

Western Balkans R&I Meeting

Austrian Activities related to the Western Balkans' Higher Education, Research and Innovation Systems

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Longlasting support, especially for the integration in the EHEA and ERA

- Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe & Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
- Education Reform Initiative of South East Europe (ERI SEE)
- Central European exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS)
- Establishment of the "Western Balkans Steering Platform on Research and Innovation" during Austrian EU-Council Presidency in 2006
- Participation in EU networking and capacity building initiatives (ERA-Net and INCO.NET projects) and joint calls for transnational research proposals
- wbc-rti.info Information Platform (BMBWF support 2015-2018)
- Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium (CERIC)

ERI SEE and KulturKontakt Austria

- Cooperation ERI SEE (Education Reform Initiative of South East Europe – Ministries of Education) and CIF (Western Balkans Chambers Investment Forum)
 - based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Ministers of Education, Science and Research of the South Eastern Europe
 - Strategic Partners: KulturKontakt Austria (on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research) and Austrian Economic Chamber
 - Within the framework of its 30th anniversary this year, KulturKontakt Austria will invite vocational training experts from the member countries of ERI SEE to Vienna for a workshop on the topic of digitization of economy and industry and its fundamental change of demands on future labor force

Secondary Education

- Austria therefore contributes actively to the major regional networks ERI SEE (Education Reform Initiative of SEE) and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Tertiary Education

- Around 170 bilateral cooperation agreements between WBC higher education institutions and Austrian Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences & Private Universities

Erasmus+

- mobility in Higher Education (KA 103 & 107) Incoming 2017/18: **119**
- mobility in Higher Education (KA 103 & 107) Outgoing 2017/18: **179**
- Capacity Building in Higher Education (calls 2015-2018): **27 Projects**

Students from Western Balkan Countries in Austria

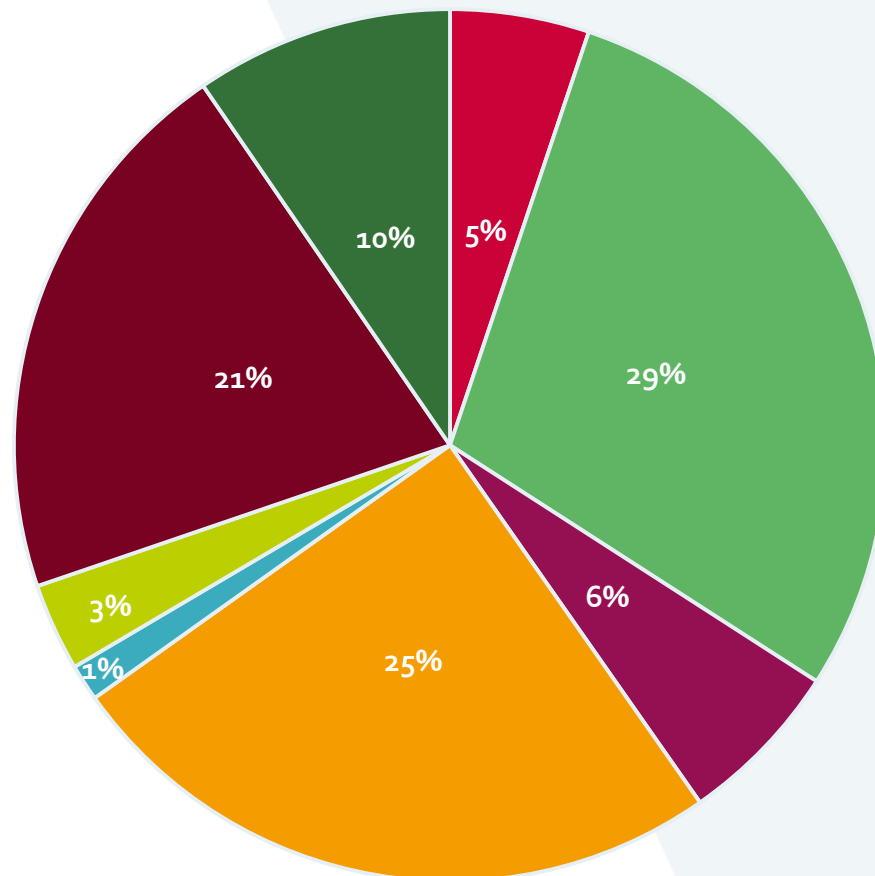
WINTER SEMESTER 2018

Public Universities	11.759
Universities of Applied Sciences	1.185
Private Universities	494
TOTAL	13.438 (56.73% women)

3.72% of all
students in AUT

11.53% of all non-
domestic
students in AUT

WBC % in AUT



■ ALB ■ BIH ■ KOS ■ CRO ■ MNE ■ MK ■ SRB ■ SLO

Central European exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS)

- Back in the 1990ies Austria initiated the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies
 - to ensure stability and transformation in the Eastern- and Central European countries through academic mobility and cooperation with Austria and within the region
 - to help integrate the Eastern, Central and Southeast European countries into the European Higher Education and Research Areas
- “MISSION COMPLETED”
 - All CEEPUS countries are members of the European Higher Education Area and cooperate in the relevant EU programs

Bilateral S&T cooperation

- RTI-Strategy of the AT Federal Government;
Sub-Strategy for Internationalisation & RTI Foreign Policy
 - Priority region Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe
- Active Bilateral Agreements on Scientific and Technological Cooperation with WBC
 - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
- Further S&T Agreements in the region:
 - Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Capacity Building Support

- Open Medical Institute / Salzburg Medical Seminars
Salzburg Medical Seminars are co-funded by the Austrian BMBWF, the Open Society Foundation and private donors and are the first step in the Open Medical Institutes postgraduate medical education program. The seminars are taught by physicians from leading American hospitals and their affiliated medical schools and are directed to physicians practicing in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the former Soviet Union and other countries in transition. Additional steps are the Experience Exchange (Observerships) and Capacity Building (Distance Learning).
- Aim is to o prevent brain drain and **initiate lasting “brain gain”** by expose mid-career level, English-speaking doctors from countries in transition to Western medical knowledge and technology through participation in **multiple *short-term* continuing medical educational programs**, thereby **building local capacity**.

Capacity Building Support

Success stories related to the programme:

- Since 1993, more than **21,255 fellowships** were awarded to young physicians, who have attended a seminar, and **2,514** of them have also participated in one-month observerships in Austrian and American hospitals.
- In **Montenegro** more than **21 % of national physicians participated in OMI programmes** (Albania 15,8 %, North Macedonia 10,3 %, Bosnia and Herzegovina 5,6 %, Serbia 3,9 %)
- In **North Macedonia**, more than **20 % of all seminar participants have been promoted into leadership positions** after participating in the OMI-program.

EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

- AT (BMBWF and BMASGK) is co-leader of Priority Area 9 “People and skills” and has initiated and participated in a number of strategic projects;
- AT- coordinated research Flagship projects of the EUSDR - strong participation from region;
- Danube Funding Coordination Network – participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia – objective is to coordinate and synchronise national efforts in the Danube Region in order to foster multilateral collaboration in variable geometry in Research and Innovation.
As an example implementation of the joint S&T Call for the Danube region with participation of AT, CZ, FR, SK, SRB (2nd call open since yesterday until 20.09.2019)
- Close cooperation with Danube Rectors’ Conference and Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)

Danubius Awards

- Initiated in 2011 by the Austrian BMBWF and the Institute for the Danube Region
- Since 2014 complemented with the Danubius Young Scientist Awards (DYSA) for promising researchers in each of the Danube Region countries
- Aims at
 - honoring the work of researchers in and for the Danube Region
 - showcasing the capacities and the potential of the researchers in the region
 - giving visibility to the scientific community in the region
 - providing connections across Europe
- Award Ceremony in connection with the Annual Danube Rectors Conference (this year 7th November in Bucharest)
- Cooperation with the EC Joint Research Centre that provides the DYSA winners with the opportunity to visit their research Centre in ISPRA Italy for meeting scientist in their respective field.

OeAW: Activities in Western Balkan Countries

For centuries, Austria has played a key role in initiating the scientific exploration of the Balkans with the OeAW being an important player:

- 1897: 1st Academy Commission for Balkan activities: the „Commission for Historical-Archeological and Philological Research of the Balkan Peninsula“
- Close ties to Academies of Sciences and Arts in Western Balkan countries with regular high-ranking visits

Bilateral Agreements and Memberships with Science Academies in:

- Albania (since 1986), Bosnia and Herzegovina (since 2015), Kosovo (since 2007), North Macedonia (since 1996) and Serbia (since 2005)

Science policy and science diplomacy activities:

- Active player in the Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process
- High-level roundtable discussion on socio-cultural reflections of the EU enlargement with experts from the Western Balkans

OeAW: Activities in Western Balkan Countries

Outreach activities by the OeAW Balkan Research Group:

- Lecture series „Balkan Research“

Scientific cooperation with all countries of the Western Balkans:

- OeAW Institute of Modern and Contemporary History: „Balkan Research Group“
- OeAW Institute for Oriental and European Archeology: „Visualizing the Unknown Balkans“
- Prizes and fellowships for outstanding researchers from the Western Balkans and from Austria whose research focuses on the Western Balkan region

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

- the country's central institution for the promotion of basic research
- offers programs enhancing research excellence, training doctoral candidates, international mobility, and career development
- FWF funding portfolio:
 - Exploring new frontiers – Funding top-quality research
 - Fostering talents – Development of human resources
 - Realising new ideas – Science/society interface
- <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/>

Austrian Agency for International Mobility and Cooperation in Education, Science and Research (OeAD-GmbH)

- Central service point for European and international mobility and cooperation programs in education, science and research
- information and advice for students and researchers (Visa, Housing, financial support etc.), worldwide promotion of Austria as attractive location for education & research
- Comprehensive and constantly updated information by the OeAD-GmbH's Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants (www.grants.at)
- Acts as national agency for the **EU-program Erasmus+**
- <https://oead.at/en/>

Thank you for your attention!

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