

Programme 2004/2005

Science and Technology Policy

- **Ethnic Minorities in Science and Higher Education. A Human Resource Development Challenge to Present and Future European Union Member States,**
International Conference, 15–16 October 2004, Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik
Follow-up: Workshop, November 2004, Sofia

Aim: The conference aims at raising awareness of the challenges that science and higher education policy makers are facing as regards the better utilisation of the human resources of ethnic minorities in the fields of science and research. The conference will provide a forum for detailed discussion of concrete measures developed to promote inclusion of members of ethnic minorities in the fields of science/research and higher education and also mechanisms to prevent inter-ethnic tensions and conflicts.

The conference organisers aim to contribute to science policy development on two levels:

- Contribution to development of inclusive science and higher education policies in SEE countries (especially ex-Yugoslav countries) through facilitating exchange of know-how in the region as well as from EU member states to the region;
- Contribution to the advancement of the European Commission's "Science and Society" programme.

- **Women - Science – SEE: Promotion of Women in Science in Southeast Europe in the context of the European Integration**
International Conference, 21–22 October 2004, Sofia

Aim: Objective of the conference is to facilitate the exchange of experience regarding national initiatives, best practice examples, programmes and policy developments in the field 'women in science' and to promote a stronger integration of Southeast European countries (SEE) in corresponding EU activities. Experts, stakeholders and institutions in charge of gender issues will have the possibility to reflect on their efforts in the EU and in regional frameworks. The focus will be on:

- Initiatives undertaken by the EU (Helsinki committee, ENWISE-report);
- Exchange of experiences from initiatives undertaken to facilitate women's status in scientific and research organisations and to reach gender equality in science and higher education (e.g. mentoring activities);
- Developments towards a policy's framework on women in science in the specific situations.

- **Benchmarking RTDI organisations in CEEC**
International Conference, 18–19 November 2004, Sofia

Aim: The creation of a truly European Research Area in the context of the Lisbon targets also forces 3rd European countries to modernise and upgrade their national systems of innovation. A key element of the capability of a national (or regional) system of innovation is the state of art of the existing innovation oriented research organisations in these countries. Benchmarking between research organisations, mapping of excellence and the identification of centres of excellence (CoE) in the New Member States has been actively supported by the EC funded STRATA project 'RECORD'. Under this project a method for benchmarking RTDI organisations has been established and tested. This instrument and other issues of mapping excellency and of identifying CoE (including policy issues) will be presented and discussed in Sofia. On that basis, also not (yet) European Union member states should be included in the dialogue on this important S&T policy issue.

- **Participation of Western Balkan Countries in EU RTD-Framework Programmes – Lessons from the Past and Visions for the Future**

Series of policy development workshops, 2004-2006, Brussels/Vienna/Ljubljana

Aim: - Review of possibilities and performance of SEE countries in FP5 and FP6;
- Assessment of existing forms of integration of researchers from SEE into EU-RTD FPs;
- Development of proposals for improved instruments for integration of SEE countries into FP7. Presentation of a small number of in-depth elaborated proposals regarding instruments for efficient integration of SEE countries into FP7 and discussion with representatives of the European Commission and some key S&T policy makers from SEE countries and EU member states.

- **Bologna Follow-up: The role of research in the Bologna Process in Southeast Europe**

International Conference, January/February 2005, Belgrade

Aim: The Bologna Process is the most important and wide ranging reform of higher education in Europe. The SEE countries joined in the Bologna Process in September 2003. Membership of the Bologna Process implies a substantial change and reform of higher education. The conference aims at promoting the exchange of national strategies, policies and the initiatives in SEE. The objective is to facilitate networking between stakeholders from ministries and universities, representatives of the national Bologna follow up-groups in SEE and of European higher education as well as representatives from the European Commission, Council of Europe, EUA and of international organisations to reflect on their efforts in coherence to the specific situation in SEE.

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