and other scientific results will be financed. The grant beneficiaries are:

* University of Montenegro – Biotechnical Faculty - 2 projects;
* University of Montenegro – Faculty of Electrical Engineering;
* University of Donja Gorica – Faculty of Politechnics;
* University of Montenegro – Maritime Faculty;
* University Mediterranean – Faculty of Information Technologies; and
* Clinical Centre of Montenegro

# Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

The**“Second Edition of the South East European (SEE) Regional Workshop on Science Journalism”,** organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, was held **in Podgorica,** from **19 to 22 of September 2014.** The workshop covered the following topics: How to improve the quality science reporting and avoid pseudo-science?; How to build (and maintain) trust between science and journalism; The watchdog role of journalism - Rebuilding public trust in science; Deadline with uncertainty risks; Understanding the interdependence of the Media and the public – Who influence whom? Empirical facts and figures.

Montenegro for the second time celebrated the World Science Day for Peace and Development dedicated to: Quality Science Education: ensuring a sustainable future for all, on 10 November 2014.

Delegation of Montenegro, headed by Minister of Science, prof. Sanja Vlahovic, participated at the 11th Science and Technology Ministers Roundtable meeting on October 05, 2014, in Kyoto, Japan, by invitation of Mr. **Shunichi Yamaguchi,** Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy of the Government of Japan.

Minister of Science, prof. Sanja Vlahovic, participated in the 18th Eurasian Economic Summit in Istanbul, in April 2015, and in the 3rd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, in May 2015, in Baku.

Delegation of Montenegro, headed by Minister of Science, prof. Sanja Vlahovic, has visited CERN, willing to stimulate and enforce the collaboration with European Organization for Nuclear Research, on 1st December 2014. On 2nd December 2014, Minister of Science, prof. Sanja Vlahovic met Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, one of the seven [departments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_%28government_department%29) of the federal government of [Switzerland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland). A week later CERN's delegation visited Montenegro. Bearing in mind the intensified cooperation with CERN, Montenegro nominated NCP for cooperation with the organisation, Mr. Darko Petrusic, Deputy Minister of Science.

In the frame of H2020 Technical Assistance Events, the workshop on H2020 was organized in Podgorica, on 7 October 2014. In cooperation with TAIEX, Ministry of Science organised Workshop on Horizon 2020 - General Overview and Specific Procedures.

The ceremony of awards for scientific achievements in 2014 was held on 18 December 2014: young researcher-talent up to 20 years, the most successful scientist and the innovator are awarded.

Young Inventors Fair was held in Podgorica on 18 May 2015, with the support of: Foundation "Young inventors of Montenegro", the Centre for Vocational Education, the Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Education.

On May 29 2015, the Minister of Science, Sanja Vlahovic, the Minister of Health, Budimir Segrt, and Director of Clinical Center of Montenegro, Ranko Lazovic, re-opened the renovated Oncology Department of the Clinical Center of Montenegro. The department will support the ongoing development of Montenegro’s health sector and it will use the most advanced technology available which will aid in the detection and diagnosis of breast cancer and save lives.

Minister of Science, prof. Sanja Vlahovic, by the invitation of Prof. Luigi Nicolais, president of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), opened the Science Exhibition: „dal QUADRO al PIATTO“  - From paintings to fork - between art, science and gastronomy, of the 2015 Expo Universal Exhibition, hosted by Milan, Italy.

# Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

Following the participation at 192nd COST CSO meeting on 12-13 November 2014 in Sofia, and 193rd COST CSO meeting on 25-26 February 2015 in Brussels, Montenegro became 36 Full member of COST Association at the 194th COST CSO meeting on 12-13 May 2015, in Stockholm. From April 2011, Montenegrin research teams actively participated in 20 COST Actions, in various fields, mainly: Forestry, Information and Communication Technologies, and Food and Agriculture. As part of the COST Inclusiveness Target Countries, we intend to become a key contributor to the Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy of COST.

Smiljana Prelević, Secretary General of the Ministry of Science of Montenegro and Kwaku Aning, IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, have signed Montenegro’s new Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period of 2014-2020 on 29 October 2014. A Country Programme Framework (CPF) is the frame of reference for the medium-term planning of technical cooperation between a Member State and the IAEA and identifies priority areas where the transfer of nuclear technology and technical cooperation resources will be directed to support national development goals. Its 2014-2020 CPF identifies five priority areas: Nuclear Sciences and Applications; Sustainable Development and the Environment; Health; Radiation Protection, Nuclear Safety and Security; and Human Resource Development.

Two Calls for participation in CERN programmes: Summer Students Programme and Programme for physics professors in high schools, are actively promoted in Montenegro. Two students from University of Montenegro (Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Faculty of Electrical Engineering) are selected for participation at CERN Summer Students Programme. The candidate for participation at the CERN Programme for physics professor is selected, too.

The Ministry of Science actively promoted the Graduate Scholarship Opportunities at Masdar Institute in Abu Dhabi for 2015-2016.

In order to increase the participation of Montenegrin research teams, the Ministry of Science, established the new mechanisms for the promotion of H2020 programme from April this year: ’’Workshops and Open door to Horizon 2020’’. Open Door to Horizon 2020 is held every Friday, from 2 to 4 p.m. and workshops are held monthly.

Montenegro participates at Call for EUREKA projects: Common Call for Cross-border Co-operative Projects in the Danube Region 2015.

The Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Education published the Call for the award of national scholarships for excellence (scholarships for master, doctoral and post-doctoral studies) in the amount of 1.260.000 euros is published on 24 April 2015.

Within IPA Component IV: Human Resource Development, service contract „Strengthening innovative capacities of higher education and science" is published on 06 March 2015. The Call for Proposals for Grant Scheme "Transfer of knowledge between sectors of higher education, research and industry" is published on 08 May 2015.

The Ministry of Science is actively involved in the process of preparation of documents for IPA 2 in two sectors: Competitiveness and Innovation sector and Employment, Education and Social inclusion.

The call for proposals for bilateral projects between Montenegro and Croatia resulted in 16 projects approved for financing in 2015-2016.

The call for proposals for bilateral projects between Montenegro and Austria resulted in 8 projects approved for financing in 2015-2016.

The call for proposals for bilateral projects between Montenegro and Italy resulted in 6 projects approved for financing in 2015-2016.

The call for proposals for bilateral projects between Montenegro and Turkey resulted in 1 project approved for financing in 2015-2016.

The webinar: Scientific cooperation between Montenegro and Germany – bilateral and European context, as the initiative of the Montenegrin Ministry of Science and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research was held on 06 March 2015.

The Call for co-financing scientific and technological cooperation between Montenegro and the Republic of Slovenia in 2016 and 2017 was announced in April 2015, and the Call for co-financing scientific and technological cooperation between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2016 and 2017 was announced also in April 2015.

# Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

GERD for 2013 for Montenegro was 0,38% GDP. The results of an increased Government investment in science, provided through World Bank loan will be visible in the statistics from 2014. The statistical process has been developing. The decision was made that the Ministry of Science will become administrative source for Statistical Office of Montenegro, as of 2016. For that reason, the Ministry is developing a data information system, as an open-science platform. Its upgrade will be financed through HERIC – World Bank loan, till the end of 2015. Administrative and expert support for R&D and innovation statistics will be operational in 2016, via an IPA 2013 project aimed at Montenegrin statistical system.

Certain changes in the way in which the state University reports about its budget (only education up to now), are envisaged through current university reforms. It is expected that General University Budget funds will be divided between teaching and research programmes of the University, and reported accordingly. This should result in the increase in the research statistics from the higher education sector.

The R&D data in the business sector are collected in cooperation with the Tax Administration Office.

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)