



Editorial

Dear Readers,

The preparations of the forthcoming Steering Platform meeting in Ljubljana (June 13, 2008) have already begun. They actually began in October at the meeting in Thessaloniki about which we report starting on this page. The Slovenian EU presidency (January-June 2008) supports the initiatives of the Platform and will include stakeholders from the region in several activities (see also page 3). In this issue we report on several funding opportunities that can be explored by researchers in the Western Balkans: an overview is given in the article on page 4, specific input from EUREKA on page 5, Tempus on page 8-9, the Framework Programme on page 13 and a special part on cooperation in the topic of climate change on page 10. Initiatives from Austria - the ASO Calls - specifically target scientific cooperation in biodiversity protection, climate change and energy scarcity on the one hand, and cooperation with Kosovo/UNMIK on the other hand - on page 11. A new Swiss Programme shall focus on the Social Sciences as reported on page 11.

SEE-ERA.NET provides an update on the project activities on page 12: infrastructure donations will be acknowledged with a specific award, a conference on innovation was held in Thessaloniki and the White Paper published. Other projects, such as WEB-MOB, SCORE and ERA WESTBALKAN+ are covered on page 14.

The Information Office has recently published two new reports: one on innovation infrastructures in the Western Balkan countries (see page 5) and one on mobility issues in the ERA (page 15). Both reports can be downloaded for free from the see-science.eu website.

Serbia is the country in focus of this issue - the Serbian Ministry of Science provided an insight into the S&T system and funding possibilities available in Serbia.

News from the region also covers a Round Table on Brain Circulation, the visit of Commissioner Potočnik in Bosnia and Herzegovina on page 7 and the Dubrovnik conference on higher education reforms is covered on page 9 of this edition.

We conclude with short inputs on the issues of science in relation to gender and religion on page 15 and recommendations for further reading on page 16.

News is regularly published on the website of the Information Office - <http://see-science.eu> - we recommend subscribing to our RSS news feed.

Best regards from Vienna,
Elke Dall - dall@zsi.at

Imprint

Information Office of the Steering Platform on Research for the
Western Balkan Countries

c/o ZSI - Centre for Social Innovation

Linke Wienzeile 246, 1150 Vienna, Austria

tel. +43 1 4950442-62, fax -40

e-mail office@see-science.eu

ISSN 1991-1750

Subscription & recent issues:

<http://see-science.eu/ejournal/list>



Platform Meeting in Greece

The third meeting of the Steering Platform was held in Thessaloniki, Greece on October 29, 2007. Discussions took place between the Western Balkan countries, EU Member States and countries associated to the Framework Programme, as well as representatives from the European Commission and the World Bank, which included reports on activities carried out since the last meeting and future plans for cooperation in science and technology (S&T) with and in the region. The Guidelines for the Platform were also adopted (see page 2).



Contributions focused on the most appropriate use of funds of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for research. It transpired that the countries have had different experiences in this regard. The major focus for all of them was participating as associated countries in FP7 and the governments in most countries decided to use funds from IPA (or its predecessor, the CARDS programme) to pay for the "entrance fee". Whereas Montenegro or Albania reported that it was not possible to prioritise research on the planning documents, Serbia has had good experiences with the CARDS programme and has again managed to prioritise ICT infrastructure as well as the development of local-regional business and innovation support structures, such as clusters, incubators, and business/technology parks. Croatia also shared its experiences from an initiative on technology transfer and support services for knowledge-based business start-ups. Further analysis how IPA could be used to strengthen research capacity will take place. The Slovenian Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology announced that it will host the next meeting in June 2008, co-chaired by the Montenegrin Ministry for Education and Science and with support of WBC-INCO.NETs Workpackage 1 (see page 3). (Information provided by Greek General Secretariat for Research and Technology, <http://see-science.eu/org/82.html>)

Informal Networks for see-science.eu

WBC Platform is also getting together outside official meetings! Here are the "3 Ts" lining up in Thessaloniki!



Tania Friederichs, Tanja Ivanović and Tanja Knezevic in Thessaloniki

New Project Members in see-science.eu

The see-science.eu team has received important support for the development of the see-science.eu thematic reports:

Many thanks to Jana Machacova (ZSI), who prepared reports on Innovation Infrastructures in WBC (available for download) and Klaus Schuch (ZSI), who is currently finalising a report discussing "Science, Technology and Higher Education in Kosovo/UNMIK".



Victoria Solitander, successor to Elli Stepanovic, is now the new contact person at the Austrian

Research Promotion Agency (FFG) for the see-science.eu project. She is an expert in the department of International Cooperation and Mobility in the European and International Programmes at FFG. Victoria Solitander is also coordinating the FP6 project ERA WestBalkan+ and is author of a study "Barriers to international mobility and the integration of researchers from Western Balkan Countries (WBC) in the European Research Area (ERA)" - see page 15.

Guidelines for the Functioning of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries (WBC)

On October 29, 2007 the Steering Platform adopted its Guidelines at the meeting in Thessaloniki (Greece). The full text is available from the see-science.eu website (<http://see-science.eu/doc/2487.html>), while we quote here the final text dealing with the mission and scope of the Platform and provide you with an overview of the main points of the procedural guidelines on the next page.

Preamble

In the context of the Communication "The EU and the Western Balkans: strengthening stability and prosperity" (Com (2006) 27 final of 27.1.2006) of the European Commission, and as a follow-up to the EU-Balkan Countries Action Plan on S&T adopted at the Ministerial Conference in Thessaloniki in 2003 and endorsed by Ministers at the General Affairs Council in March 2006, the Steering Platform ("the Platform") plays a central role in stimulating, monitoring, and supporting the cooperation in research and technological development between the countries of the European Union (EU 27), associated countries to the Seventh European Framework Programme for RTD (FP7) and countries of the Western Balkans (WBCs).

The Western Balkan countries' Ministries responsible for Science and Technology fully endorse this initiative of the European Commission, considering it a Forum of utmost importance for the accession and integration of the WBCs to the European Research Area.

Mission Statement

The Platform facilitates the interaction between the Western Balkan countries, the EU Member States, the candidate and potential candidate countries and other states associated to the Framework Programmes for RTD and the European Commission. Its main objective is to support the enhanced integration of the WBCs in the European Research Area. It is a strategic body to deal with European, multilateral and regional issues of Science and Technology policies in and with the WBCs. It acts as an information exchange centre, clearing house for joint ideas and activities, and coordination forum for needs, suggestions and proposals of the WBCs to the European Commission, the EU27, candidate and potential candidate countries and the countries associated to FP7 (AC) and vice versa. In this spirit, the Platform continues and intensifies the progress achieved under the EU-Balkan Countries Action Plan on Science and Technology.

(Information Office of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries (<http://see-science.eu/news/111.html>).

Duration

The Platform shall continue until the accession of the Western Balkan countries to the EU.

Scope of the Platform

With a view to promoting the implementation and development of European research cooperation and thereby also supporting the technological and economic development in the Western Balkan Countries, the Platform will:

- Act as a forum for exchanging information and views, elaborating recommendations on the RTD policy, and coordinating needs, suggestions and proposals in and towards the WBCs, especially regarding the Framework Programmes;
- Monitor RTD policies and developments including interactions with innovation and higher education, and intervene with specific recommendations, if deemed necessary;
- Propose concrete actions to be taken in the context of furthering the EU-WBC cooperation on RTD and the bi- and multilateral cooperation activities;
- Identify issues of mutual importance to be addressed in the context of the Platform; and,
- Seek synergies with other instruments, organisations and stakeholders to strengthen the research capacity in the Western Balkan countries.

For its internal operations, the Platform adopts the following Procedural Guidelines (see next page for an excerpt).



Procedural Guidelines

Full text of the procedural guidelines is available from the website of the Information Office at <http://see-science.eu/doc/2487.html>.

Major aspects are:

- Platform meetings will be held on a regular basis, usually twice a year.
- Platform members are the EU Member States, the candidate and potential candidate countries, the countries associated to FP7 and the European Commission. Nomination of delegates is made by the governments of the member states of the Steering Platform. The European Commission will delegate a senior official from the Service responsible for international scientific cooperation between EU and WB countries.
- In addition to the delegates, the Steering Platform is open to the participation of a representative of the Information Office of the Platform / WBC-INCO.NET; and the Coordinator of the South-East European ERA-NET (SEE-ERA.NET) as well upon invitation to representatives from other organisations and stakeholders and experts on a case-by-case basis.
- The Platform should have in principle three co-chairs: each representing the European Commission, the EU Presidency, and a Western Balkan country.
- The WBC-INCO.NET will act as a service platform and an operational arm of the Steering Platform.
- The Agenda will be proposed by the co-chairs. Any delegate or participant of the Platform may propose items for the agenda.
- The Platform itself has no budget.

Links
[Full version of the Guidelines](http://see-science.eu/doc/2487.html)
<http://see-science.eu/doc/2487.html>
[Participants at the last meeting](http://see-science.eu/org/2486.html)
<http://see-science.eu/org/2486.html>

WBC-INCO.NET: Workpackage 1 supporting the Steering Platform

As of January 1, 2008, the work of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries (WBC) will be supported by the project "Western Balkan Countries INCO.NET" (WBC-INCO.NET), carried out under the specific programme "Capacities" of the 7th EU-Framework Programme (FP7). WBC-INCO.NET's core objectives are to support bi-regional dialogue between the EU, associated FP7 countries and the WBC, to identify RTD priorities and potentials in the WBC and to enhance the participation of WBC researchers in European RTD projects by structural measures.

A consortium of 26 partners will carry out 7 Workpackages (WPs) during the 4 year duration of the project. Named "European and Regional Dialogue", WP1 will provide organisational support for the implementation of regional and bi-regional political dialogue between the EU and the WBC. The political dimension on the bi-regional level is closely connected with the Steering Platform on Research for the WBC, initiated during the Austrian EU Presidency together with the European Commission (EC) in 2006. WBC-INCO.NET will also support the exchange of information with relevant EC Directorates General

(DGs) as well as other international stakeholders.

Within WP1 the organisation of eight meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the WBC (bi-regional dialogue) and four high level political regional S&T meetings (regional political dialogue) back-to-back with the meetings of the WBC-INCO.NET Steering Board will be supported. Moreover, the WBC-INCO.NET will enter into a proactive dialogue with the EC on Directorate Generals level and organise yearly meetings with relevant DGs (e.g. DG Enlargement, DG Information Society, DG TREN, DG Education etc.). In addition, WP1 will initiate exchange of information with international stakeholders as well as other multilateral initiatives, strategic programmes and projects (e.g. COST, UNESCO, World Bank, OECD, relevant ERA-NETs and specific support actions (SSAs) that target WBCs in a structural manner as well as other initiatives outside FP7 such as CEEN). Therefore, three round tables will be organised.

WP1 will be led by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF), which will coordinate the activities of the four task leaders: Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI - Austria), Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro (MPIN), Turkish Research and Business Organisations (TURBO) and the Project Management Agency at the International Bureau of the German Aerospace Center (PT-DLR). WBC-INCO.NET will be closely linked to the Steering Platform on Research for the WBC and therefore both initiatives will positively influence and complement each other.

Another benefit of WBC-INCO.NET is that it will also build a stable future basis for the Information Office of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries.

The kick-off meeting of WBC-INCO.NET will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on Feb. 1, 2008.

Author
 Heribert Buchbauer
<http://see-science.eu/users/175.html>
 Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research BMWF, II/6
<http://see-science.eu/org/69.html>

Slovenian Presidency Events

Stakeholders from the Western Balkan countries will be invited to the following EU Presidency events in the fields of research, higher education and information society:

- Feb. 6 - 7: Informal CREST meeting, followed by
- Feb. 8: Workshop: Family-friendly scientific careers
- March 5 - 6: Conference: Research infrastructures and their structural dimension within the ERA
- March 10 - 11: Conference: Universities and lifelong learning
- March 13 - 14: Bologna follow-up group
- May 13 - 14: Information Conference: i2010
- May 13 - 14: Conference: Cultural Policies and Practices in the EU Foreign Relations (focussing on research and development in arts and culture, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- June 13: Meeting of Steering Platform on Research for WBC
- June 13: Award ceremony for donations within the framework for RTD collaboration with WBC - Herman Potočnik Noordung Award (Information provided by Slavi Krušič, MHEST)



How to Benefit Most from the EU Schemes for Science & Technology and Innovation in Western Balkans

The Information Office developed and promoted the "Needs/Offer Matrix" earlier in 2007 and has received positive feedback on its usability. It covers the funding schemes available and how the Western Balkan countries can make the best use of the existing offers to cover some of their pressing needs. This report is available from <http://www.see-science.eu/doc/1005.html>.

We have now asked one of the active consultants in this field, Leonardo Piccinetti, how he sees the current situation:



With a series of key decisions, the European Union has given emphasis to strengthening R&D cooperation with neighbouring countries, especially those that may become members of the Union in the near or mid-term future (as it is the case of the Western Balkans). The development of Science and Technology (S&T) collaboration provides important opportunities to all sectors of economy and may

serve as a first step to political cooperation within a wider context of European integration. It is now necessary to undertake coherent actions for the reinforcement of the RTD capacity in each country and in the region as a whole. The new 2007-2013 EU programming period focuses much more than in the past on supporting investment in innovation, research and entrepreneurship strategies. A lot of tools can be implemented in order to deal with urgent needs for stronger national strategies which foster RTD development and innovation, the establishment of new funding instruments, specific support actions and the development of stronger synergies between national RTD programmes and different EU programmes: 7th EU Framework Programme (FP7, with a budget of 54.582 million euro), Competitiveness Innovation Programme (CIP, with a budget of 3.620 million euro), the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), and other EU programmes where participation of the Western Balkans is foreseen (e.g. TEMPUS, COST, EUREKA, LIFE+, Erasmus Mundus, Life Long Learning Programme). The table on the right summarises the opportunities available in WBC in S&T and Innovation.

The Western Balkan countries should furthermore invest in stakeholders clubs and informal and formal networks aimed at:

- *Analysing and answering the needs of the public in an approach combining demand and supply elements;*
- *Increasing public-private partnerships (PPP) both at the strategic planning phase and in the implementation phase through private money leveraging mechanisms;*
- *Investing in awareness campaigns in order to better inform all potential beneficiaries of the competitive advantages resulting from networking and clustering activities;*
- *Making coaching and investment readiness schemes available in order to ensure that any beneficiary of the support has developed*

the management capacity allowing him/her to efficiently use the support granted.

Regarding applied RTD, activities can be implemented through:

- *co-financing of research infrastructures and equipments;*
- *stimulating partnerships between SMEs and universities or research centres;*
- *funding a university-enterprise interface;*
- *opening research facilities to SMEs, for instance by providing "consultancy vouchers" to SMEs to buy services from academics and researchers;*
- *improving human capacities in universities, research centres and enterprises to be able to produce and use new knowledge which can be transformed into products/services;*
- *promoting networking and the creation of a critical mass of competences in the field of applied research and exploitation of research results;*
- *supporting research revenue schemes through an integrated approach including a proof of concept element.*

Investment could also focus on a regional skill observatory aimed at:

- *detecting the future needs of enterprises;*
- *influencing the vocational training offer to the foreseen skills requirements of the regional vision;*
- *promoting entrepreneurship education;*
- *providing eLearning infrastructure and content;*
- *using the Life Long Learning Programme (especially Leonardo programme) and Interreg IV to support transnational activities and economic intelligence.*

Finally, it is worth stressing that successful strategies all have in common: efficient governance, strong leadership, well-managed support to innovation and research results valorisation, an offer of added-value support services, strong entrepreneurship culture, and "no nonsense" implementation schemes. This means that the strategy tries to eliminate market failures without creating public failures.

Author Leonardo Piccinetti
<http://see-science.eu/users/989.html>
 e4business
<http://see-science.eu/org/988.html>

Table: Opportunities Available

| Topic | IPA | COST | ERDF | ERASMUS MUNDUS | TEMPUS | Life Long Learning | CIP | LIFE + | FP 7 |
|-----------------------|-----|------|------|----------------|--------|--------------------|-----|--------|------|
| Access to finance | | | | | | | ■ | | ■ |
| Networks and clusters | ■ | | ■ | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| SME support services | ■ | | ■ | | | | ■ | | ■ |
| Entrepreneurship | ■ | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | |
| Support to innovation | | | ■ | | | | ■ | | ■ |
| RTD | | ■ | ■ | | | | | ■ | ■ |
| Human capital | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | ■ |
| Investment | ■ | | | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ |



EUREKA Expanding Towards the Western Balkan Countries



Slovenia, from July 2007 till June 2008 takes over the reigns of EUREKA, the European network for market-led research and innovation. The priorities of the Slovenian Chairmanship are: preparation and adoption of a new strategy for the future of the EUREKA network, strengthening the network's position within the European Research Area, expanding EUREKA towards the Western Balkan and developing a communications strategy to effectively promote the results of EUREKA and its projects with demand for European innovation.

This is the first time that Slovenia has held the EUREKA chair, and it comes at a very opportune moment. "Our ambition is to combine the advantages of the EUREKA Chairmanship and the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union (in the first part of 2008) along with the cooperation with the EUREKA network and the European Commission, making a significant contribution to the European research and innovation policies," said Aleš Mihelič, head of the EUREKA Group of High Level Representatives during the Slovenian Chairmanship.

In accordance with Slovenia's priority regarding the enlargement of EUREKA's geographical boundaries to the Western Balkans countries, they wish to establish contacts with industrial high-potentials both in research and development. For EUREKA this enlargement to the Western Balkan region is a natural development. Croatia (since 2000) and Serbia (since 2002) have already been EUREKA members. Other Western Balkan countries have a status as cooperating EUREKA NIP countries (NIP - national information point status is a preparatory period for application for full membership) or have declared an interest in creating closer relations.

During the first EUREKA meeting held under the Slovenian Chairmanship, in Maribor, October 2007, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined as a cooperating NIP country. Aleš Mihelič says "We are delighted that one of the key elements of the Slovenian EUREKA Chairmanship programme - the widening of EUREKA's frontiers into the Balkans - is happening so early in our term."

EUREKA Chair has established initial contacts with Montenegro and Albania received EUREKA NIP status in 1993. Some research organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, involved in EUREKA project activities together with neighbouring companies from the Western Balkans, should also be on track.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and research organisations from both Croatia and Serbia have already participated in 15 EUREKA finished projects with a total budget of 6.9 million euro. At present almost 100 Croatian and Serbian enterprises and organisations are participating in 45 EUREKA running projects with a budget of 19.1 million euro. In 2006 the Croatian company EcoEngineering won the EUREKA Lynx Award which annually honours a fast-growing, high-tech SME that has recently brought a successful innovative venture to the market via participation in a EUREKA project.

The economic potential of the Western Balkan countries has taken further steps in the process of market-oriented reforms. Substantial progress has been made in the area of privatisation of SMEs but they need additional and increasing input from transfer and use of new technology. From this point of view, EUREKA, due to its characteristics, creates a bottom-up principle including simple conditions for preparation of projects and call procedures, and unbureaucratic conditions for successful cooperation between industry and research organisations. Slovenian Chairmanship is appropriately moving EUREKA network opportunities to the Western Balkan countries.

Authors

Svatopluk Halada
<http://see-science.eu/users/2574.html>
 Andrej Cvelbar
<http://see-science.eu/users/2573.html>
<http://see-science.eu/org/2575.html>

What is EUREKA?

EUREKA is a pan-European network for market-oriented, industrial R&D. Created as an intergovernmental Initiative in 1985, EUREKA aims to enhance European competitiveness through its support to businesses, research centres and universities who carry out pan-European projects to develop innovative products, processes and services.

Through its flexible and decentralised network, EUREKA offers project partners rapid access to a wealth of knowledge, skills and expertise across Europe and facilitates access to national public and private funding schemes. The internationally recognised EUREKA label adds value to a project and gives participants a competitive edge in their dealings with financial, technical and commercial partners.

Thematic reports on Innovation Infrastructures in the Western Balkan Countries

6 thematic reports were produced by the "Information Office of the Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan Countries" in order to enhance the understanding of the national innovation systems in the Western Balkan countries.

The reports provide an overview of the situation concerning "Innovation Infrastructures" such as clusters, technology and innovation centres, technological and science parks, business-start-up centres/ technology incubators, and some other related organisations. General environment, important strategic documents and main programmes and instruments for support are described and the main infrastructures listed with contact details.

Each country report consists of the following chapters:

- General Environment for Setting Up Innovation Infrastructures;
- Strategic Documents;
- Specific Programmes and Instruments;
- Financing;
- Existing Innovation Infrastructures;
- Key Government Players;
- Key Innovation Infrastructures:
- Clusters;
- Technology/Innovation Centres;
- Technological and Science Parks; and
- Business-start-up Centres/ Technology Incubators;
- Conclusions and Recommendations

Please download the reports at <http://see-science.eu/doc/2331.html>



S&T in Serbia



Location: South Eastern Europe
Total land area: 88,361 sq. km
Population: 7 440 000 (2006, mid year, preliminary) source: wiiw
GDP - per capita: 2.833 EUR (2005) at official exchange rate - source: wiiw
General Expenditure on R&D (in thousands RSD):
 2003: 6,361,680
 2004: 4,418,784
 2005: 7,300,526
GERD: 0.40 % of GDP (2004)
BERD: 0.07 % of GDP (2004)
HERD: 0.18 % of GDP (2004)
GOVERD: 0.25 % of GDP (2004)

Vision of Science in Serbia

The main ambition of the Ministry of Science of Republic of Serbia (MS) is to allow for the best possible influence of research and development activities on the economy and society. By choosing high quality projects and inclusion into international collaboration, the Ministry wants to initiate and realise the creation of a research infrastructure which is necessary for the development of Serbia as a modern society where innovation, originality and knowledge are the most significant development factors.

The new, accessible and competitive economy of Serbia will be able to take part in the global processes of the world economy optimally using opportunities for a rapid and sustainable development.

The Legal framework

The Law on Ministries defines the specific roles, competencies and responsibilities of the Ministry of Science.

According to this law, the Ministry plays a decisive role in all main strategic decisions, such as creation of an S&T strategy and policy as well as R&D programmes, setting up of rules and procedures for all R&D activities financed and promoted by the Ministry, certification of R&D organisations and researchers, negotiation, building-up and financing of international bilateral and multilateral S&T cooperation, co-financing of technological development projects and programmes for and with industrial and other public companies, research in the field of nuclear energy and nuclear safety.

Legal Framework:

1. Law of the Ministries (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 48/07)
2. Law on the Scientific and Research Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 110/05)
3. Law on Electronic Signature (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 135/04)
4. Law on Innovation Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 110/05)
5. Law on Serbian Encyclopedia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 110/05)
6. Law on Vocabulary of Serbian Academic of Scientific and Art (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 110/05)

R&D programmes and funding

The main responsibilities of the Ministry of Science concern managing, planning and financing of national R&D programmes. The following programmes exist:

1. The Basic Research Programme funds projects in all fields of basic research. The project duration is 5 years with a yearly financing up to 100% of project costs. According to the official data for the project period 2006-2010, the Ministry funds 458 projects involving 5,500 researchers with a total amount of EUR 25 m per year.

2. The Technological Development, Transfer of Technologies and Innovation System funds projects in the fields of ICT, materials and chemical technologies, mechanical engineering and industrial software, traffic engineering and civil construction, energy technologies, and biotechnologies. In the present scheme special national science programmes for the following research domains: Energy Efficiencies; Biotechnology and Agro-Industry; Protection and Use of Waters in Serbia are formulated by the Ministry. The project duration is 1-3 years, with a yearly financing up to 80% of the project costs. According to the official data for 2006, the Ministry provided EUR 21.7 m for these projects. The Transfer of Technologies and Innovation System as a part of the programme aims to support the establishment of a sustainable bridge between research organisations and industry. The project duration is up to 1 year with yearly financing up to 50% of the project costs. The Ministry has provided EUR 7.6 m in 2006. In 2007, 53 projects will be realised by organisations and 16 by registered innovators (physical persons).

3. The Human Resources Development Programme provides scholarships to young scientists, supports domestic researchers participating at international R&D projects, meetings and conferences, organisation of scientific conferences, publishing of scientific results, and many more. For this programme about EUR 1.44 m were provided in 2006.

4. International R&D Co-operations Programme focuses on international, scientific, technological, bilateral and multilateral cooperation, projects and programmes of the EC, cooperation with organisations and agencies from the UN system, with foreign scientific, government and non-government organisations and associations, as well as with scientists and experts in diaspora. Since 2001, Serbia has realised significant progress in the re-establishment and re-integration into European programmes:

4.1. *Framework Programmes:* As far as FP6 is concerned, Serbian researchers participate in 83 projects with the total budget of EUR 13.1 m (with significant participation under the FP6 INCO programme; 8 out of 10 in 2005 and 8 out of 20 in 2006). On June 13, 2007, Minister Ana Persikan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the EC enabling Serbia to become associated country and therefore Serbian researchers to participate fully in FP7. One of the main results is the significant participation in the call REGPOT-3: out of total accepted 11 projects, Serbian researchers coordinate 7 and participate in a further 3. The Ministry of Science itself participates in several network projects of FP6 (e.g. ERA-WESTBALKAN+, IDEALIST-EXTEND, SEE-ERA).



NET, Food-N-Co, BAFN, FIT, IDEALIST7FP) as well as in forthcoming FP7 projects.

4.2. *EUREKA*: There are 28 ongoing projects in EUREKA with participating Serbian organisations.

4.3. *COST*: There are 65 ongoing COST actions in which Serbian researchers participate.

4.4. *Bilateral Cooperation*: Bilateral cooperation based on bilateral S&T agreements is active with Slovenia, Slovakia, FYR of Macedonia, France, Greece and Switzerland. Negotiations are currently ongoing with Argentina, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cuba, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Russia and US.

Conclusions

The efforts of the Ministry of Science to realise the strategic aims established at the beginning of 2001 will be further continued in all above mentioned fields to create a knowledge-based society.

Authors
Viktor Nedović
Suzana Vojinović
Željka Dukić
Ministry of Science, Republic of Serbia
<http://see-science.eu/org/91.html>

Round Table with WBC on Brain Circulation

On the occasion of the round table "Fostering the Human Potential in Higher Education and Research in SEE: The Challenge of Brain Circulation" at the University of Graz, November 24, 2007 the eJournal had the pleasure of interviewing Dražen Vikić-Topić, State Secretary in the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports in Croatia. He highlighted that changes in the legislation of the science system had been recently implemented in his country and expressed the hope that after the elections the reforming and restructuring process would continue. Furthermore, he considers local and regional cooperation with the neighbouring countries very important, and he highlighted the need to make this collaboration more efficient on bilateral and multilateral levels. Secondly, he emphasised the need for improvement in the field of infrastructure and instruments in the region. Thirdly, he pointed out the question of mobility, internal and external, which was at the centre of the round table discussions.



The conclusions of this round table, which was chaired by Erhard Busek (Stability Pact) and Johannes Hahn (Austrian Minister for Science and Research) will be provided in the next issue of this journal in February / March 2008. (ed)

Visit of Commissioner Potočnik to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Janez Potočnik, the European Commissioner for Science and Research, visited Sarajevo on October 4-5, 2007. During his visit he met representatives of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss the country's European perspective as well as cooperation between it and the European Union in the field of science and research.



From left to right: Božidar Matić, Ammar Mirascija, Janez Potočnik

On October 4, 2007, Commissioner Potočnik attended a round table in the Academy of Science and Arts of BiH. In his speech, he stressed the importance of research and the vital role of the scientific community. He said that he had not come to BiH to make promises but to share his experiences as a Commissioner and as a professional. Research is among the top EU priorities and he expressed his willingness to show which direction BiH should take to achieve the necessary strength in academic circles and what are the required steps to enhance political will, since he is convinced that this is where the main problem lies. The fact that BiH currently invests only 0.05% of GDP in research as opposed to the average 1.9% spent in the EU (with a target of 3% by 2010) speaks for itself. Božidar Matić, President of the Academy of Science and Arts of BiH, stressed that the cause of the dire situation faced by scientific research in BiH is the Dayton agreement because it had never been included and, hence, there is no political will to support it.

The EU is offering BiH association to FP7 which would allow for a number of funding possibilities, such as allowing BiH scientists access to EU laboratories, funding to support the reintegration of BiH scientists who have spent more than three years abroad and wish to return, financing BiH researchers to work anywhere in the world provided that having completed their research they return to BiH so that the country can benefit from their knowledge, etc. BiH has not requested access to these funds yet. The Commissioner has offered all WBC an 80% rebate of the "entry fee" for the first year, a 75% rebate for the second year and so on, with a sliding scale of 5% less per year. BiH's fee could be paid, partially or in full, through funds of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA).

(Information provided by Dina Masnik, NCP in BiH)



New TEMPUS Generation in Preparation

The European Commission is currently preparing the launch of the new TEMPUS IV programme. TEMPUS IV and the first call for proposals should be presented in January 2008. In this article you will find the key data of the draft programme which were presented by the European Commission at the Austrian Information Day on November 5, 2007, organised by the Federal Ministry of Science and Research, the Austrian National Contact Point and the University of Technology, Vienna. Please note this is a DRAFT VERSION. Changes are still possible!

The objective of TEMPUS IV is to establish an area of cooperation and modernisation in higher education between the European Union and partner countries in the surrounding area, including Central Asia. The programme focuses on international cooperation and not on mobility.

The geographical coverage of the so-called partner countries is:

- Western Balkans countries covered by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA): Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Kosovo/UNMIK, Montenegro, and Serbia
- Countries of Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East covered by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI): Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel (new), Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestine Authority, the Russian Federation, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine
- Countries from the Central Asian Region covered by the Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI): Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

The greater involvement of national authorities in the definition of priorities and selection of projects is new. Therefore, more support by a network of National Contact Points in EU Member States and National Tempus Offices in partner countries will be required during the application phase.

Three types of projects will be financed. The first type, the Joint Projects (JP), and the second type, Structural Measures (SM) will be financed by calls for proposals (see below). The third type, the Accompanying Measures (AM), will be supported through calls for proposals, tenders and framework contracts.

The Joint Projects have to be implemented at institutional level and should be focused on one of the following activities:

- Curriculum reform
- Governance reform
- Higher education and society
- Thematic networks

The Structural Measures have to be implemented at national level for the development and reform of national higher education structures and systems in the partner countries in the field of governance reform or higher education and society. The following activities are eligible:

- Surveys and studies
- Policy and expert advice
- Organisation of conferences, seminars, workshops, round tables
- Staff training on policy issues
- Awareness raising campaigns

The Ministry of Education must directly participate or formally endorse the projects' objectives and activities.

A second differentiation of the projects will be made between national and multi-national projects:

- In national projects only one partner country is part of the consortium. The submitted proposal has to fulfill the national priorities. A partnership needs at least:
 1. Two higher education institutions, each from a different EU Member State
 2. One academic or non-academic partner from a third EU Member State
 3. Three higher education institutions from the partner country (in the case of Montenegro, Kosovo/UNMIK and FYR of Macedonia one institution is sufficient)
- Multi-national projects have at least two partner countries involved in one project and have to follow the programme-wide priorities. A partnership needs at least:
 1. Two higher education institutions, each from a different EU Member State
 2. One academic or non-academic partner from a third EU Member State
 3. One higher education institution from each partner country

For both project types, Joint Projects and Structural Measures, the project duration will be between 24 and 36 months and the contribution of the European Commission will be from EUR 500.000 to EUR 1.500.000 with at least 5% co-financing (for Albania, Montenegro and Central Asia the minimum grant amount will be EUR 300.000).

The TEMPUS IV programme and the first call should be published in January 2008. The application form will be in English, German and French. The deadline for the submission of proposals for Joint Projects and Structural Measures is expected to be April 2008. The results should be published in November 2008 and the contracting and pre-financing of the successful projects should take place in December 2008.

A summary of all the new elements in Tempus IV is provided on the next page. More information will be soon published on the website of the European Commission: <http://see-science.eu/goto/999.html>, where you also find a list of the TEMPUS National Contact Points (NCP) in the EU and the National TEMPUS Offices (NTO) in the partner countries.

Links
 Martina Friedrich
<http://see-science.eu/users/2493.html>
 ÖAD-ACM, TEMPUS National Contact Point Austria
<http://see-science.eu/org/2494.html>



Summary of the new elements of TEMPUS IV

Programme Layout

- No longer a "Guide for Applicants" with four parts but one call for proposals with annexes
- Guidance to fill in the application form (Part 4 of former Guide for Applicants) is now integrated into the application form
- No more Individual Mobility Grants
- No more Complementary Measures
- Larger projects with more partners (small projects targeting one university will not be funded anymore), therefore increase of grant size
- Introduction of a new type of Structural Measures for Ministries of Education only (direct grants - not subject of the call for proposals)
- Programme-wide and national priorities are compulsory
- Involvement of students or their organisations throughout the life of the project is encouraged
- No threshold for staff costs anymore: proof of cost-effectiveness instead
- Student mobility: maximum three months to avoid overlap with ERASMUS MUNDUS External Cooperation Window

Eligibility of Partners

- New partner country: Israel
- Participation on self-financing basis: Turkey and EFTA countries only
- EU applicants must have adhered to the Erasmus University Charter
- Universities in partner countries can act as grant applicants
- Involvement of non-academic partners is encouraged
- Teacher and student organisations can be involved as partners and applicants
- Conditions for non-eligibility have been reinforced:
 - Legal entities which have managed a Tempus project in the past two years which has been terminated by the Commission may not apply for a grant
 - Proposals which are obviously "copied" and just include different partners and another partner country are not eligible

General conditions

- More emphasis on dissemination and sustainability
- Programme centrally managed by the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture in Brussels under the leadership of the European Commission
- Executive Agency responsible for entire project cycle including contracts and payments

Programme Website:

<http://see-science.eu/link/2175.html>

Dubrovnik Conference: Pursuing Questions of Institutional Reform and Regional and European Cooperation

On October 29-31, participants from European higher education institutions and public authorities gathered in Dubrovnik, Croatia, to examine the challenges of Central and South Eastern European countries in creating a European Higher Education area and in particular the reforms needed in the institutions that govern higher education. The Conference built upon the outcomes of the International Seminar on Higher Education, now known as the Novi Sad Initiative, which was launched two years ago to address questions of institutional reform and regional cooperation.

The Universities of Zagreb, Novi Sad and Vienna joined forces to organise this important conference. It has been strongly supported by the following international organisations, national higher education authorities and non-governmental associations: the Council of Europe, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, European University Association, UNESCO-CEPES, European Students Union, Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, Irish Higher Education Authority, Turkish Council of Higher Education, Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Serbian Ministry of Education and Secretariat for Education and Culture Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Educational Reform Initiative for South Eastern Europe, and SPARK.

An in-depth debate on the challenges in the region concluded with an acknowledgement that although progress has been made in the past two years, concrete action now needs to be accelerated, as Ladislav Novak, the main driving force of the Initiative, explained:

"We need to create an environment where real reforms can occur. Universities need to have the autonomy to respond to changing societal needs, and have to be accountable to society for what they do. This means we have to reconsider the relationship of governments and universities, and to think about different buffer bodies that might be helpful. There are also specific issues that need to be addressed in our region, particularly in the way universities are organised and managed, including students involvement and the way how students have to be represented through democratic procedures. As far as regional cooperation is concerned, there is no doubt that many topics lend themselves to such efforts. For example, developing academic and student mobility, creating an attractive and competitive research environment, improving quality, involving and supporting students properly are just a few areas where we could benefit from closer cooperation. The important thing is that in Dubrovnik we agreed on a broad range of concrete actions that we hope will gather widespread support, and which we can also use to measure our progress at future events."

As indicated on the conference website (<http://see-science.eu/link/2496.html>), it is expected to be the first in a series of bi-annual conferences.

Author
 David Crosier
<http://see-science.eu/users/2031.html>
 Ladislav Novak
<http://see-science.eu/users/2495.html>

EUA Experts Conferences

Towards Financially Sustainable European Higher Education Institutions: EUA is organising a high-level conference in Brussels, Belgium that will bring together experts from across Europe to identify the key elements necessary for the financial survival of Europe's Higher Education Institutions (February 7-8, 2008). Policy makers, institutional leaders and researchers will explore the links between funding and autonomy, accountability and governance structures and pinpoint the key features of sound costing systems. (Source: EUA)



Climate Change in FP7

Prime Minister Janez Janša from Slovenia, which will host the next EU presidency, said that he would put the issue of "Climate Change" on top of the EU presidency agenda. In January 2007 the European Commission issued a communication "Limiting Global Climate Change to 2 Degrees Celsius - Policy options for the EU and the world for 2020 and beyond" which highlights the current concerns and the need for community and international action. More recently on June 29 the Commission published a policy document on actions to be taken to alleviate the impacts of climate change; the Green Paper "Adapting to climate change in Europe - options for EU action" for the European Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The paper is intended to be a wake-up call to prevent climate change having catastrophic dimensions later this century. Four lines of action are proposed here:

- Acting early to develop adaptation strategies in areas where current knowledge is sufficient;
- Integrating global adaptation needs into the EU's external relations and building a new alliance with partners around the world;
- Filling knowledge gaps on adaptation through research and exchange of information at EU level;
- Setting up a European advisory group on adaptation to climate change to analyse coordinated strategies and actions.

Because of the global character of environmental problems, international cooperation is of great relevance in this field.

This topic is covered mainly in the programme "Cooperation". The 2008 calls for proposals for the theme "Environment (including Climate Change)", which opened on November 30, 2007 with a deadline on February 25, 2008, show no specific focus on the region of the Western Balkans (e.g. SICAs), but associated countries (from January 1, 2008 all WBC but Bosnia and Herzegovina will be associated) participate on the same grounds as EU Member States. In sub-activity 6.1.1. "Pressures on environment and climate", EUR 42 million are available for large scale, as well as small and medium scale research projects, including coordination and support actions. In addition, other sub-activities in the Environment work-programme are also of relevance to the "Climate Change" focus, e.g. ENV.2008.3.2.1.1 dealing with methods to monitor and assess climate change impacts on cultural heritage.

The theme "Transport" is also of specific interest as, in 2008, it puts special emphasis on climate change and CO₂ emissions reduction targets. Eco-innovations, greening of surface transport and other activities towards climate-friendly transport and mobility shall support both short to medium term CO₂ reduction targets as well as contribute to the development of a new vision of transport systems and solutions beyond 2050. All proposals submitted to every topic need to ensure at least a neutral impact on climate change.

The "Energy" theme has a less prominent focus on technologies addressing climate change, e.g. in the field of sustainable gas net-

works and energy efficiency and savings as well as CO₂ capture and storage.

Last but not least, also the new workprogramme on the theme "Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology" calls for eco-efficiency, fossil fuels substitution as well as topics of biodiversity under the influence of climate change.

Another relevant open call in FP7 is the "Regions of Knowledge" call in the programme "Capacities", which opened on November 30, 2007 and runs to March 14, 2008 where "Regional contributions to the reduction of CO₂ emissions" can be funded under the line of "Analysis, mentoring, integration of research agendas and definition of Joint Action Plans". Projects should aim to contribute to defining strategies and action plans to reduce CO₂ emissions at regional level. (fg)



| | |
|-------|---|
| Links | The EC Green Paper |
| | http://see-science.eu/doc/2481.html |
| | Environment Call |
| | http://see-science.eu/link/2483.html |
| | Regions of Knowledge Call |
| | http://see-science.eu/link/2482.html |

Event Reviews

Creating A Climate for Growth

The conference held in Slovenia on November 16, 2007 was appropriately titled "Climate change: an opportunity for growth" as it addressed the issue of how to promote the move/transition to a low carbon economy and how to change this acute environmental challenge into a business opportunity. Ministers and other state dignitaries from EU countries and countries in SE Europe participated in the conference together with representatives of companies and experts. It is important to note that this event took place on the eve of the meeting of signatories to the Climate Convention and Kyoto Protocol in Bali and represented an initiative by Slovenia, the next holder of the EU Presidency, to implement European climate and energy objectives. The conference presentations and speeches are available at <http://see-science.eu/link/2497.html>. (Information provided by Melita Rogelj, Legend Systems Group)

Climate Change in South-Eastern European Countries II: Causes, Impacts, Solutions

In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme Belgrade, the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Joanneum Research (JR) organised the workshop in Belgrade, Serbia on November 14-15, 2007. The aim of the workshop was, on the one hand, to exchange know-how on issues related to climate change and, on the other hand, to meet potential research partners for joint research activities and projects. The huge number of participants made it clear that these aims were also of interest to many researchers and businessmen from SEE countries, as well as the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Austria. Further information is available from the JR-Climate Change webpage <http://see-science.eu/link/2498.html> and from climate@joanneum.at. (Information provided by Daniel Steiner, Joanneum Research)



ASO Calls

ASO Call to Tackle Environmental Issues in WBC

The thematic focus of the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Offices (ASOs) for activities concerning South East Europe and the call for proposals 2007/2008 is "South Eastern Europe's Scientific Response to: Biodiversity protection, climate change and energy scarcity".



The main goal of this call is to promote networking and the exchange of scientific research results and knowledge, comparative studies, and know-how exchange on European standards and practices.

This year the focus is the issue of changes to our global and local natural environments i.e. cause and effects of and possible counter measures to reduction of biodiversity, climate change, and energy scarcity - topics which are also dealt with in FP7 Theme 5 Energy and Theme 6 Environment (including Climate Change).

In addition to the scientific work, the projects will discuss relevant policies and programmes on national and EU levels - with a specific focus on science policies. Projects also envisage a mapping of activities (relevant policies, programmes, stakeholders, scientific projects, research institutes etc.) in their chosen field in South Eastern Europe and the main corresponding initiatives at EU level.

Universities, non-university research institutions and other tertiary education organisations from Austria, the ASO countries Slovenia and Bulgaria and South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia, including Kosovo/UNMIK) are invited to submit their proposals by January 31, 2008. Partners from Austria, Bulgaria or Slovenia are eligible as contractors. Ten to twelve projects will be funded to a maximum of EUR 12.000 per project.

Event Announcement

The Foresight Conference "Foresight & Policy Making in Relation to Climate Change 2008" will be held in Bled, March 6-8, 2008. Invitations have been sent also for the related press conference on December 5, 2007 in Ljubljana, Slovenia: <http://see-science.eu/link/2570.html>

Call for Proposals for the Stimulation of Research Cooperation between Austria, Kosovo/UNMIK and South East Europe

Within the framework of the "Multidimensional Project for Implementation of an Institutionalised Partnership between Austria and Kosovo in the Field of Higher Education, Research and Innovation" (see also <http://see-science.eu/news/1050.html>), the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Offices in Ljubljana and Sofia have launched a Call for Proposals for scientific networking and project cooperation between

research institutions in Austria, Kosovo/UNMIK and in South Eastern Europe. Project leader of the Kosovo-Austria Partnership initiative "Higher Education and Research" is Johann Günther, working for the Agency for European Integration (AEI) in Prishtina.

Based on the objectives of this programme, the aim is to intensify and stimulate research cooperation between researchers from Austria and Kosovo/UNMIK, as well as from SEE (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia). The call should provide institutionalised researchers and scientists from the region with the opportunity to work together on scientific projects tackling current or future society driven problems in Kosovo/UNMIK in social and/or economic and/or ecological terms. Researchers and scientists from the target region are invited to send their proposals by January 31, 2008. The total budget for this call is 120,000 euro with a limit of EUR 12,000 per project.

Coordinator for both ASO Calls is Johanna Scheck at the Centre for Social Innovation.

Links
[ASO Call for Proposals](http://see-science.eu/link/2499.html)
[http://see-science.eu/link/2499.html](http://see-science.eu/link/2503.html)
<http://see-science.eu/link/2503.html>
 Johanna Scheck
<http://see-science.eu/users/2500.html>

A new Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans (RRPP) for Social Sciences

The Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans (RRPP) aims at strengthening research capacities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo/UNMIK, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.



The programme has an implementation perspective of ten years and will support the development of research capacities in the area of social sciences, especially in transformation-relevant topics. It should offer a cooperation platform to researchers in the region, particularly those who are to become the driving force of higher education reforms and can effectively promote greater recognition of the social sciences and above all the significance of research in this area. The programme should respond to explicit needs put forward by local researchers and their respective institutions. Therefore, great emphasis is on the transfer of ownership to regional structures in order to ensure sustainability of results and capacities that will be further developed during the implementation phase of the programme.

RRPP is currently in its inception phase, while its implementation is expected to begin by mid 2008. The programme is sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the University of Fribourg has been entrusted with its implementation.

Links
[Nicolas Hayoz](http://see-science.eu/users/2504.html)
<http://see-science.eu/users/2504.html>
[Jasmina Opardija](http://see-science.eu/users/2505.html)
<http://see-science.eu/users/2505.html>
 University of Fribourg





Needs List for the “Herman Potočnik-Noordung Award for donations within the framework of RTD collaboration with Western Balkan Countries“ published

The “Herman Potočnik-Noordung Award for donations within the framework of RTD collaboration with Western Balkan Countries” is entering its second phase of implementation as the Western Balkan countries have submitted lists with most urgent research infrastructure needs in their countries. These lists are available online at <http://see-science.eu/goto/2506.html>.

The award is an initiative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia (in the context of the forthcoming Slovenian EU-presidency) and the project SEE-ERA.NET. With this initiative SEE-ERA.NET partners want to raise awareness of the problem of the huge needs and insufficient funding for research infrastructure in WBCs, and to mobilise resources from several European stakeholders (RTOs, universities, philanthropic organisations, official development agencies etc.) to tackle this issue.

The next step of the project will be a letter from the Slovenian Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Mojca Kucler-Dolinar to potential donors such as research and technology organisations, universities, philanthropic organisations, development assistance organisations etc. from the EU and other developed European countries. It will invite them to take action in this important field, to partner institutions that have expressed their research infrastructure needs and subsequently to apply for the “Herman Potočnik-Noordung Award for donations within the framework of RTD collaboration with Western Balkan Countries”, which shall be presented to the awardees during a special EU presidency event on June 13, 2008 in Ljubljana.

Authors

Slavi Krušič
<http://see-science.eu/users/155.html>
Miroslav Polzer
<http://see-science.eu/users/285.html>

SEE-ERA.NET Innovation Conference in Thessaloniki

The South East European Conference on Innovation (November 29-30, 2007) was organised by the Southeast European Era-Net (SEE-ERA.NET), under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Development, General Secretariat for Research & Technology.

The objective of the conference was to prepare the ground for the participation of SMEs and other innovation related structures in the future planned SEE-ERA.NET innovation activities, aimed at:

- Raising awareness on the potential of joint innovation activities

- Defining the scope of joint innovation activities and building on common interests of the innovation stakeholders by addressing their specific needs
- Developing specific innovation related actions and tools
- Attracting the interest of possible international, national and regional funding bodies to participate in the joint innovation activities

Existing innovation stakeholders from the SEE-ERA.NET countries, representatives of RTD and innovation related structures from countries outside SEE-ERA.NET and other European networks as well as other innovation related European and international funding bodies participated and discussed their innovation related policies and activities, their problems and needs, their expectations and proposals for future innovation related collaboration actions within SEE-ERA.NET.

Nearly 100 attendees participated in the conference that was held at the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) in Thessaloniki.

The conference outcomes will be taken into account in order to:

- design the most appropriate SME innovation support actions and tools to be implemented by SEE-ERA.NET as a future funding scheme for transnational cooperation activities for innovation (ReP-SEE programme), and
- develop contacts with corresponding international, national and regional funding bodies and other interested stakeholders outside SEE-ERA.NET, aimed at involving them in the future SEE-ERA.NET funding scheme for transnational cooperation activities for innovation (ReP-SEE programme).

Author

Nikos Sidiropoulos
<http://see-science.eu/users/211.html>
GSRT
<http://see-science.eu/org/82.html>

SEE-ERA.NET White Paper published

The White Paper lists strategic recommendations for connecting the research systems of Southeast Europe to the European Research Area. In the accompanying Joint Action Plan, news about the development of a Regional Programme for Cooperation with Southeast Europe by SEE-ERA.NET are provided. Information has been published also in a special edition of the see-science.eu eJournal, which was delivered on November 27, 2007

(<http://see-science.eu/ejournal/2460.html>)

Links

SEE-ERA.NET White Paper
<http://see-science.eu/doc/2507.html>
Joint Action Plan
<http://see-science.eu/doc/2509.html>



WBC Participation in FP7

At the beginning of November 2007, see-science.eu was able to access the database of the European Commission for information on the participation of the Western Balkan countries in the first calls of FP7 and also obtained an update just before publishing this table in December 2007.

It became clear that not all data on closed calls had been entered in the database, as evaluation procedures are still ongoing and figures change almost daily. But some conclusions can still be drawn. The table focuses on the number of proposals submitted and the success

rate for applicants (note that usually the number of applicants from one country is higher than the number of proposals submitted. Further data can be provided, please contact office@see-science.eu Serbia's incredibly strong and successful participation in the 'RegPot Call' is clearly visible and shows the potential of joint mobilisation. Croatia, on the other hand, was more active in the 'Cooperation' part of FP7. Experience from other countries shows that there is a steep learning curve and association to the Framework Programme will hopefully show the expected performance increase. If possible, further updates of these statistics will be obtained in Brussels. (ed)



| | | Capacities | | | | | Cooperation | | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|------------------|--------------|---|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|------|------|----------|------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| | | Activities of International Cooperation | Regions of Knowledge | Research for the benefit of SMEs | Research Infrastructures | Research Potential | Energy | Environment (incl. Climate Change) | Food, Agriculture, and Biotechnology | General Activities - Annex IV | Health | ICT | NMP | Security | SSH | Space | Transport (including Aeronautics) | Total |
| Albania | # Proposals | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 61 |
| | Success Rate | 16.7% | - | - | - | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | - | 50% | - | - | 0% | 7.1% | - | 0% | 7.5% |
| BiH | # Proposals | 9 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 68 |
| | Success Rate | 6.2% | 0% | 0% | - | 0% | 33.3% | 0% | 28.6% | - | 0% | 0% | - | 0% | 0% | - | 20% | 6.5% |
| Croatia | # Proposals | 9 | 5 | 17 | 6 | 30 | 20 | 18 | 31 | 2 | 20 | 30 | 11 | 5 | 24 | 3 | 18 | 249 |
| | Success Rate | 16.7% | 50% | 20% | 66.7% | 10.8% | 14.3% | 13.0% | 10% | 0% | 0% | 9.4% | 25% | 44.4% | 4% | 66.7% | 33.3% | 17.0% |
| FYR of Macedonia | # Proposals | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 4 | 92 |
| | Success Rate | 11.1% | - | - | 0% | 8.3% | 42.9% | 0% | 16.7% | 0% | 0% | 10% | 100% | 0% | 7.1% | 100 | 66.7% | 15.2% |
| Montenegro | # Proposals | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 40 |
| | Success Rate | 28.6% | - | 0% | 100% | 0% | - | 0% | 16.7% | - | - | 0% | - | 50% | 50% | - | 0% | 14.6% |
| Serbia | # Proposals | 12 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 94 | 13 | 13 | 17 | 0 | 13 | 39 | 5 | 5 | 19 | 1 | 8 | 253 |
| | Success Rate | 14.3% | - | 0% | 50% | 14.7% | 6.3% | 6.7% | 24% | - | 0% | 4.7% | 60% | 0% | 4.2% | 0% | 25% | 12.1% |

New Calls for Proposals

November 30 was the day for the European Commission to launch several new calls in FP7: 7 new calls in "Capacities", 17 new calls in "Cooperation" and 5 new calls in the "People" programme. For further information, please visit the respective CORDIS call sites:

<http://www.see-science.eu/goto/713.html>

Capacities:

- FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2008-1, deadline February 29, 2008
- FP7-REGIONS-2008-1, deadline March 14, 2008
- FP7-REGIONS-2008-2, deadline March 14, 2008
- FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2008-1, deadline March 18, 2008
- FP7-SME-2008-1, deadline April 11, 2008
- FP7-REGPOT-2008-1, deadline March 14, 2008, and
- FP7-REGPOT-2008-2, deadline March 14, 2008.

Cooperation:

- FP7-AAT-2008-RTD-1, Transport (including Aeronautics), deadline May 07, 2008
- FP7-ENERGY-2008-1, deadline February 26, 2008
- FP7-ENERGY-2008-FET, February 26, 2008; May 29, 2008 Stage 2 (only for proposals retained at stage 1)

- FP7-ENERGY-2008-RUSSIA, deadline February 26, 2008
- FP7-ENERGY-NMP-2008-1, deadline February 26, 2008
- FP7-ENV-2008-1, deadline February 25, 2008
- FP7-ERANET-2008-RTD, deadline August 12, 2008
- FP7-KBBE-2008-2B, deadline February 26, 2008
- FP7-NMP-2008-CSA-2, deadline April 24, 2008
- FP7-NMP-2008-EU-India-2, deadline April 24, 2008
- FP7-NMP-2008-LARGE-2, deadline March 06, 2008
- FP7-NMP-2008-SMALL-2, deadline March 06, 2008
- FP7-NMP-2008-SME-2, deadline March 06, 2008
- FP7-SST-2008-RTD-1, deadline May 07, 2008
- FP7-SST-2008-TREN-1, deadline May 08, 2008
- FP7-TPT-2008-RTD-1, deadline May 07, 2008, and
- FP7-ENV-NMP-2008-2, deadline February 25, 2008.

People:

- FP7-PEOPLE-ERG-2008, December 31, 2008, April 03, 2008 1st cut-off date, October 08, 2008 2nd cut-off date
- FP7-PEOPLE-IAPP-2008, deadline March 25, 2008
- FP7-PEOPLE-IRG-2008, deadline April 03, 2008, October 08, 2008
- FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES-2008, deadline March 28, 2008, and
- FP7-PEOPLE-NIGHT-2008, deadline March 05, 2008.



Western Balkan NCP Workshop on Networking in Brussels

In order to strengthen the National Contact Point network for FP7 in the Western Balkan countries, a training workshop on international networking will take place in Brussels January 28 - February 1, 2008. This training is being organised by the Helmholtz Institute (Germany) in the framework of the project ERA Westbalkan+. The internship training aims at creating a deeper understanding of how research funding by the European Commission is organised.

One main focus of the training is to allow the NCP's to build up and deepen their personal contacts with EU policy makers and to gain insight into the "Brussels machinery".

Besides the networking aspect, the NCPs will also be given practical information on how to create a liaison office for RTD in Brussels.

Author Victoria Solitander
<http://see-science.eu/users/1243.html>
 ERA West Balkan+
<http://see-science.eu/org/578.html>

Open Consultation to Define WBC Research Priorities in ICT

The EC funded project SCORE ("Strengthening the Strategic Cooperation between the EU and Western Balkan Region in the field of ICT Research") is running an Open Consultation to find out what are the ICT research priorities for the period 2007-2013 in each of the following Western Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia.

ICT stakeholders, willing to share their own experiences in order to identify ICT research objectives that address ICT technological opportunities and actual socio-economic needs, are invited to participate in the consultation process.

SCORE's main contribution will be the development of four country-specific ICT Strategic Research Agendas, as well as a policy paper with "Recommendations for shaping EU scientific co-operation with the Western Balkan Region in the field of ICT research: 2007-2013" for the EU Commission.

The ICT Strategic Research Agendas will define the ICT research priorities in each country following an open consultation process. The first phase of this consultation process has recently involved key local ICT experts who have indicated precise ICT research priorities for their own countries.

The Open Consultation is now gathering feedback on this Initial Strategic Research Agenda from a broader ICT stakeholder community.

By answering three simple questions by December 10, 2007, the participants can personally contribute to the enrichment of the ICT research priorities already defined for each Western Balkan country, and also identify further research priorities that they consider important.

(Information provided by Desiree Pecarz, ZSI)

Links Online consultation questionnaires
<http://see-science.eu/link/2511.html>
 SCORE project website
<http://see-science.eu/org/2421.html>

The WEB-MOB Project: Development of Researchers' Mobility Policy Guidelines for the Region of Western Balkans

The WEB-MOB project (a Specific Support Action financed by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme) started operating in September 2005, with the objective of developing guidelines related to issues of policy on researchers' mobility in the region of Western Balkans. Taking into consideration the importance placed by the European Commission on issues of incoming and internal mobility in the Western Balkans region, WEB-MOB's main objective was to attract to the region researchers from other regions (inter-regional mobility) or from other countries (intra-regional mobility) - geographical mobility -, and to promote the intersectorial mobility (mobility between industry and academia) and intra-national mobility in the Western Balkan partner countries in order to raise regional cooperation and prevent brain drain in the region. The consortium consisted of seven partners from six different countries (Greece, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Croatia), geographically covering the whole region.

During the lifetime of the WEB-MOB project, the partners have identified existing obstacles to incoming mobility in every country, and which in many cases had not been identified by administrations in charge of research. More specifically, mobility guidelines were developed so as to be useful to national governments for the formulation of common policies in terms of enhancing researchers' mobility and eliminating mobility barriers in the region. The mobility guidelines include recommendations for measures and policies needed to improve national legislation and national research strategies.

Furthermore, the most important dissemination tool developed has been the WEB-MOB portal (<http://see-science.eu/link/2595.html>). The portal is a single-access point which provides visitors with the opportunity to exchange useful information about problems in the area of mobility of researchers, provide information on research organisations and universities and news related to the WEB-MOB project implementation.

Even though the project has just been completed (October 31, 2007), the impact already seems to be not only on a national, but also on a European level, since WEB-MOB project has contributed to national and EU actions related to the mobility and career development of researchers. Another important impact of the project has been the valuable experience on mobility policy issues gained by partners from the Western Balkan countries leading to the establishment of national ERA-MORE Networks (the Serbian national network and the Croatian one). Finally, synergies with European research organisations, universities and Mobility Centres have been encouraged and have influenced the visibility of researchers, universities and research organisations active in R&D in the Western Balkans region.

Author Dimitrios Sanopoulos
<http://see-science.eu/users/2512.html>
 Centre for Research and Technology
 Hellas
<http://see-science.eu/org/2513.html>



Gender and Excellence in S&T - An issue in the Western Balkans?

Addressing gender equality in science is not possible without addressing other forms of discrimination as well. From the perspective of a distinctive social group, excellence in science should be the result of:

1. non-discriminating recruitment into science,
2. non-discriminating conditions for the achievement of excellent results,
3. scientific and societal recognition of excellence based on meritocracy.

In reality, excellence is based on a set of exclusions originating from discrimination within a society, global inequalities and contingencies or circumstances. In fact, the possibility to be recognized as 'excellent' depends on forces of exclusions which are beyond the individual's sphere of influence, individual capacity, productivity, creativity or talent.

In the globalised world of science (and education), location/nation with a certain set of cultural factors determines the level of modernisation and the role of the knowledge economy. The importance of knowledge and expertise greatly varies from one society to another, thus, influencing not only the position of science, but also the position of scientists and their performance. In other words, there is a kind of closed circle between exclusions produced by a location, and self-exclusions of some locations which already lag behind in the modernisation process. Brain drain contributes to the reproduction of those differences.

The unfavourable position of science and education which can be observed in former socialist societies and former industrialized societies going through or having gone through the process of "transition" (i.e. East-Central European societies within the EU or outside) is closely connected to the feminisation of science.

According to the Enwise Report, scientific work is characterised by low salaries, low prestige and bad working conditions. Research clearly shows that both location and gender are crosscutting differences as regards the material, epistemic, technical and administrative as well as emotional support which scientists receive. Women (and other non-dominant groups) are more vulnerable if meritocracy is not exercised through transparent and objective sets of rules and procedures. One major message is that diversity lies at the very core of innovation and exploration, and of knowledge making itself, and if power inequalities are not decreased, knowledge itself loses power, purpose and meaning.

Author

Marina Blagojević
<http://see-science.eu/users/2514.html>
 Altera MB, Gender Research and Policy
 Centre, Budapest

Religion and Higher Education

What better place than Sarajevo to hold a workshop on the issue of "Religion and Higher Education"? Experts gathered on November 16, 2007 in the framework of the UnivSOE project (Mantl/Marko, University of Graz) to discuss this issue after a keynote on the main challenges in the field of religion and higher Education had been given by Dino Abazović from the University of Sarajevo. The results of this workshop as well as the general results of the UnivSOE project will be published next year.

Since September 11, 2001 the worldwide impact of religion, and not only on a political scale, can not be doubted anymore. In the region of SEE the special concept of religious nationalism brought new elites after the fall of communism who had misused religious identities leading to the catastrophe of the 1990's conflicts. Today societies are challenged by rebuilding cooperations and coping with the increasing presence of religions - this also affects higher education systems. Since 1990, all countries of SEE have introduced religious education mostly on a confession-oriented basis. However, not all faculties offering religious education are open to believers and students of other religious communities. Besides, religious symbols in universities are still causing disputes. Despite these problems, the necessity of dialogue at university level has been clearly understood. The introduction of the first interdisciplinary master course in religious studies in Sarajevo this year gives hope that universities may increasingly contribute to improved mutual understanding (www.cps.edu.ba). Catholic, protestant, orthodox Christians, Jews and Muslims are all invited to activate the potential for peace and tolerance in their beliefs in order to pave the way for sustainable cooperation, prosperity and development in the region leading to better regional and European integration.

Author

Hedwig Kopetz
<http://see-science.eu/users/1274.html>
 University of Graz
<http://see-science.eu/org/1273.html>

New Report published

FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency), as project partner in see-science.eu, has produced a study about mobility issues in ERA and Western Balkans. This thematic report, called "Barriers to international mobility and the integration of researchers from Western Balkan Countries (WBC) in the European Research Area (ERA)", describes the most common obstacles to researchers mobility in Europe and the Western Balkan countries. Typical mobility problems that occur in the Western Balkan region are analysed and a special focus on each individual country is given. Furthermore, the report looks at the ERA mobility strategy of the European Commission and summarises its content and the most relevant actions for its implementation, which range from legal and administrative measures to operative information portals. For each operative action the added value and importance for the Western Balkan region are identified and discussed. A part of the report deals with FP7 as the main international source of funding for mobility of researchers and what impact the Western Balkan countries have in this programme. As a conclusion, the need for Western Balkan countries as well as for the EU Member States to take further action towards international mobility is defined.

This thematic report provides a general picture of the development of European mobility issues that have taken place in the last few years, and assesses the impact of these actions on the Western Balkan region. The report is available from: <http://see-science.eu/doc/2334.html>





Why Invest in Science in South Eastern Europe?

This volume is the outcome of the international conference and High Level Round Table 'Why Invest in Science in South Eastern Europe?', held on September 28-29, 2006 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The conference was organised by the UNESCO Office in Venice, the Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology and the Austrian Science and Research Office in Ljubljana. It gathered together ministers and representatives responsible for science and finance from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey, as well as a number of international experts and representatives from international organisations active in South Eastern Europe. Both events acted as an excellent platform where it was possible to evaluate current and potential initiatives in the SEE region in the field of science, research and innovation policies.

UNCESCO Science Policy Series. 5th volume. Proceedings of the International Conference and High Level Round Table 28-29 Sept. 2006, Ljubljana, Slovenia. 254 pp. 2007

Links [link to download a pdf version \(for free\)](http://see-science.eu/doc/2515.html)
<http://see-science.eu/doc/2515.html>



Enlargement Strategy and Progress Reports 2007

The Commission adopted its annual strategy document explaining its policy on EU enlargement on November 6, 2007. The document also includes a summary of the progress made over the last twelve months by each candidate and potential candidate: Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244).

In addition, the 2007 progress reports on the monitoring and assessment of achievements of each of the candidate and potential candidates by the Commission services over the last year were published. The so-called "enlargement package" also contains proposals to the Council for revised European and Accession partnerships for each country, in which the Commission lists areas where further reforms are needed. The Accession/Partnership Agreements state that each country is expected to design an integrated research policy in the medium term (2009/2010). Finally, the Multi-annual Financial Framework sets out the financial assistance available to support the reform efforts of the candidate and potential candidates.

Links [link to download a pdf version \(for free\)](http://see-science.eu/link/2597.html)
<http://see-science.eu/link/2597.html>



SEE-ERA.NET White Paper

This SEE-ERA.NET policy paper offers strategic recommendations and implementation scenarios for connecting the Southeast European research communities to their counterparts throughout Europe. The authors of the SEE-ERA.NET White Paper discuss on the one hand the national and transnational framework for S&T cooperation for the region of Southeast Europe. On the other hand they propose concrete joint actions by setting up of a Regional RTD Programme for cooperation with Southeast Europe. This new programme is building on the experience and the monitoring results of SEE-ERA-NET's successful Pilot Joint Call (PJC). This is outlined in more detail in a separate document, the Joint Action Plan, which can be downloaded at the SEE-ERA.NET website.

SEE-ERA.NET White Paper was recently published in scientific journal Transition Studies Review (TSR), Springer Wien New York, 2007.

Links [link to download a pdf version \(for free\)](http://see-science.eu/doc/2507.html)
<http://see-science.eu/doc/2507.html>

Imprint

The 'Information Office of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries' (see-science.eu) is co-funded by the European Community's Programme for Specific International Scientific Cooperation Activities [http://cordis.europa.eu/inco/home_en.html (INCO)] under the 6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (Contract Number: 031770).

The sole responsibility for the content of this eJournal lies with the authors. It does not represent the opinion of the European Community or the editors of the journal. Neither the European Community nor the editors are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

ISSN: 1991-1750

Subscription & recent issues available at <http://see-science.eu/ejournal/list>

Editors: Elke Dall and Florian Gruber

Layout: Maroš Kollár

Proofreading: Michael John Flynn

Contact: office@see-science.eu

