



## **THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **on recent developments regarding research and innovation cooperation in/with Western Balkans (Period: October 2017 – June 2018)<sup>1</sup>**

#### **1 Policy actions and legislative initiatives (legal and strategic framework)**

New Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Arber Adëmi, appointed as of June 2018.

National Strategy on Innovation 2012 – 2020 currently implemented within the responsibilities of the Fund for Innovation and Technological Development. Advisory group for innovation continues its work in order to have institutionalized mechanism which will provide coherent approach, effective policy coordination as well as implementation and monitoring of the Strategy on Innovation and Action plan. This body consists from representatives of all the relevant ministries, state institutions and private sector. The Fund for Innovation and Technological Development is the operational body for financing innovation projects. It is permanently enriching and increasing its instruments and funds.

Activities on preparation of the Smart Specialization Strategy ongoing in collaboration with JRC. National Coordinator appointed, Working group established, workshops attended, S3 roadmap prepared. Sector priorities discussions ongoing.

The Ministry of Education and Science provides full financial support to young scientists for postgraduate and doctoral studies at the top ten ranked universities for all scientific fields and at the top 100 universities for selected fields, according to the Shanghai list.

The Fund for Innovation and Technology Development encourages and supports the cooperation between business sector and universities in order to achieve

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<sup>1</sup> The last Steering Platform was held in Belgrade on September 27-28, 2017. All related information is also available online here: <https://wbc-rti.info/object/event/16372> (including links to the conclusions and minutes).

better connection and partnership mainly through the Support Instrument for Co-financing Grants and Conditional Loans for Commercialization of Innovations.

## **2 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA**

The Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia strongly supports the initiative for the establishment of the South-East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies, which should have a significant positive impact on economic development and, improvement of living standards in the countries of the region.

Collaboration with COST, IAEA, Horizon 2020 and CEEPUS programmes notes increased participation of the research and business community.

The Ministry is actively involved in the realization of the Multi-annual Action Plan activities, coordinated by the Regional Cooperation Council.

Bilateral cooperation is successfully ongoing within existing agreements, currently with Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, The People's Republic of China and Montenegro. New calls for scientific projects foreseen with Serbia, Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Kosovo\*, France etc.

## **3 Important events, meetings, training activities, studies etc.**

TAIEX Workshop on Horizon 2020 project management aspects (May 2018);

Participation at the Workshop on Smart Specialization in Ljubljana;

Participation at the Conference on Smart Specialization and Technology Transfer as Innovation Drivers for Regional Growth 3-4 May 2018 (Sofia- Bulgaria);

Participation at Conference for Spreading Excellence Widening Participation in Ljubljana, April 2018

## **4 Outlook and perspectives**

Revision of the Law on Scientific Activity for improving national scientific policy

Establishment of Advisory Body for Science and Innovation

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(\*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.)



**5 Other relevant information related to Research and Innovation cooperation in/with Western Balkan economies)**