

# **What has been done since May 2011**

**Presentation of recent  
developments regarding S&T  
cooperation in/with the WBCs**

# Meeting with Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn and Science Ministers from Western Balkans in Brussels on 15 September 2011



# European Commission

- **Key messages from Commissioner:**
  - encourage further participation FP7 for remaining period
  - prepare for Innovation Union (4 commitments)
  - raise political profile of R&I at national level
  - seek synergies with IPA
- **Preparations for 'HORIZON 2020'**
- **Monitoring participation in FP7 (Joint Committees) and preparations for EU *acquis* on chapter 25 (SAA Subcommittee on Innovation)**

# Joint Research Centre

- Repositioning of the JRC: in-house scientific service in line with Commission policy priorities (Europe 2020);
- JRC Enlargement and Integration Action: Posts, Workshops, Training
- JRC National Contact Points Meeting & Board meeting; annual meeting, JRC Ispra, 23 - 24 November 2011
- Meeting with the Representatives of Western Balkan Countries and Turkey on 3 October 2011 for further strengthening of collaboration on JRC E&IA (proposed and organized by TUBITAK)
- MoU with FYR of Macedonia in preparation

# Albania

- Decision of council of Ministers “On establishment of Innovation Fund”
- Decision of Council of Ministers “On establishment of the Information Technology and Communication Units”
- A number of FP7 promotion activities and international conferences (ARTI and Universities)
- Albania has officially expressed the interest to become member of EURAXESS Network
- METE organizes training towards accreditation as SME Innovation and Technology Auditors
- MoES organizes “TAIEX conference” for “Science and Universities towards European Horizon 2020”

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Three triple helix innovation partnership projects in the field of food receive technical assistance from the OECD
- International cooperation agreements with Macedonia, Slovenia and Montenegro
- Draft strategies and the law of the entites' ministries of science
- A number of FP7 promotion activities and international conferences

# Croatia

- Scientific Activity Act – prepared, but not adopted
- Active involvement in ERANET ERA-IB
- Joining EUROSTARS in final phase
- Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes took over part of implementation of FP7 Cooperation
- Major changes in statistics – FP7: significant success in FP7 SME; better raising awareness about FP7 People
- Publications: FP7 ukratko (FP7 in Brief) in Croatian language, EURAXESS newsletters
- Assessment of developments and outlook on the next 6 months: possibility of change in personnel (elections)

# FYR of Macedonia

- National Committee for Science and Research activities established
- Incentives for publishing in high impact factor journals increased
- International Conference on Mobility with focus on young researchers
- Series of events within Researchers' night project throughout the country
- Euraxess implementation continues
- Positive results in FP7 continue



# Montenegro

- OPEN DAYS OF SCIENCE
- The feasibility study for setting up Science and Technological Park and The feasibility study for setting up Centers of Excellence
- Call for funding new national projects- 5 million €
- European Research and Innovation Day
- Membership in International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

# Serbia

- Restructuring of the Serbian government
- The best technological innovation competition
- Workshop "Synchrotron Trieste meets Serbian Scientists"
- CEI Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology
- "Research and innovation promotion in the function of competitiveness" brokerage event
- Western Balkans' research and development strategy launched in Belgrade, with RCC support
- FP7 Info days and important projects
- Statistic – major changes/ updates of relevant statistical data

# Austria

- EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- International scientific conference  
“Challenge Social Innovation”
- SEE Programme / IPA project:  
EVAL-INNO

# Belgium

- New nominations PC7 or NCP's at different levels + EUROFED, with more human resources
- New Law on Family reunification
  - 1) Much more complicated for researchers, very restrictive
  - 2) Though they are not targeted
- Several new programme calls / initiatives for mobility
- Euraxess.be + Guide for mobile researchers
- New procedure to ensure better knowledge of what is happening / still missing some potential partnerships
- Forthcoming calls / and a government...

# Bulgaria

- Adoption of National Research Strategy 2020
- Launching of Bulgarian University Ranking System (available in English - <http://rsvu.mon.bg/RSVU/?locale=en>;
- Bulgaria signed three MoU for participation in ESFRI projects – CLARIN; BBMRI and EURO-ARGO

# Germany

- “Greek-German Workshop on Innovation in the context of cooperation with Western Balkan Countries” was held on 3 October 2011 in Thessaloniki, Greece
- The BMBF Call entitled “International Cooperation in Education and Research - Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region (Regional Call for Proposals)” is ongoing until December 31, 2013
- The BMBF funds German scientists with their WBC partners in eight research projects within the
  - Regional Call (3)
  - and the SEE-ERA.NET PLUS Joint Call (5)

# France

With Serbia :

- Fellowship for master's and doctoral students (16)
- 7 projects on CNRS/ Ministry agreement
- New call on the Pavle Savic programme
- Participation of French YS in 4 scientific colloquia
- 2d edition of french-serbian month of sciences

With Croatia :

On going 15 projects within the Cogito programme

# Greece

- Training and brokerage events in the frame of WBC-INCO.NET
- I-SEE-MOB: Important developments in inter-sectoral mobility
- SEERA-EI: preparation for the Call



# Hungary

- Approval of the Danube Strategy under the Hungarian EU Presidency
- After the European Council adopted conclusions on the EU's strategy for the Danube region on 13 April 2011, endorsed the EU Strategy for the Danube Region on 24 June.
- Week of Innovative Regions in Europe 2011 (WIRE2011) Conference
  - June 7-9, 2011 Debrecen, Hungary
- EUREKA Hungarian Chairmanship from July 2011
- EUREKA conference on regional Innovation
- Preparation of the Bilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Government of Montenegro
- New call in the frame of the Structural Funds. Balkan research is one of the priorities.
- Governmental Commissioner for the Danube Region

# Poland

## Before

- 2007, Ministerial level - signing the Program of Cooperation between Poland and Republic of Albania
- 2009, Bosnia & Hercegovina – providing trainings on FP7 and CIP – Polish task within the EU Program of Regional Cooperation with Western Balkans

# Poland



- Support for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region
- Marie Curie Researchers Symposium „SCIENCE – Passion, Mission, Responsibilities”, Warsaw, 26–27.09.2011
- Policy Stakeholders Conference „EU-EECA Cooperation in R&I: The way towards 2020”, Warsaw, 15-16.11.2011 – exchange of experiences between IncoNets: EECA-WBC
- Support of EU-related aspirations of the Western Balkans
- Support of EU’s enlargement - finalising accession negotiations with Croatia
- Preparation of the WIRE2012 Conference

# Slovenia

- Bilateral Cooperation – published calls for proposals for S&T cooperation with: Croatia, BiH, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia;
- Realized Joint Board meetings with Croatia, BiH and Montenegro;
- Planned Joint Board meetings with Macedonia and Serbia (January 2012);
- Planned activities for technical assistance - structural funds, innovation activities (2012).

# Switzerland

- Scientific cooperation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland (SCOPES 2009-2012): 2nd call completed -> 99 JRP and IP running (1st and 2nd call), no further call foreseen
- Participation: Albania (5x), BIH (8x), Croatia (5x), Kosovo (2x), Macedonia (7x), Montenegro (1x), Serbia (24x)
- Further countries involved: NMS, Central Asia, South Caucasus
- SCOPES 2013-2016 in preparation

# Turkey

- **Joint Response of Enlargement Countries** presented at:
  - INCO NCP Meeting, 28 September 2011, Johannesburg
  - Launching Event IPA “Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation in the Western Balkans”, 24-25 November 2011, Belgrade
- **Enlargement Countries Meeting for JRC** Enlargement and Integration Actions, 3rd October 2011, Brussels, TURBO
- **Two proposals** for furthering joint enlargement coun. actions
  - Concept on types of **capacity building** submitted to DG RTD
  - Proposal for a **permanent network**
- **ICTurkey 2011 Brokerage Event**, 27 September 2011
  - 4 researchers from FYRoM, Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina were covered with a special offer by TUBITAK to the WBC Ministries
- **Workshops & Trainings**
  - **TransNEW Workshop** on the South Balkans and Med. Transport Research Capabilities, 3 June 2011, Istanbul, Presentation by Albania
  - **WBC-INCO.NET Training Workshop** Knowledge Transfer: Tools and Mechanisms for Supporting Innovation, 23 September 2011, Becici, Montenegro, Turkish trainer suggested by TUBITAK

# SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

- SEE-ERA.NET ending 2013
- 23 JERPs currently being implemented, first reporting concluded, interim monitoring meeting upcoming (Turkey, February)
- Three countries will have to transfer their JERP funding share for 2012 or other remaining parts of the national contribution
- Exploration of possibilities to continue / build upon / future and sustainability -> Danube ERA-NET / ERA-NET PLUS? Thematic ERA-NETs?

# WBC-INCO.NET

- Decision on additional activities taken: regional dialogue, support to innovation dimension of JERPs, training on implementation of good practice innovation measures, communication activities (success stories, journal)
- Reports on innovation infrastructure, innovation needs, comparative analysis of innovation system, good practices of innovation support identified, priority setting: social innovation / preparation energy



# EUREKA in WBCs: state of affairs (June - December 2011)

## Montenegro

### – Event & Training activities

- EUREKA participation at the European and Innovation Day (Podgorica, 22 September 2011)
- EUREKA Training course for project managers - actively supported by Serbian HLR (Podgorica, 23 September 2011)
  
- Admission process for EUREKA membership
  
- Meeting between the Hungarian HLG Chairmanship and Montenegrin Deputy Minister (Brussels, 12 October 2011)
  - » Methodological support for preparation of relevant application documents
  - » Searching possibilities for joining Montenegrin organisations to ongoing (newly started) EUREKA projects
  - » Preparation of project suggestions for partner search
  - > Invitation to present an application at the HLG meeting (Sopron, 26 January 2012)

# EUREKA

## EUREKA Individual projects

- Call on 22 June 2011
  - Approval of 27 new projects and from these 3 projects with participation of WBCs
    - 1 project CY-AT-HR
    - 1 project HU-HR
    - 1 project CS-IT
- Call on 19 October 2011
  - Approval of 51 new projects and from these 10 projects with participation of WBCs
    - 5 projects SI-CS
    - 2 projects CS-SI
    - 1 project TR-CS
    - 1 project PT-CS
    - 1 project CS-TR-CZ

# Hungarian EUREKA Chairmanship (July 2011 – June 2012)

## Priorities of the Hungarian EUREKA Chairmanship

- > Improving the position of EUREKA in the ERA
- > Developing EUREKA services to finance innovation
- > Promoting industry driven RTD project generation
- > Exploring the regional dimension of EUREKA
  - > **Mapping the regional dimension of EUREKA**
  - > **Strengthening linkages among different actors inside a region**
  - > **Identify new financial resources for EUREKA projects and companies in the go-to-market phase**
  - > *A proposal of AT HLR to invite ED/ZSI to contribute to the HLG meeting in Sopron in January 2012 on SEE-ERA-Net and WBC-INCO-Net/Steering Platform*

# Visegrad Group: Czech Chairmanship (July 2011-June 2012)

Meeting of the Foreign ministers of Visegrad Group and Western Balkans countries (Prague, 4 November 2011)

- An expression of a long-term focus on cooperation between Visegrad Group and Western Balkans countries
- Support of Visegrad Group for EU enlargement in Western Balkans
- Issues of Visegrad Group and Western Balkans cooperation perspectives (incl. R&D), evaluation of current situation in the region and opinions on further EU integration

# Central European Initiative

- CEI Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture (13.5.2011): The prospects for rural development based on Next Generation Biofuels.
- CEI Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (19.10.2011) Trieste Declaration (circulated): three objectives
  - Facilitating the access to scientific communities of CEI Member States to Synchrotron radiation facility “Elettra” and free electron laser lab “Fermi” in Trieste
  - Enlarging the base of participation of CEI Member States to ICGEB in Trieste (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnologies)
  - Launching a multidisciplinary and integrated regional project on Next Generation Biofuels to be supported by EC financial instruments according to the status of each CEI Member State vs. the EU and relevant eligibility (see presentation)

# UNESCO

## S&T Regional Networks

Mathematics and Physics (SEE-MTP-Net) Summer Balkan Institute Phytochemistry,  
Launching event – Workshop (Sofia, September)

## Summer schools

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (August, BIH)

Mathematics and Physics (August 11, Serbia)

Economic aspects of Natural Disaster (September, Italy)

S&T Diaspora → Workshop in Sarajevo (October)

R&D Statistics → UN Project in Albania (next meeting in December)

Risk Preparedness → Training for risk preparedness and management of Cultural  
Heritage, Project in Albania (training in November)

General Conference → new bi-annual programme (Paris, October)

MAB Programme → Biosphere reserve management

Fresh Water initiatives → Project DIKTAS, groundwater shared systems