

# The core objectives of WBC-INCO.NET are:

- **to support the bi-regional dialogue on science and technology (S&T)** by benefiting from and interacting with the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries which was launched under the Austrian EU Presidency in 2006
- **to identify RTD potentials and priorities** for take-up in FP7 and other European programmes in a transparent and methodologically sound way
- **to enhance participation of researchers from the region in European projects of mutual interest and benefit** by implementing capacity building measures on a structural and individual level and by accompanying networking activities.

The objectives will be achieved in close interaction with the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries. The platform members are the EU Member States, the Candidate and Potential Candidate countries, the countries associated to FP7 and the European Commission. It meets twice a year and is typically hosted by the EU Presidency or a Western Balkan country. WBC-INCO.NET supports these meetings logistically and cooperates in an efficient division of labour.

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The Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET enhances integration of the Western Balkan countries (WBC) in the European Research Area. The initiative is supported by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.



The issue of enlargement in the direction of the so-called Western Balkan countries is high on the political agenda of the European Union. The Western Balkan countries INCO-NET will assist in developing the relationship between the EU and the WBCs in the area of science and technology (S&T). This project will last from 2008 to 2011, supporting the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries in the facilitation of interaction between the Western Balkan countries, the EU Member States, states associated to the Framework Programmes for RTD and the European Commission. It is a strategic body designed to deal with European, multilateral and regional issues of science and technology policies in and with the WBCs.

### The project will implement such activities as:

- definition of thematic regional S&T priorities,
- analysis of opportunities to access infrastructure, barriers to cooperation and cooperation patterns,
- organisation of training workshops and learning groups (for example on research management, financial auditing and S&T indicators), in addition to brokerage events and awareness raising sessions,
- support to National Contact Points and Research Information Systems
- publishing of regular newsletters, a journal and the web-based information portal [www.wbc-inco.net](http://www.wbc-inco.net)

### How to contribute?

Through its portal, newsletters and reports, WBC-INCO.NET wants to establish the information exchange platform on S&T policy cooperation with the Western Balkan countries. We are open to publish your event announcements on the topic, your organisation profile and your project news, as well as to disseminate relevant news and documents on funding opportunities, cooperation possibilities, scholarships, awards, etc. We are interested in your suggestions on how to improve the S&T systems in the region, we would like to learn about your good practices and what you would need in order to improve your links with research communities in other regions.

Access to our platform is free of charge and open to everyone interested in our activities. With your user name and password you will be able to access the databases and to publish comments on all available items.

Everyone is invited to use our platform by providing information, for example via e-mail to [office@wbc-inco.net](mailto:office@wbc-inco.net).

## 26 partners are participating in the consortium. Among these are S&T ministries, agencies and analytical partners.

ZSI – AUSTRIA

**Centre for Social Innovation**

MOES – ALBANIA

**Ministry of Education and Science**

MCA – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Ministry of Civil Affairs**

MZOS – CROATIA

**Ministry of Science, Education and Sports**

MON-MK – FYRO MACEDONIA

**Ministry of Education and Science**

MPIN – MONTENEGRO

**Ministry of Education and Science**

MSCI – SERBIA

**Ministry of Science**

SUS BIH – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Foundation for Higher Education World University Service**

MPI – SERBIA

**Mihajlo Pupin Institute**

IVO PILAR – CROATIA

**Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences**

KEC – KOSOVO/UNMIK (UNSC 1244)

**Kosova Education Center**

CIVET – ALBANIA

**CIVET 2000**

SBRA – BELGIUM

**Slovenian Business and Research Association**

SEERC – GREECE

**South-East European Research Centre**

EC-DG JRC – BELGIUM

**European Commission Directorate General**

**Joint Research Centre – IPTS, Seville**

**and Customer and Stakeholder Relations, Brussels**

UNU-MERIT – NETHERLANDS

**United Nations University MERIT, Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology, University of Maastricht**

PT-DLR – GERMANY

**International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the German Aerospace Centre**

FFG – AUSTRIA

**Austrian Research Promotion Agency**

TUBITAK – TURKEY

**The Scientific and Technological Research Council**

GSRT – GREECE

**General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of Development**

MHEST – SLOVENIA

**Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology**

BMWF – AUSTRIA

**Federal Ministry of Science and Research**

BMBF – GERMANY

**Federal Ministry of Education and Research**

MES-CRA – BULGARIA

**Ministry of Education and Science**

TUR&BO-PPP – BELGIUM

**Turkish Research & Business Organisations  
Public & Private Partnership**

APRE – ITALY

**Agency for Promotion of European Research**