



WESTERN BALKANS

STEERING PLATFORM ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Brussels - 25 June 2018

Research
and Innovation



European
Commission

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ALBANIA

- “National Strategy of Scientific Research, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022” approved (12/2017), currently in the beginning of its implementation, designed and supported on the principles of ERA
- Working Group on Smart Specialization Strategy established in April 2018, recently approved Road Map, currently defining criteria how to map economic, scientific and innovation potential together with TAIEX experts
- Further Council of Ministers decisions approved (financing model of higher education and research institutions, criteria on academic titles and degrees, evaluation of research activity)
- NASRI (together with Albanian Academic Network RASH) is designing modules of on-line platform ACRIS (Albania Current Research Information System)
- Second Call for Proposals for Scientific Cooperation Bilateral Projects 2019-2020 between Albania and Austria launched (04/2018)
- Evaluation report for Proposals for Scientific Cooperation Bilateral Projects 2019-2020 between Albania and Italia concluded
- NASRI initiated and completed the process of full membership in COST (04/2018)
- By end of May 2018 calls for National Research and Development Projects open

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- New Revised S&T Development Strategy 2018-2022 was adopted (January 2018)
- Preparations for the S3
- 29 H2020 projects with 45 participants from BiH – total amount 4,1 mio EUR
- Participation in H2020 Programme Committees, ERAC, SFIC, ESFRI, JRC and SGHRM
- Continuous participation in COST and EUREKA projects
- Participation in MAP REA
- Joint Calls in Bilateral Cooperation with Austria and Slovenia, soon with Turkey, Croatia and Serbia

KOSOVO*

1. The Law for Innovation and TTK passed all parliamentary procedures and is ready for first 'reading' in parliament
2. New law for higher education drafted, ready to be sent to government
3. Government created the task force for drafting the concept document for the Smart Specialization strategy
4. Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship published open call for all SMEs and medium enterprises to apply for innovation grants. Total amount of the call is € 2 million
5. Government decided to have new updated national strategy for innovation. Working group is created from all line ministries and from non-governmental bodies/organizations
6. Ministry approved administrative instruction on performance of academic staff in higher education/research institutions
7. Administrative instruction on licensing of research institutions approved

(*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.)

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

- New Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Arbër Ademi, appointed as of June 2018
- National Strategy on Innovation 2012 – 2020 successfully implemented within the adopted Action plan
- The Fund for Innovation and Technological Development is permanently enriching and increasing its instruments and funds
- Smart Specialization Strategy in process of preparation
- International bilateral and multilateral cooperation successfully on-going
- MES supports the establishment of the South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies

MONTENEGRO

- **New Strategy of Science & Research Activities (2017–2021) with AP** adopted in 2017
- **S3:** with support by JRC since 07/2017 some progress achieved → Qualitative and Quantitative analysis completed → Present stage: Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
- **Increase of the State Budget for R&D for 2018 60% compared to the 2017**
- **H2020:** for first time in 2017 net-gain from Horizon 2020 participation, i.e. absorption of EU funds through H2020 projects was larger than yearly financial contribution
- **Internationalization activities:** since 2017 full member state of EMBL & EMBO → First negotiations with ESA in progress
- **SEIIST:** formalized as a regional project of 8 parties after Declaration of Intent in 2017 → Steering Committee established → Concept Studies presented → Option selected → Preparatory Phase
- **EC PSF:** ongoing development of legislative framework/innovative ecosystem model to support/ stimulate innovative start-ups → Kick-off meeting Brussels 06/2018 → Country visit 07/2018
- **ERP measure 15: STP in Podgorica** → Conceptual Design ToR prepared → Preparation of documentation for STP
- **National measures to stimulate R&D investments:**
 - *Pilot Call on Innovative Projects (MoS) 2017*
 - *First PhD fellowship program → develop excellence through strengthening Human Resources and research*
 - *Call for larger Innovative Projects (TRL4-TRL8) 2018-2020 (to be published end of June 2018)*
 - *Programme for supporting start-ups (2018-2020) to be adopted by Government in Q4-2018*
 - *Calls to support and stimulate participation in the EU Programmes H2020 and COST*
 - *Annual call for co-financing of scientific, research and innovation (SRI) activities*

SERBIA

Legislative Framework in the Field of Science

- Law on Science Foundation – in progress
- New Law on Research Activities – in progress
- New Law on Innovation Activities – in progress
- Action Plan for Implementation of the Strategy – in the final phase of adoption.
- Research Infrastructure Roadmap – adoption by the end of 2018
- Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization in the Republic of Serbia - in preparation process
- Open Access Policy – in final phase of preparation

National programs implemented by MESTD

- MESTD issued public calls for: scholarships for up to 200 PhD students; talented young researchers (up to 1000) and inclusion of researchers - returnees from abroad on projects that are being implemented in the current research cycle.
- MESTD published calls for participation in the innovative projects - 42 projects supported, infrastructural support for innovative activities - 3 projects supported and innovators (individual persons), 24 persons supported;
- Innovation Fund calls (Mini grants, Matching grants, Innovation vouchers, CGS)

Events

- **Horizon 2020 Info Day** on 07 - 08 December 2017 in Belgrade, **Innovation camp** 14-15 December 2017, NTP Belgrade, **"EIT Awareness Day"** in Belgrade, on February 6, 2018, **COST/ERC** Info day in Belgrade, on March 23, 2018; EC has signed a Cooperation Arrangement with the MESTD on **Copernicus** Earth Observation and Monitoring programme on Thursday 7 June 2018



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EU MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

- Bilateral Agreements on S&T Cooperation
 - Albania – 2nd call open 10.4.-30.6.2018
 - BiH – 1st call open 15.6.-30.9.2018
 - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – 15 bilateral projects (2018 -2020)
 - Montenegro – 3rd call open 13.4-31.6.2018
 - Serbia – 27 bilateral projects (2018 -2020)
- MSTC_DR – multilateral cooperation in the Danube region
- Kosovo* – HERAS Project
- Participation in BMBF initiative “SEEJRG”
- wbc-rti.info

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GERMANY

- **New call on the integration of the Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region into the European Research Area (Bridge2ERA)**
The call was launched on 6 March 2018 and is open until 30 June 2021.
- **Workshop "Establishment and Expansion of R&D networks with partners from Danube countries"** (20/21 November 2017 in Bonn)
The workshop was part of the evaluation process of a call in 2013 addressing innovative R&D networks with partners in the Danube Region countries and served as kick-off for the projects under the last call in 2015.
- **Second national Round Table "Cooperation with the Western Balkans"** The Round Table took place on 30 January 2018 in Bonn with representatives from German ministries, research and funding institutions, universities and agencies. New initiatives were discussed.
- **First information meeting on the new BMBF funding initiative "South Eastern European Junior Research Groups"** (12/13 March 2018 in Vienna)
Representatives from science and research ministries and funding organisations from the Western Balkans, Croatia and Austria participated in this meeting.