

Greece

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (1st half 2011 of November 2010 / Becici - May 2011 / Ohrid)

1 Policy actions

With regard to a sustainable economic development five main areas of strategic importance to the country have been identified and serve as priorities. These include: 1) Agro-food, 2) Information and Communication Technologies, 3) Materials/Chemicals, 4) Energy-Environment, and 5) Health/Biomedical.

The process for meeting those priorities (and serving the country's research needs) is based on 4 dimensions/categories of calls. 1) Strengthening and supporting the scientific/research personnel and research infrastructure. This includes a variety of calls such as calls for interdisciplinary research, researcher-initiated research, support for graduate studies and for postdoctoral research. A major new initiative under this category is a call, identical to that for the ERC starting grants for young researchers (expected to be announced by the end of the year). The aim of this call is to attract top young Greek talent in Greece at a moment in time where there are many incentives for good Greek scientists to leave Greece. 2) Encouraging links between the scientific/research community and businesses and entrepreneurs. This program includes calls for spin-offs, innovative cluster creation, and collaborative efforts between private sector and public research institutions. 3) Supporting bilateral and international collaboration, and 4) Outreach and Education for research to the community (particularly youngsters).

Moreover, horizontal actions running through all thematic areas are to :

- a) encourage the mobility of researchers, thus facilitating their integration into more competitive environments abroad, and
- b) assure the transfer of "Best Practices" on RIs and Innovation developed in several EU m-s National Programmes focus on the "knowledge triangle" with emphasis on Excellence and Innovation as the cornerstones of the strategy -back -to -growth path. Hence, the promotion of the scientific and technological excellence and the selection of projects on a competitive basis are the core objectives of the national Calls.

In this respect, the Greek government has elaborated the "National Action Plan for the Enhancement of the Research, Technological Development and Innovation". Among its main

¹ The progress reports are collected in preparation of the meetings of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries and will be provided for download from the WBC-INCO.Net homepage (www.wbc-inco.net) about one week before the meeting takes place. Therefore please submit your report to heribert.buchbauer@bmwf.gv.at by Oct. 24, 2010.

goals is the participation in international networks, whereas additionally all state funded programmes/actions are scheduled to be open to international cooperation. Greece is enhancing in particular the cooperation in Europe. To this end, specific programmes for international S&T cooperation are foreseen as well.

In relation to the WB region, new opportunities for enhanced cooperation between Greece and WBC are anticipated in the context of the new initiatives/actions for RTDI activities in the Framework of the GREEK NATIONAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (2007-2013) operational programmes.

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

The new Investment law forecasts 100million euros for investments under the category R&D, and 50 million euros for investment schemes in the category “Networking”, (Clusters). There are synergies with the R&D sector which are summarised below:

It is foreseen that the investment plans which come under the provisions of the present law shall receive aid for the following expenditure: Research, development and innovation projects and programmes relating to the enterprise's business and products implemented by the enterprise either on its own or in collaboration with research foundations and agencies and advanced and higher education establishments in Greece or the EU.

General investment plans shall be divided into 3 categories, one of which concerns investments in research and technological development. This category comprises investment plans intended for the technological modernisation of enterprises through the use of technological and operational innovations, such as quality assurance and control systems, certification, energy-saving technology, research and development projects and programmes and deployment of specialized scientific and research personnel. . More specifically this category shall be granted aid in the form of grants and leasing subsidies. (80% of the amount shown in the table in Article 5(5) for existing enterprises and 90% for new enterprises). The remaining percentage up to the limit quoted in the table shall be made up by aid in the form of tax relief.

Every investment plan that satisfies the requirements of this category shall be evaluated and graded on the basis of the following criteria:

- ✓ Criteria relating to technological development, innovation and new products and services.
- ✓ Application of advanced technology and innovation (expenditure on know-how, research and development, product design and marketing, quality assurance and control systems, certification and patenting).
- ✓ Development of new products and activities.
- ✓ Application of clean technologies and waste management.
- ✓ Amount of added value.

Among the categories of the special investment plans is the category of Partnerships and networking. This category includes investment plans filed by partnership and networking configurations, the aim of which is to implement programmes which either make use of the enterprises' competitive advantages or infrastructures created with national and Community financing or are designed to bring certain geographically defined production activities and services into line with the modern economic and technological environment. . These configurations shall comprise at least ten enterprises in the Region of Attica and the Thessaloniki prefecture and at least five enterprises in other prefectures, operating in the form of a consortium, which may include enterprises from other Member States of the European Union. Universities, research institutions and legal persons under private law may participate

up to a rate of 20%. The investment plans subsidised include joint operations, such as joint production facilities and equipment, quality control, storage, distribution networks, transport and product and service exhibition and sale facilities and equipment, joint trademarks and e-sales system, joint certification and quality marks, joint staff training etc.

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

Within the framework of the WBC-INCO.NET project the 2nd Innovation Dialogue Forum is in order (25 May 2011) with the view to exploring possibilities for future joint funding mechanisms and other regional initiatives to support RTDI in the WB region.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

In the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Action, a Call for funding projects on a bilateral R&T agreement basis with Serbia has been launched (closing date 10th November 2010). The Call has a budget of 300.000 euros (Greek side). 162 proposals have been submitted, 15 of which are expected to be funded in the upcoming months.

FP7 projects

I-SEE-MOB (‘Inter-sectoral mobility of researchers in the South Eastern Europe’) - FP7-COH-2007-2.2-OMC-NET

Coordinator GSRT, Greece

Partners_Turkey, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Bulgaria, **Serbia**, **Croatia**, **FYROM**, Romania

The overall goal of the project is to promote the inter-sectoral mobility policy issues in South-Eastern Europe by providing guidelines and recommendations for removing remaining obstacles. Additionally, another aim is to enhance industry-academia collaboration in the region. Furthermore, the project aims at identifying the legislation gaps in national legislations on inter-sectoral mobility of researchers. The inter-sectoral mobility will be examined as a criterion for the career development of researchers working in the region of South Eastern Europe.

During the past few months two on-line questionnaires have been developed with a view to recording the industry and academia demands for researchers. So far 110 completed questionnaires have been received. In parallel a legislation gap analysis on inter-sectoral mobility is under preparation. When completed, combined results from both surveys will demonstrate the regional inter-sectoral mobility as it is.

SEERA-EI (South East European Research Area for elnfrastructures) - FP7-

INFRASTRUCTURES-2008-1

Coordinator GRNET, Greece

Partners **Albania**, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Bulgaria, **FYROM**, Moldova, **Montenegro**, Romania, **Serbia**, Turkey

SEERA-EI will capitalise on this momentum and link national-level programme managers and provide an open forum for information exchange, in order to enable coordination of national programmes in elnfrastructures, and to set the framework for a common regional agenda. The

project will gather and exchange information regarding current programmes and carry out a state-of-the-art analysis; produce set of best practices and guidelines for national eInfrastructure programmes; and identify areas for joint regional activities, ranging from short-term soft actions, mid-term policy-level actions, to preparatory activities for long-term actions. SEERA-EI will reduce fragmentation of national programmes, will create a harmonised approach to national-level initiatives in eInfrastructures, will ensure local commitment and will pave the way towards common regional vision, strategy and sustainable cooperation. Thus a common voice on European and international stage will be given to the region, whilst the ERA will be strengthened as a whole, enabling collaborative high-quality research across a spectrum of scientific fields.

During the past five months a series of short-and long-term actions have been determined concerning the development of the eInfrastructures in the region. In this context GSRT and GRNET/ Greece are responsible for the following:

- identifying challenges encountered while implementing trans-national activities;
- drafting a template for regional pilot call;
- conducting a sustainability analysis in terms of exploration of funding models; and
- designing a White Paper for SEE eInfrastructures.

At the moment the preparation of the budget of the Call and dissemination activities are the main on-going tasks.

WBC-INCO.NET

Partners: **Albania**, Austria, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Bulgaria, **Croatia**, France, **FYROM**, Germany, Greece, Italy, **Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)**, **Montenegro**, Romania, **Serbia**, Turkey

The three core objectives of the WBC-INCO.NET are:

- a) to support the bi-regional dialogue on S&T;
- b) to identify RTD priorities and potentials in a transparent and methodologically sound way; and
- c) to enhance the participation of researchers from the WBC in European projects of mutual interest and benefit.

In its ENHANCED activities (Oct.2010-Dec.2013) the project focuses on the innovation status in the region, as described in its WP 8 "Innovation Support". In addition, the project's continuing work will also look up to the innovation aspect.

GSRT as WP4 leader is responsible for building capacities in the region, whereas as WP8 leader is in charge for enhancing activities as regards the innovation development in the region with the view to establishing a functional regional innovation system through future joint funding mechanisms and other activities described in an Action Plan.

In this respect a mapping exercise for updating the NIS's in the region is under preparation in parallel with a survey on the future market and research needs in the WBC. The first results will be presented in the ESB of the project and in the first session of the 2nd Innovation Dialogue Forum/IDF (24-25 May 2011 in Ohrid, FYROM), along with proposals for the future development of the REP-SEE Programm. During the second session of the IDF an open discussion will follow about concrete steps to other regional initiatives to support RTDI.

Additionally, in early May (6-7 May 2011) WBC-INCO.NET has organised back-to-back events with the International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development/ ICEIRD.

SEE-ERA.NET PLUS

Partners: **Albania**, Austria, **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Bulgaria, **Croatia**, France, **FYROM**, Germany, Greece, **Montenegro**, Romania, **Serbia**, Slovenia, Turkey

SEE-ERA.NET PLUS aims at structuring and expanding the European Research Area (ERA) to the Western Balkan countries (WBC) by coordinating and supporting RTD activities previously conducted predominantly at bilateral level.

The Call for Joint European Research Projects (JERPs) launched by SEE-ERA.NET PLUS has a total budget of €3.5 million. This activity engages scientists and key stakeholders in R&D policy-making in the countries participating in the broad SEE-ERA.NET PLUS consortium. GSRT is strongly involved in this project as WP2 “Implementing the call and monitoring” leader.

The EC has approved the implementation of 23 JERPS, among which 8 with Greek participation.

Nationally funded Projects

Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

Partners: **Albania**, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, **Serbia**, Turkey and Ukraine

Coordinator country: Greece (1.5.2010 – 31.4.2012)

In the BSEC framework Greece, Albania and Serbia are involved in collaborative S&T activities following the main purposes and axes of the “2nd BSEC Action Plan on cooperation in science and technology (2010-2014)”. In this context Greece, acting as the present country coordinator of the Working Group of cooperation in Science & Technology, is proposing specific initiatives/actions for the upcoming two-year period.

5 Assessment of the developments and outlook on the next 6 months

A Call for funding projects on a bilateral R&T agreement basis with Albania is foreseen to be implemented till the end of 2011, whereas a new Agreement between Greece and Montenegro on mobility (exchange of scientists and researchers) is expected to replace the old one of 1976.

In the framework of the WBC-INCO.NET project, Greece/GSRT will be in charge for organising back-to-back with the European Conference on ICT for Logistics (ECITL Conference 2011) a training workshop (WP4) for research managers /RTDI stakeholders and a brokerage event, both in the topic of Transport, in Thessaloniki (October 2011).

As regards the BSEC actions, in the upcoming months Greece/GSRT will be actively involved in:

- a conference for boosting innovation in line with the Innovation Union demands, due in June 2011;
- b) a summer school addressed to researchers in the energy field planned to take place in Istanbul, Turkey; and
- c) a cultural event for museum managers/officers organised in relation to proposed activities for the protection of the cultural heritage.