

This document is part of a Series of Abstracts of Documents regarding ICT Policy in the West Balkans and has been developed in the framework of the ICT/FP7 funded project:



ABSTRACT

Policy Paper - Forum on Research for Innovation in ICT for the Western Balkan Countries



30 November 2010, Hyatt Hotel, Belgrade, Serbia

December 2010

Document Lead: ZSI

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ICT INNOVATION FORUM	
Forum on Research for Innovation in ICT for the Western Balkan Countries	
30 November 2010, Hyatt Hotel, Belgrade, Serbia	
AGENDA	
Chairpersons:	
Prof. dr. Miroslav Nedjeljovic Ministry of Science and Technological Development Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dr. Srecko Pucelj DG Information Society and Media, European Commission Advisor
	Mr. Miroslav Sarvanovic Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society Serbia
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and registration
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome speech by the hosting Serbian Ministers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miroslav Djukić – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and Technological Development • Jelena Janković – Minister of Telecommunications and Information Society
10:00 – 10:15	Introduction by the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Srecko Pucelj – Deputy Director-General of EC DG Information Society and Media
10:15 – 10:30	Western Balkans' integration in the European Research Area (ERA): the need for intra-regional cooperation – Best Practices from Croatia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miroslav Nedjeljovic – Minister of Science, Education and Sport
10:30 – 10:45	Western Balkans' integration in the European Research Area (ERA): the need for intra-regional cooperation – Best Practices from Slovenia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jozef Gomboc – State Secretary of the Slovene Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Sport
10:45 – 11:00	Priorities, Challenges, Common Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Srecko Pucelj – Advisor for Inter-regional Cooperation, Integration of New Member States and Regional Aspects for IPTD – EC DG Information Society and Media
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00	Leading Initiatives in the region to meet the challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Delegates
12:00 – 13:00	Open Debate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Delegates and observers
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Statements by the Delegates: common challenges and ways to address them
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:00 – 16:10	Joint Declaration – Purpose and Description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the Ministers of Science and Technological Development
16:10 – 16:30	Discussion of Delegates on the Joint Declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miroslav Nedjeljovic – State Secretary of the Serbian Ministry of Science and Technological Development
16:30 – 16:40	Conclusions and adoption of Joint Declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miroslav Nedjeljovic – State Secretary of the Serbian Ministry of Science and Technological Development
16:40 – 16:50	Reading – Purpose and Description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the Ministers of Telecommunications and Information Society
16:50 – 17:10	Discussion of Delegates on the Roadmap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miroslav Sarvanovic – State Secretary of the Serbian Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society
17:10 – 17:30	Conclusions and Adoption of Roadmap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miroslav Sarvanovic – State Secretary of the Serbian Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society
17:30 – 17:35	Closing Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Srecko Pucelj – Advisor DG Information Society and Media, European Commission
17:35 – 17:40	Screening dinner by the Ministries of Telecommunications and Information Society and Science and Technological Development in the Belgrade Hyatt Club
00:00	

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TAKE AWAYS

- ✓ At Invitation key relevant ministerial representatives from the Western Balkan countries met in Belgrade on 30 November 2010, in order to discuss on common expectations in ICT research and innovation as well as challenges and actions to address them.
- ✓ The discussion has the format of a FORUM which is the 3rd of a series of dialogue forums supported by WINS-ICT, but definitely the first one that reached the right level of political representation.
- ✓ The **FORUM** led to the adoption of,
 - a Joint Declaration and
 - a provisional Road Map.
- ✓ All countries present, expressed the hope the Forum to become permanent and that it should be linked with the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan.
- ✓ The Forum was co-chaired by:

Prof. dr. Milos Nedeljkovic
Ministry of Science and Technology Development
State Secretary

Dr. Stephan Pascall
DG Information Society and Media,
European Commission Adviser

Mr. Milos Stevanovic
Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society
State Secretary

Dialogue Fora on ICT Research for the Western Balkan countries

The Forum was officially launched in Belgrade on 21st May 2009 yet the 3rd round of the ICT Forum in Belgrade

The ICT Forum (originally Dialogue Forum) was created in order to become the Platform of the Western Balkan Countries for the discussion on those ICT research related policy issues requiring consideration by high-level decision makers on the regional level. It shall ideally moreover link with the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries specifically as for the ICT research field.

The Forum convened twice in 2009 with logistic support by the WINS-ICT project. In both meetings WBC ministerial representatives participated and they represented an opportunity to conduct a debate on the current factors hindering ICT RTD international cooperation under the 7th Framework Program and corresponding policy measures.

turned out to be the most prominent and

effective meeting

The WB countries,

together with the

European

Commission

and neighboring

states

Bulgaria and

Slovenia,

have identified the

need to reinforce the

coordination of

national

policies and

strategies

to allow for a more

efficient integration

of the region

into the European

R&D ICT arena

The ICT Forum in Belgrade on November 30th 2010 was the third and most prominent meeting since it achieved attendance by Ministers, Deputy Ministers and other relevant governmental institutions dealing with ICT policies in the WB and neighbouring countries.

The participants had the opportunity to discuss ways to deepen interregional as well as EU-WBC research and technological development cooperation.

The Forum concluded its works with a joint declaration for the adoption of 15 regional ICT priorities and common solutions for tackling the problems hindering research co-operation.

The Forum operations in 2011 focus on a taskforce to examine the necessity and the resources for setting up a permanent office along with practical issues such as;

- The exact format, finances, number of staff, location and legal entity;
- Setting up a draft agenda for the Forum, as an addition to the more general Roadmap on the implementation of agreed joint policies.

Beides, 3 Expert Working Groups will deal with:

- ICT RTD infrastructure
- ICT RTD human capital
- ICT RTD for Government and Public Services

State of Play in the WBC: technology audits outcomes

General remarks

Overall Participation and

Success Rate in the

FP7 Cooperation

Several technology audits that conducted in the WBC lately resulted in the following remarks:

The average GERD for EU countries is 1.84% of GDP with the aim of raising it to 3% by 2010, while in the WB area spending is largely under 1% and only Slovenia with about 1.6%. spending is closer to the EU

Programme average - Croatia spends about 1.1%.

in fact can be misleading Regarding Research Intensity (No. of researchers in the labour force) with the exception of Montenegro and Croatia, the Western Balkan Countries are seriously lagging behind EU countries in research intensity as measured by GERD and the number of researchers. Serbia though is catching up concerning the number of R&D personnel.

(16`% success rate of FYROM for instance)

as most of the projects are coordination and support actions and not actual research projects When it comes to bilateral cooperation within the WB region itself, the most intensive intra-regional bilateral cooperation among the WBC is coordinated by Croatia and Serbia.

Overall the situation is not optimal due to lack of critical mass of Innovation actors, capacities and infrastructures, a catalyst that would enable these countries to be competitive at EU and international level.

An initiative worth mentioning is the establishment of a Venture Capital Fund to operate in the WBC for investing in high technology companies which is warmly supported at least by all WBC countries.

Joint declaration

Permeability of well established networks and project consortia is difficult,

To emphasize that the future of the Western Balkans (WB) is within the European Union (EU), and that preparation for integration into European structures and implementation of European standards are the biggest challenge ahead, this Forum attempted to consolidate the dialogue on research for innovation in information and communication technologies (ICT) for the WB countries, which are associated with the EU's Framework Programme on RTD, through a joint declaration.

low level of interest in RTD by the private sector , no unified policy to support the FP7-ICT participation as in some countries

A brief outline of the recommend actions is following:

1. To increase public investment RTD in general and RTD ICT in particular;
2. To encourage the increase of private sector investment of RTD in general and RTD ICT in particular;
3. To further develop RTD infrastructure, especially e-infrastructure which facilitates exchange and flow of knowledge and information as well as access to the common RTD infrastructure used for ICT research;
4. To create conditions for the reversal of the scientific and technological Brain Drain;

***ICT is not yet
recognized as
priority no 1***

***collaboration
between private
sector
and academia, as
well***

***lack of expertise in
project management***

5. To strengthen the knowledge transfer between ICT research innovation and deployment within Western Balkan Countries, and to foster openness of the fund-based projects' results.
6. To plan and build optical infrastructure in WBC, CBR (cross border fiber) interconnected and building of interconnected computing clouds in each WBC to enable highly efficient ICT services for both research and government institutions
7. To ensure the leading role of ICT education in respective national education strategies and programmes and the development of instruments for assertion and recognition of ICT qualifications of specialists and users in order to increase further professional qualification and mobility of the ICT specialists;
8. To offer incentives for the participation of academic institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in EU programmes and to provide suitable training in proposal writing, consortium building and project management

Provisional Road Map

***Invitation to join the
Forum is
extended to
other neighboring
countries (Greece,
Romania, Hungary,
Austria, Italy, etc.).***

The Roadmap provides a timeframe for the implementation of common recommendations agreed upon in the joint declaration during the Forum on Research for Innovation in ICT for the Western Balkan Countries on the 30th of November 2010.

In order to deal with all identified priorities concerning ICT RTD cooperation in the Western Balkan region, the Forum will become a permanent Forum.

The Forum will appoint a taskforce to examine the necessity and the resources for setting up a permanent office including practical issues such as;

- The exact format, finances, number of staff, location and legal entity;
- Setting up a draft agenda for the Forum, as an addition to the more general Roadmap on the implementation of agreed joint policies.

LIST OF COUNTRY DELEGATES and EC REPRESENTATIVES

No.	Name	First Name	Country	Position	Organisation
1	MATIC	Jasna	Serbia	Minister	Ministry of telecommunications and information society
2	DJELIC	Bozidar	Serbia	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and Technological Development	Ministry of science and technological development
3	NEDELJKOVIC	Milos	Serbia	State Secretary	Ministry of science and technological development
4	NEDOVIC	Viktor	Serbia	international cooperation and european integrations	Ministry of science and technological development
5	STEVANOVIC	Milos	Serbia	State Secretary	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society
6	VASILJEVIC	Nebojsa	Serbia	Assistant Minister - Deputy Minister for IT	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society
7	RADOVIC	Natasa	Serbia	Advisor, Department for European Integration	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society
8	RELJIN	Irina	Serbia	Assistant Minister, Department for Telecommunications	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society
9	STANKOVIC	Vladimir	Serbia	Advisor, Department for European Integration	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society
10	BOGDANOVIC	Svetlana	Serbia	ICT NCP	Ministry of science and technological development
11	RADUSINOVIC	Igor	Montenegro	Deputy Minister for Science, Research and Technological Development	Ministry of Education and Science
12	LAZAREVIC	Ivan	Montenegro	Deputy Minister for e-Government	Ministry for Information Society
13	AJANOVIĆ	Bakir	BIH	Minister of Science and Technology	Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska
14	RAJCEVIC	Srdan	BIH	Director	Public Institution „Information Society Agency of the Republic of Srpska“
15	RADINKOVIC	Miroslav	BIH	Coordinator for IT Project Development	Public Institution „Information Society Agency of the Republic of Srpska“ (AISRS)
16	Hidajet	Šerbo	BIH	Advisor to the Minister of Transport and Communication	Ministry of Transport and Communications Federation of Bosnia
17	AJAZI LIKA	Visho	ALBANIA	Information and Communication Technology	Ministry of Innovation, Information and Communication Technology
18	MARKU	Pjerin	ALBANIA	Prime Minister's Advisor for Digital Agenda	Council of Ministers
19	Georgi	Georgie	BULGARIA		Ambassy of Bulgaria in Serbia
20	DIMITROV	Vassil	BULGARIA	Adviser at the Bulgarian Embassy in Belgrade	Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism
21	CHERNAEVA	Totka	BULGARIA	Committee; Head of IST Department; IT Directorate	Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications (MTITC)
22	Krastev	Nikolaj	BULGARIA	Economic section	Bulgarian Embassy
23	TODOROV	H.E. Nikola	FYR of Macedonia	Minister of Education and Science	Ministry of Education and Science
24	MITEVSKI	Angel	FYR of Macedonia	Chief of Cabinet	Ministry of Education and Science
25	GYÖRKÖS	József	SLOVENIA	State Secretary	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
26	Damjan	Maruška	SLOVENIA	Head of division	Directorate of Information Society
27	MESTRIC	Hrvoje	CROATIA	Director, Directorate for Science, Education and Sports	Ministry of Science, Education and Sport
28	MORNAR	Vedran	CROATIA	President	National Higher Education Council
29	STANIC	Zvonimir	CROATIA	Director	Croatian Academy and Research Network (CARnet)
30	STANCIC	Zoran	EC	Deputy Director-General	European Commission, DG INFSO
31	PASCALL	Stephan	EC	Advisor to the Director	European Commission, DG INFSO
32	VENNER	Vlassios	EC	Programme Assistant - International Relations	European Commission, DG INFSO
33	Pinter	Lilla	EC	Assistant to Stephan Pascall	European Commission, DG INFSO