

TURKEY

PROGRESS REPORT¹

on recent developments regarding S&T cooperation in/with the WBC (May 2011 / Ohrid)

1 Policy actions

(e.g. essential changes in the political authorities, administrative bodies, agencies, institutions, personnel, development/launch of new national funding programmes, etc.)

N/A

2 Legislative initiatives - development of the legal and strategic framework

N/A

3 Important events, meetings, training activities, etc.

A regional dialogue meeting was held on 3 May 2011 in Ohrid, FYR Macedonia, in order to prepare a joint response of the Enlargement Countries towards the EC Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU research and innovation funding. Following the meeting and the continuous consultation process, a Joint Response paper of the Enlargement Countries was submitted to the European Commission.

In the framework of People Network project under the Marie Curie programme, a twinning visit was organized by TUBITAK. The Marie Curie National Contact Point from FYR Macedonia was hosted at TUBITAK headquarters in Ankara. The best practices of TUBITAK NCPs and the Turkish NCP system were shared. Already acquired experiences on formulation of project proposals and further recommendations were also presented by well-known experts through dedicated visits of the experienced researchers, academicians and industry representatives.

4 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA

(e.g. new bilateral/international agreements, memberships, support structures, important international projects, programmes, etc.)

Development of bilateral cooperation

With most of the WBC countries Turkey has concluded negotiations for the signing of protocols or memoranda for S&T cooperation.

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 office@wbc-inco.net until Monday, May 16, 2011.

In order to activate the S&T Cooperation Protocol between TUBITAK and Croatia Ministry for Science and Technology, an Implementation Programme has been proposed TUBITAK to the Croatian side. Further steps have been taken to accelerate the conclusion of the Implementation Programme.

A process has been started with the Ministry of Science of Montenegro to sign a science and technology cooperation protocol. The newly started initiative to sign a implementation protocol between TUBITAK and the Ministry of Science of Montenegro will give an impetus to the science and technology cooperation between the two countries.

Integration into the ERA

In terms of integration into the ERA, an initiative was proposed by TUBITAK to establish a joint position as “Enlargement Countries” with regard to the next framework programme which is due after 2013. This initiative was first brought to the agenda at the previous Regional Dialogue meeting in November 2010 in Montenegro. The motivation was to speak with a single voice towards EU, regarding the concerns and expectations of the Enlargement Countries in the next research and innovation funding programme after FP7. TUBITAK has, then, coordinated the process of consultation among the Enlargement Countries to prepare and submit to the European Commission a Joint Position for the next framework programme. The joint position of the Enlargement Countries, was submitted to the European Commission early February, just before the European Commission published the Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation funding.

After the European Commission published its first orientations with the Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation funding, and launched a process of consultation, the Enlargement Countries came together to prepare a joint response to the EC Green Paper. A regional dialogue meeting was held in Ohrid, FYR Macedonia on 3 May 2011 in order to discuss the issues pertinent to the Enlargement Countries and the orientations in the Green Paper. A joint response was prepared and submitted to the EC before the end of the Consultation.

5 Statistics - major changes / updates of relevant statistical data

N/A

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

(Optional personal opinion)

Bilateral Cooperation

In the coming months, an Implementation Programme for S&T Cooperation is expected to be signed between TUBITAK and the Republic of Macedonia.

The Protocol for S&T cooperation between Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and TUBITAK is expected to be signed in the near future.

A draft Protocol for S&T cooperation is under negotiation between the Republic of Turkey and the government of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Upon the signature of an S&T cooperation protocol between TUBITAK and Albanian Ministry of Science and Education, a draft call text for the first call is under negotiation. The call is expected in the coming months.

The signature of the mentioned Protocol with the Ministry of Science of Montenegro is also expected in the coming six months.

Integration into the ERA

In the coming months, we would like to bring to the agenda the situation of Enlargement Countries with regard to the JRC Enlargement Actions. We believe that the Enlargement Countries shall get more actively involved in the definition and preparation of JRC Enlargement Actions. There are significant opportunities for the Enlargement Countries regarding the JRC initiatives. It would be to the advantage of the countries involved to proactively provide input to JRC in the definition of JRC Enlargement Actions. It is also possible to jointly discuss and agree on certain measures that we can ask JRC to consider as part of its integration actions. We are ready to take the responsibility to coordinate such a process among the Enlargement Countries, if such an initiative would be supported among the Enlargement Countries and noted in the minutes of this Platform. As a roadmap, we would first prepare a background document to increase our information about the actions and consult among Enlargement Countries about what we can do. Following this, through electronic exchanges, we can develop common considerations and demands that can be addressed to JRC. Then, we can organize a two day meeting in Brussels in the second half of 2011, in order to finalize our common considerations and demands on the first day, and to invite and discuss these with the JRC officials on the second day. For this issue, we expect all the Enlargement countries to reflect upon whether they would be involved in and support such an initiative or not.

Appendix: additional data

(Delete if not applicable.)

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