

Language: English

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ORGANISERS

- Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, European Parliament www.europarl.eu.int/committees/itre_home.htm
- Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Republic of Austria; www.bmbwk.gv.at
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Republic of Slovenia; www.mszs.si/slo/mvszt.asp
- Ministry of Development, Hellenic Republic; www.ypan.gr

with the support of DG Research, European Commission
europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/research/index_en.html

CORDIS-team will maintain a stand at this workshop where participants will get insights into how **CORDIS information system** can contribute to Integration of Western Balkan countries into European Research Area www.cordis.lu/fp6/inco.htm

The organisers thank the director of the **Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana** (www.aso.zsi.at), **Mr. Miroslav Polzer** (polzer@zsi.at) for important contributions in the initial phase of the organisation of this event and for assistance in preparatory work.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
HELLENIC REPUBLIC



MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

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FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND CULTURE,
REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

CONFERENCE

Participation of Western Balkan Countries in EU RTD-Framework Programmes

Lessons from the Past and Visions for the Future



VENUE

European Parliament,
Room ASP 1G2, Brussels, rue Wiertz 60

DATE

February 3rd 2005
09.00 – 13.00



GOAL

With this event the organisers want to provide a forum in which EU policy makers, other relevant stakeholders and media representatives will be informed about the present situation of international scientific co-operation of the EU with countries of the Western Balkan region and about possibilities to enhance this co-operation in forthcoming RTD (Research and Technological Development) Framework Programmes (FPs) as a means to enhance European integration of these countries.



EU-Western Balkan summit, Thessaloniki June 2003

EU has given so called "Western Balkan" (WB) countries a clear membership perspective at EU-Western Balkans summit in Thessaloniki in June 2003. International research co-operation can play a pioneering role in EU integration processes as it has been the case also with EU accession of Central and Eastern European countries.

Through participation of researchers from WB countries in international consortia of EU RTD projects a lot of EU-integration know-how and innovation related knowledge can be transferred to WB societies which will help them in the long run to get fit for EU accession.

The event will provide a unique opportunity to listen to key EU policy makers as well as to high-level science policy makers from Western Balkan countries regarding needs and potentials for integration of WB countries into EU-RTD Framework Programmes. At the event there will be provided also up to date information on:

- **EU Balkan countries Action Plan in Science & Technology** which has been adopted in Thessaloniki in June 2003 (www.gsrt.gr/ActionPlan) and

- EU-funded **SEE-ERA-Net-project** which aims at co-ordination of science policies of EU member states with regard to Western Balkan countries (www.see-era.net).

PROGRAMME

09.00 Registration

Introduction: **EU-RTD Framework Programmes – International scientific co-operation – Western Balkan countries**
Chair: AT

09.30 ■ Welcome address by MEP **Mr. Giles Chichester**, chairman of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy - European Parliament,

■ Welcome addresses by Ministers or their Representatives of Slovenia – Greece – Austria

09.45 ■ Opening address by **Mr. Janez Potočnik**, European Commissioner for Science and Research, European Commission

Session 1: **EU-Western Balkan Action Plan in Science and Technology & SEE-ERA-Net-project**
Chair: GR

10.00 ■ Rapport on "Western Balkan Action Plan" presented by **Mr. George Bonas** (International Scientific & Technological Co-operation Directorate, GSRT, Ministry of Development, Greece), **Mr. Manfred Horvat** (Austrian Research Promotion Agency, Vienna) and **Mr. Giancarlo Caratti** (DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission)

■ Rapport on "SEE-ERA-Net-project" presented by **Mr. Klaus Schuch** (Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna) and **Mrs. Slavi Krušič** (Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Ljubljana)

10.45 ■ Discussion

11.00- 11.20 Coffee break

Session 2: **Dialogue with Science Policy Makers from WB Countries and Conclusions**
Chair: SLO

11.20 ■ Ministers or their Representatives from Western Balkan countries

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Serbia and Montenegro

12.15 ■ **Mr. Zoran Stančič** Deputy Director-General of DG Research, European Commission

12.30 ■ Discussion

12.55 ■ Conclusions

13.00- 14.00 Working Lunch

Working presidency: - MEP **Mrs. Romana Jordan Cizelj** (Slovenia)
- MEP **Mr. Paul Rübig** (Austria)
- MEP **Mr. Nikolaos Vakalis** (Greece)