

SUMMARY OF BASELINE STUDY FOR THE VISIBILITY AT THE RELEVANT EUROPEAN WEB PORTALS SUCH AS CORDIS

In the framework of the EC project „Capacity building and institutional strengthening of Science and Research in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)“, led by Technopolis Belgium and in partnership with LOGOTECH SA (Greece), Zentrum fur Soziale Innovation (ZSI, Austria) and European Profiles Greece, an assessment of the current RTD system has been made in order to improve the visibility of BiH science in the ERA and to serve as major input to ERAWATCH web site country profile for Bosnia Herzegovina.

Although BiH inherited from Yugoslavia a strong scientific and technological tradition and potential (in 1991, BiH invested 1.5% of its GDP in R&D activities) and a solid industrial base, its research system is currently not able to function in accordance with international standards. BiH invests around 0.07% of its GDP on R&D however, it is estimated that total investment is as high as 0.1 to 0.14% of its GDP (budget, industry and services sector together) which is far below the EU 27 average of 1.84%. In 2008 the budget of RS for RTD was €3,3 m or 0.07 % of its GDP while in FBiH budget amounted to €2.73m or less than 0.07 % of its GDP. BiH has maintained a science and technology system with eight universities, several public mission-oriented research institutes as well as a limited number of industrial laboratories.

Research system in BiH is decentralised across several governments, each enjoying autonomy of decision-making power. The authority over science and research lies within the entities, Federation of BiH (FBiH) and Republic of Srpska (RS). In FBiH, the authority has further been transferred to 10 cantons. The state of BiH has competence in research policy through the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA) representing the country in the international scientific and technical cooperation activities.

The main strategic document such as the “Strategy for the Development of Science in BiH 2010-2015” and its “Action plan” as well as adopted law on ‘Scientific Research Activities and the Coordination of Internal and International Scientific Co-operation in BiH’ in the country defines a science and technology policy. The documents consider the rebuilding of a recognized and effective national competence in science and technology, and development of research activities that will address the needs of BiH on its road to development.

BiH has achieved progress in relation to the country’s position in international scientific collaborations. In November 2008, BiH signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the EU on S&T co-operation. It has resulted in the associated status of BiH in the FP7 programme. Since May 2009, BiH is a full member of the COST, an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology. BiH has National Information Point status in EUREKA; a pan-European network for market-oriented, industrial R&D.

Scientific and technological research in BiH is in a state of transition. Actions for improvement are needed (financial and technical assistance) both at national and international levels. Reconstructing the science and technology potential of the country is both a necessity for the preparation of the country’s future and an important step towards the integration into the EU.