

Fact Sheet WBC-INCO.NET

April 2009

Project title: Western Balkan
Countries
INCO.NET



Web page: www.wbc-inco.net

EU Funding: 2,05 Mio. €

Start of the project: 01.01.2008

Duration: 48 months

Scientific officer

at the EU Commission: Michele Genovese

Project Coordinator: Centre for Social Innovation (Koordination), CSI,
Austria

Contact person IB (DLR): Dr. Ulrike Kunze (PT-DLR), (ulrike.kunze@dlr.de)

Project Partners

	Name	Acronym	Land
1	Centre for Social Innovation (Koordination)	CSI	Austria
2	Ministry of Education and Science	MOES	Albania
3	Ministry of Science, Education and Sports	MZOS	Croatia
4	Ministry of Education and Science	MON-MK	FYR of Macedonia
5	Ministry of Education and Science	MPIN	Montenegro
6	Ministry of Science and Technological Development	MSTD	Serbia
7	Foundation for Higher Education World University Service	SUS BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
8	Mihajlo Pupin Institute	MPI	Serbia
9	Institute of social sciences Ivo Pilar	IvoPilar	Croatia
11	Kosova Education Center	KEC	Serbia including Kosovo as defined by UNSC resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999
12	CIVET2000 SH.P.K.	CIVET	Albania
13	Slovenian Business & Research Association aisbl	SBRA	Slovenia
14	South East European Research Centre	SEERC	Greece
15	Universiteit Maastricht (United Nations University, Maastricht Economic	UNU-MERIT	Netherlands

Name	Acronym	Land
and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology)		
16 Joint Research Centre - IPTS	JRC	Belgium/ Spain
17 Deutsches Zentrum fuer Luft- und Raumfahrt e. V. (Project Management Agency in DLR)	PT-DLR	Germany
18 Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH (Austrian Research Promotion Agency)	FFG	Austria
19 Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey)	TÜBİTAK	Turkey
20 General Secretariat for Research and Technology (of the Ministry of Development, Greece)	GSRT	Greece
21 Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology	MHEST	Slovenia
22 Federal Ministry of Science and Research (Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung)	BMWF	Austria
23 Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung)	BMBF	Germany
24 Ministry of Education and Science	MES-CRA	Bulgaria
25 Turkish Research and Business Organizations A.I.S.B.L.	TURBO	Belgium/ Turkey
26 Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea	APRE	Italia

General information about IncoNet-Projects

Background: Strengthen the bi-regional Dialogue between countries of the European Research Area (ERA) and the target region.

Objectives:

INCO-Net projects are aimed at establishing *bi-regional dialogues* that will:

- Promote and structure the participation of third countries in the activities of FP7.
- Promote regional integration and will lead to the identification and the prioritisation of common research areas of mutual interest and benefit.
- Facilitate the uptake and use of common identified research areas and the monitoring of performance and impacts of international S&T cooperation across the Specific Programmes of FP7.

Activities:

- *Dialogue:*

- Establish a Forum for active and constant exchange of views between European and non- European stakeholders
- Strengthen the synergies between international S&T dialogues and the objectives of the external relations actions
- Exchange of views with policy makers from the target region to focus on interdisciplinary issues with a real need for coordination of S&T policies and new rules that arise from the globalisation of research and S&T cooperation.
- Identify areas with potential for enhanced co-ordination with Member States and Associated States on the one hand, and the countries from the target region covered by the INCO-NET on the other
- Implementation and Dissemination activities:
 - Setting up or strengthening platforms for strategic analysis and anticipation with a focus on connecting global trends and issues to regional specificities
 - Setting regional networks / fora with all relevant stakeholders
 - Increase awareness and dissemination of FP7 activities, their goal and tools
 - Disseminating results
- Monitoring and review:
 - Continuous monitoring and review of ongoing cooperation activities

Project description

WBC-INCO.NET aims at coordinating research policies in and with the countries of the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Ongoing projects and initiatives are to be pooled in order to take better advantage of synergies and close existing gaps by introducing new structural measures.

The project has the following **aims**:

- Supporting the bi-regional dialogue on R&D policy between the participating countries in cooperation with the "Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries", which was launched in 2006 as a political forum for the exchange of information on R&D policy in and with the countries of the Western Balkans.
- Identifying the R&D priorities and potential of the target countries in a transparent and methodical way to help them formulate their research policies and strategies. This will then give input to future work programmes and calls for proposals within the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7).
- Improving the participation of researchers from the Western Balkans in EU projects of mutual interest.

WBC-INCO.NET is based on the results of [SEE-ERA.NET](#) and pursues a strategy of close cooperation between the two projects.

A special feature of this INCO-NET is the fact that the target region is not made up of

Third Countries, but mostly of associated countries to FP7 (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia). This means that these countries do not have the special status of third countries (in other words, there are no specially adapted calls for proposals – no SICAs), but that they take part under the normal conditions of FP7.

A total of **7 work packages** are planned within WBC-INCO.NET. They will cover the following responsibilities:

- WP1: European and Regional Dialogue
- WP2: Priority Setting to Structure Participation in FP7
- WP3: Monitoring and Analysis of S&T Cooperation
- WP4: Building Capacities
- WP5: Facilitating Networking and Increase Participation in FP7
- WP6: Project Management
- WP7: Dissemination

Numerous analyses are to be carried out within these work packages. The results will then be used in the political dialogue. These efforts will not only focus on the exchange of opinions between the project partners, but especially on talks with representatives from various Directorates-General of the European Commission (DG Research, DG Enlargement, DG Education and Culture, DG Information Society and Media, and DG Enterprise and Industry). These efforts will be coordinated with other INCO.NET projects.

Active participation of the International Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (DLR)

IB together with BMBF is leader of work package 2 and responsible for several tasks of other work packages.

Highlights

Executive Steering Board Meetings

- 1st Executive Steering Board Meeting / Kick off Meeting WBC-INCO.NET, 1. Februar 2008 in Ljubljana (Slowenien)
- 2nd (virtual) Executive Steering Board Meeting, 4. April 2008 (WebConference).
- 3rd (virtual) Executive Steering Board Meeting, 20. Mai 2008 (WebConference).
- 4th Executive Steering Board Meeting, 12. Juni 2008 in Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- 5th (virtual) Executive Steering Board Meeting, 10. September 2008 (WebConference).
- 6th (virtual) Executive Steering Board Meeting, 6. Oktober 2008 (WebConference)
- 7th (virtual) Executive Steering Board Meeting, 6. November 2008 (WebConference)
- 8th Executive Steering Board Meeting, 18. Dezember 2008 in Paris (Frankreich)
- 9th (virtual) Executive Steering Board Meeting, 17. February 2009 (WebConference)
- 10th (virtual) Executive Steering Board Meeting, 18. März 2009 (WebConference)

Plenary Meetings

- 1st Plenary Meeting / Kick off Meeting WBC-INCO.NET, 1. Februar 2008 in Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Steering Platform Meetings

- 4th Steering Platform Meeting, June 13, 2008 in Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Steering Platform Meeting, December 19, 2008 in Paris (France)

State of affairs and intermediate results

After 16 months, some events were carried out and different deliverables submitted. Especially in Work Package 2, two consultation sessions in the fields of ICT and AgroFood were held after intensive preparatory measures (December 10, 2008 in Belgrade, Serbia and January 15 and 16, 2009 in Podgorica, Montenegro). As a result, common research priorities were defined in these two fields by the Western Balkan countries and the EU that will give input to the Single Joint Call of the SEE-ERA.NET PLUS project. Furthermore they will be communicated to the EC Directorates responsible for the FP7 Themes.

Planned activities from January 2009 to June 2009

- Executive Steering Board Meeting, 27. Mai 2009 in Liblice near Prague (Czech Republic)
- Steering Platform Meeting, 28. Mai 2009 in Liblice near Prague (Czech Republic)

Further seminars will be carried out on the subjects of Health (in Albania on May 12 and 13, 2009), Transport (in Bosnia-Herzegovina on May 19 and 20, 2009) and Environment (in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on June 16 and 17, 2009).