

## **MONTENEGRO**

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (1<sup>st</sup> half 2011 or November 2010 / Becici - May 2011 / Ohrid)**

#### **1 Policy actions**

New Ministry of Science is established in Montenegro on December 29, 2010 in order to promote Montenegro's research and development capabilities. New science minister is Mrs Sanja VLAHOVIC, doctor in economic sciences.

Mrs Vlahovic has built her career in academic institutions in Montenegro and abroad. She teaches leadership and management courses at graduate and postgraduate levels at "Mediterranean" University, University of Montenegro and "Singidunum" University in Belgrade.

Vlahovic is author of the book "Leadership in Contemporary Organizations" (by CID Podgorica) and a number of scientific papers in the field of leadership. She was the reviewer of the Montenegrin edition of the book "According to Kotler". Apart from Kotler, Vlahovic collaborated with a number of renowned professors at George Washington University (USA), Rochester Institute of Technology (USA), London School of Economics, Trinity College, Dublin, etc.

She is the president of the Rotary Club of Bar and a long-term Rotarian. She has been honored with the most prestigious award of Rotary International – a "Paul Harris Pin" for her outstanding contribution to humanitarian work.

The new Council for Scientific-Research Activity, comprising 11 members, is nominated by the Government. Four members of the Council are nominated from the representatives of the bodies of public administration in charge of science, higher education, economy and finances. Seven members are nominated from the distinguished experts who contribute to the development and application of scientific research activity, from scientific research institutions, higher education institutions, Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts and the business sector. The president of the Council is prof. Igor Radusinovic, ex Deputy Minister of Department of Science, Research and Technological Development.

#### **2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework**

In December 2010, the Government of Montenegro adopted the new Law on Scientific-Research Activity. The Law regulates the priorities in scientific research activity, which are realised through fourteen programmes of public interest. Programmes of public interest are, among others, the programmes by which scientific-research institutions and researchers can involve in European Research Area and international scientific programmes. In the new Law on Scientific - Research Activity normatively is regulated the possibility of establishing Centres of Excellence. The Ministry regulated the stimulation of quality of scientific research work by: awarding prizes for scientific achievements to researchers; realising programmes of public interest by which scientific

productivity in the form of publication of scientific works in referent scientific publications and other forms is stimulated; and giving the status of the Centre of Excellence to the scientific research institution or group of researchers in an institution.

The annual Call for co-financing of scientific-research activity was announced on May 9, 2011, comprising of 13 instruments: Support to participation in FP7, for all projects with Montenegrin coordinators that have been positively evaluated, Co-financing of approved FP7 projects; Stimulating research teams in approved COST Actions; Scholarships for master studies; Scholarships for PhD studies; Participation of researchers at scientific congresses abroad; Organizing scientific congresses in Montenegro; Mobility programmes of researchers; Stimulating programmes of promotion of science in education and society of Montenegro; Cooperation with scientific diaspora; Subscriptions to databases of scientific research works; Publishing scientific papers in international journals in 2011; Co-financing publishing of scientific journals in Montenegro and Stimulating authors of patents and innovative solutions.

The Strategy for the development of SMEs 2011-2015 was adopted in January 2011. A specific area of increasing innovative capability of SMEs was developed jointly by the Directorate for the development of SMEs and the Ministry of Science with activities to be implemented in a coordinated manner.

The Ministry of science undertook the action of intersectoral coordination in order to increase the budget for financing of research projects in thematic priorities starting from 2011. Working groups have been formed and the preparation of the next call for proposals has started. It is planned to open the call in summer, with start of the projects from the end of 2011.

The Government of Montenegro has initiated a project for a World Bank loan in the field of higher education and research. Development of the project fiche is in course and should be completed by November 2011.

### **3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.**

Minister of Science participated at Informal meeting of Ministers for Research (Competitiveness Council), that was organized by the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union on 11-12 April 2011.

In the plan of promoting FP7 and EUREKA Programme for 2011, the Ministry of Science foreseen more activities involving small and medium sized enterprises. The first promotion was held at the Food Fair in Budva, on March 10.

Promotion of Marie Curie programme was held in Euraxess conference on The European Charter of Researchers and The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers on May 11, 2011.

### **4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA**

#### Bilateral agreements on scientific and technological cooperation:

On March 18, the bilateral agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between Montenegro and Republic of Bulgaria was signed.

On March 21, the bilateral agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between Montenegro and Republic of Serbia was signed.

On May 16, the bilateral agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between Montenegro and The People's Republic of China was signed.

The Call for co-financing scientific and technological cooperation between Montenegro and the Republic of Austria for the period from July 1, 2011 until June 30, 2013 was announced on February 1, 2011, and 5 projects are positively evaluated. It is expected that Joint Montenegrin-Austrian Commission will approve them for financing at the end of June. The project implementation starts on July 1, 2011.

The Call for co-financing scientific and technological cooperation between Montenegro and the Republic of Slovenia for the 2012 and 2013 was announced on April 15, 2011.

Two research teams from University of Montenegro, Faculty of Electrical Engineering were approved to join the running COST Actions. We hope that several teams will join Actions by the end of the year. After that we will consider formal application of our country for COST membership.

The Government of Montenegro has adopted two action plans important for the area of international cooperation: Action plan on mobility of researchers 2011-2012 and Action plan on the involvement of Montenegro in the programme EUREKA.

The Action plan on mobility sets three priorities:

1. Strengthening basis for the outgoing mobility, with the main actions aimed at improvement of working conditions of mobile researchers in their institutions and planning of a national research mobility fellowship programme for the period after 2012.
2. Enhancing incoming mobility, with the main actions in opening of the national programmes for research project to experienced foreign researchers and facilitating the networking of Montenegrin institutions for mobility and training of young researchers.
3. Strengthening the inter-sectoral mobility, with a set of actions on improvement of the legislative framework, training of administration and promotional activities.

In the development of the Action plan, the Ministry of Science of Montenegro referred to the European Partnership for Researchers. The proposed actions are in line with the recommendations from this strategic framework.

According to the plan on EUREKA, Montenegro will set the conditions for joining the initiative during 2011 while the funds for first EUREKA projects will be available as from 2012.

The Ministry of Science has prepared nominations of new representatives in ERA committees, Programme Committees, as well as National Contact Points for Seventh Framework Programme.

## **5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data**

The Ministry of Science and Statistical Office of Montenegro (Monstat) have completed all preparations in order to conduct a statistical survey on research and development, this year for the first time, in accordance with EU regulations on scientific statistics, as a pilot survey. The survey will be done between April and August 2011 this year. Therefore, we expect to have more valid statistical data on science, including the number of researchers as a full-time equivalent and gross expenditure on research and development.

## **6 Assessment of the developments and outlook on the next 6 months**

In the next period, Ministry will more focus on cooperation of research institutions with private sector. Also, The Ministry of Science will realize two feasibility studies in 2011 for: Science parks (in cooperation with Ministry of Information Society and Telecommunications) and Centers of excellence (IPA Funds from EU Delegation in Montenegro).