



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community Research

Prospects for South Eastern Europe Countries Seventh Framework Programme 2007-2013

**Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
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Political Context

- **Future of Western Balkan Countries in Europe**
- **Research core EU policy**
- **Use research as a tool to facilitate integration into EU**
- **Create synergies with other external instruments/IPA**

Western Balkans Countries in EU

Political & legal relationship with EU is different for each WBC:

- **Croatia: candidate country; negotiations opened on 3 October 2005; (Chapter 25 on Science and Research provisionally closed)**
- **FYRom: candidate country/no opening of negotiations**
- **Albania: potential candidate country; Stabilisation Agreement signed in June 2006**
- **Bosnia & Herzegovina: potential candidate country; SAA under negotiation**
- **Montenegro: potential candidate country; negotiations on SAA started in September 2006**
- **Serbia: Potential Candidate Country; negotiations on SAA suspended**
- **Kosovo: EU engaged in status process**

Western Balkans Countries & Research

- **Research is part of SAA between EU & WBCs: Article 109 encourage R&D cooperation**
- **Updated Action Plan 2006: design integrated research policy: short/medium term priority**
- **Progress on research regularly monitored (8 Nov.)**
- **Pre-accession strategy: facilitate association to all EU programmes**
- **Association to Research Framework/FP7: most important pre-accession instrument**
- **Possibility to use IPA for research promotion: 2 or 5 components**

Western Balkans Countries & Research (2)

- **Croatia: associated to FP6/2006; request association to FP7 (EC and Euratom)**
- **Serbia: request association to FP7 (EC and Euratom part)**
- **Albania: association to FP7 under consideration**
- **FYRom: third country/project basis; no request**
- **B&H: third country participation; no request**
- **Montenegro: third country participation; no request**
- **Kosovo: can participate (status complicates)**

Research a tool to facilitate integration

- **Complying/aligning with EU legislation in areas of environment, health, energy, phyto-sanitary measures requires research;**
- **JRC: special programmes for all enlargement countries;**
- **collaborative research with EU helps economic development/increases prosperity (quality of life);**
- **stimulate regional development: encourage cooperation among WBCs and with EU neighbours.**

Western Balkans Countries in FP6

Key Figures (Statistics, 7/2006)

- **Croatia: associated to FP6 for 2006; mainly Inco projects but lately also thematic participation**
- **All others: third country/project basis**
- **Participation Serbia: already very good (small projects and very successful in special capacity building calls for WBCs 20 projects)**
- **FYRom: good as third country in SSAs**
- **Albania, B&H, Montenegro: very limited**
- **Kosovo: no / status**

WBC Steering Platform for Research

- **Launched in Vienna in June 2006 by Austrian Presidency & Commissioner Potočník**
- **Ensure continuation from Thessaloniki agenda: Action Plan**
- **Confirmation of overall political commitment: future of WBCs in Europe**
- **Research important tool for integration**
- **Doors of European Research Area widely open to all WBCs (Potočník)**
- **How: make conditions for FP7 attractive (financial contribution)**
- **Expect in return that WBCs are active at national level on research**
- **Use IPA funding for research promotion**

WBC Steering Platform (2)

- **Ownership with WBCs: come up with ideas**
- **Identify priorities/needs: provide input**
- **Clearing house between WBCs and Commission and all other stakeholders (Stability pact; EIB; Nato, Cost)**
- **Supported by SSA: Information Office to support Platform (www.see-science.eu)**
- **Need more/institutional framework: possible action under FP7/Capacities/IncoNet**
- **But first: create synergies with existing mechanism/link with See.Era.Net; avoid duplication**

WBC Steering Platform (3) input/priorities

- **awareness actions: role of research policy - how to design an integrated research policy, training and exchange of experience of research administrators; links with other EU policies; Lisbon strategy;**
- **collaborative research; association to FP7 - explanation of: procedures, strategy on terms and conditions, possibilities and benefits under FP 7; National Contact Points;**
- **human resources: facilitate movement of researchers/mobility obstacles (visa, others?); attract best researchers through offering career prospect;**
- **infrastructure: improve research capacity (laboratories, institutes, equipment).**



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Need to prepare for FP7

FP7 - Specific Programmes

Specific Programmes

***Cooperation* – Collaborative research**

***Ideas* – Frontier Research**

***People* – Human Potential**

***Capacities* – Research Capacity**

+

JRC (non-nuclear)

JRC (nuclear)

Euratom

EC & EURATOM FP7 – International Dimension

- **Cooperation**: 10 thematic areas: best way to integrate research efforts; also Specific International Actions;
- **Ideas**: ERC; funding excellence; attract best researchers;
- **People**: Marie-Curie actions: outgoing and incoming fellowships; networks of research;
- **Capacities - International**: research needs of third countries; coherence of national programmes; Inco – Nets;
- **Euratom**: fusion energy research; nuclear fission and radiation protection.

Capacities – International Cooperation

- **3 activities in W/P 2007-2008:**
 - **Bi-regional Coordination & S&T Cooperation: Inco-Net – for example WBC Inco-Net**
 - **Bilateral S&T Cooperation Partnership**
 - **Coordination of National Inco Policies: ERA.NET**

FP 7 PARTICIPANTS

- **EU Member States (27)**
- **Third Countries:**
 - **Associated candidate countries (2,3, 7?)**
 - **Associated Countries (e.g. Israel, Switzerland, Norway)**
 - **Third countries/INCO (Neighbourhood countries, WBCs, Turkey, Asia & developing countries)**
 - **Industrial countries**

Western Balkan Countries under FP7

- **Candidate Countries: Croatia & FYRom**
- **Potential Candidate Countries: Albania; B&H, Montenegro, Serbia & Kosovo**
- **But participant to FP7: not a question of candidate or potential candidate country**
- **But: associated (MOU) or not**
- **Associated: “as if” Member State**
- **Not associated: participation as third country/project basis**

Association Procedure

- **Framework Agreement between WBCs and European Community on general principles for participation in all Community programmes: exists for all WBCs**
- **Need request from country: received from Serbia (letter Minister Popovič) and from Croatia (letter from Minister Primorac)**
- **Conditions for association : attractive and same for all WBCs (open door policy)**
- **Once requested: draft MOU and Commission decision: about 4 months**
- **Signature of MOU between requested country and European Commission/Commissioner J. Potočnik: entry into force.**



Terms & Conditions

- **Association to FP7 for 2007-2013**
- **Financial contribution to EU budget but: rebate**
- **Participation as observer in Programme Committees and Board of Governors of JRC; need administrative capacity;**
- **Respect IPR rights**
- **Respect Anti-fraud measures**

Associated Participant Advantages

- **Fully consulted on specific programmes and work programme;**
- **Observer in Committees;**
- **Covered by minimum number of participants: no longer dependent on W/P;**
- **Can be call coordinator;**
- **Can participate in more actions: e.g. Intracommunity Marie-Curie; Article 169; more options in JRC, security research**

- **Entire package to be adopted by the end of November 2006;**
- **First calls of proposals: end of December/January 2007;**
- **Early preparation/raise awareness very important;**
- **Conferences/workshops on specific themes to increase collaboration in strategic areas at national and European level.**

Recommendations for WBC

- **Raise awareness on role of research as a tool for economic development;**
- **Early preparation for FP7: information sessions;**
- **Concentrate on collaborative research;**
- **Set thematic priorities: identify strengths;**
- **Continue efforts at regional level: be active in Steering Platform for Western Balkan Countries.**

Conclusion

Association to FP7 a strategic and important decision
Seize the opportunity offered by Commissioner Potocnik!
Commission ready to help

=> Success!