



NEWSLETTER

of BS-ERA.NET Project

Networking on Science and Technology in the Black Sea Region



BS-ERA.NET

HIGHLIGHTS

- *BS-ERA.NET Pilot Joint Call implementation*
- *HORIZON 2020*
- *News from the Black Sea Region*

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BS-ERA.NET PILOT JOINT CALL

As a result of the BS-ERA.NET Pilot Joint Call (PJC), 11 research projects were selected for funding by the Group of Funding Parties (GFP). The GFP consists of funding organisation representatives from: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Moldova, Romania, and Turkey.

The supported projects will start in February 2012:

RDMMOGT—Reliability and durability of machines and mechanisms used for oil and gas transportation in Black Sea Region (CO: Azerbaijan Technical University, Azerbaijan). The overall goal of project is development of integrated model of the piston machine system that is then used to evaluate and improve current design.

CAUCAS-CCS—Natural analogue investigation for CCS in the Southern Caucasus (CO: Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany). The project is applied research for CO₂ capture, storage and conversion to fuel for the BS-Caucasus area.

MARCY—Molecular approaches for rapid and quantitative detections of cyanobacteria and their toxins from coastal Black Sea (CO: National Institute for Marine Research and Development, Romania). This project focus on a timely, major unsolved problem related to the coastal ecosystems and human health.

Project Activities

4th BS-ERA.NET Executive Board & 6th Steering Board Meeting were held in Yerevan, Armenia on 15/16 September 2011.

During the SB & EB meeting, a detailed overview of the project was presented by the project Coordinator, Work Package leaders and the concerned partners. Within the consortium some important issues were tackled such as: the state of the art of the BS Pilot Joint Call implementation, monitoring of the PJC, upcoming events, project amendment.



CO2TRACCS—CO₂ Transportation Risk Assessment for Carbon Capture and Storage (CO: National Technical University of Athens, Greece). The project aims address to thermodynamic analysis, modeling of CO₂ mixtures as well as risk analysis of CO₂ transportation pipelines.

H2S-PROTON—Hydrogen production from H₂S decomposition in micro-structured proton-conducting solid oxide (CO: Centre for Research & Technology Hellas, Greece). The project is directed to develop a micro-structured proton conducting membrane reactor for H₂ production.

HYSULFCEL—Hydrogen production from Black Sea water by sulfide-driven fuel cell (CO: Bulgarian Academy of Sciences). The project is directed to produce 'carbon-free' energy and to extract valuable compounds from the deep marine water.

RACE—Radiation background of Black Sea coastal environment (CO: National Institute of R&D for Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Romania). The main objective of the project is to establish the level of radiation background and its sources in coastal Black Sea.

IMAWATCO—Innovative materials for waste water purification systems to be installed in tourist and other small polluting objectives on the Black Sea coast (CO: National R&D Institute for Chemistry and Petrochemistry, Romania). The objective of project is to contribute to the implementation of environmental-friendly technologies in the BSEC countries.

CLEARWATER—Geophysical based hydrogeological modeling to prevent pollution from sea water intrusion at coastal areas (CO: Technical University of Crete, Greece). The project aims to develop an integrated systematic sea water intrusion prediction methodology for planning effective prevention measures in coastal areas.

WAPCOAST—Water pollution prevention options for coastal zones and tourist areas: Application to Danube Delta front area (CO: GeoEcoMar, Romania). The project is a multidisciplinary approach of the front area of the Danube Delta and Razelm-Sinoie lagoon complex.

SGD Black—Investigation of submarine groundwater discharge (SGD) for preventing pollution and eutrophication of the coastal Black Sea (CO: Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research). The aim of project is the application of multi-tracer approach for SGD research at two exemplary sites of the Black Sea coast.

Horizon 2020

Brussels, 30 November 2011 – The European Commission has today presented a package of measures to boost research, innovation and competitiveness in Europe. Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn has announced Horizon 2020, an €80 billion programme for investment in research and innovation. Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou has put forward a Strategic Innovation Agenda for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), which will receive €2.8 billion of funding under Horizon 2020. In parallel, Vice-President Antonio Tajani has announced a complementary new programme to boost competitiveness and innovation in SMEs, with an additional budget of €2.5 billion. The funding programmes run from 2014 to 2020.

Presenting Horizon 2020, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: "We need a new vision for European research and innovation in a dramatically changed economic environment. Horizon 2020 provides direct stimulus to the economy and secures our science and technology base and industrial competitiveness for the future, promising a smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive society."

For the first time, Horizon 2020 brings together all EU research and innovation funding under a single programme. It focuses more than ever on turning scientific breakthroughs into innovative products and services that provide business opportunities and change people's lives for the better. At the same time it drastically cuts red tape, with simplification of rules and procedures to attract more top researchers and a broader range of innovative businesses.

Horizon 2020 will focus funds on three key objectives. It will support the EU's position as a world leader in science with a dedicated budget of €24.6 billion, including an increase in funding of 77% for the very successful European Research Council (ERC). It will help secure industrial leadership in innovation with a budget of €17.9 billion. This includes a major investment of €13.7 billion in key technologies, as well as greater access to capital and support for SMEs. Finally, €31.7 billion will go towards addressing major concerns shared by all Europeans, across six key themes: Health, demographic change and well-being; Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy; Secure, clean and efficient energy; Smart, green and integrated transport; Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials; and Inclusive, innovative and secure societies.

Background

Horizon 2020 is a key pillar of Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at enhancing Europe's global competitiveness. The European Union is a global leader in many technologies, but it faces increasing competition from traditional powers and emerging economies alike. The Commission proposal will now be discussed by the Council and the European Parliament, with a view to adoption before the end of 2013.

Funding provided by Horizon 2020 will be easier to access thanks to this simpler programme architecture, a single set of rules and less red tape. Horizon 2020 will mean: drastically simplified reimbursement by introducing a single flat rate for indirect costs and only two funding rates - for research and for close to market activities respectively; a single point of access for participants; less paperwork in preparing proposals; and no unnecessary controls and audits. One key goal is to reduce the time until

funding is received following a grant application by 100 days on average, meaning projects can start more quickly.

The Commission will make major efforts to open up the programme to more participants from across Europe by exploring synergies with funds under the EU's Cohesion policy. Horizon 2020 will identify potential centres of excellence in underperforming regions and offer them policy advice and support, while EU Structural Funds can be used to upgrade infrastructure and equipment.

€3.5 billion will be devoted to a scaled up and expanded use of financial instruments that leverage lending from private sector financial institutions. These have been shown to be extremely effective at stimulating private investment in innovation that leads directly to growth and jobs. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will benefit from around €8.6 billion, recognising their critical role in innovation.

Horizon 2020 will invest nearly €6 billion in developing European industrial capabilities in Key Enabling Technologies (KETs). These include: Photonics and micro- and nanoelectronics, nanotechnologies, advanced materials and advanced manufacturing and processing, and biotechnology. Development of these technologies requires a multi-disciplinary, knowledge- and capital-intensive approach.

Under the Commission proposal, €5.75 billion (+21%) will be allocated to the Marie Curie Actions, which has supported the training, mobility and skills development of more than 50 000 researchers since its launch in 1996.

As an integral part of Horizon 2020, the EIT will play an important role by bringing together excellent higher education institutions, research centres and businesses to create the entrepreneurs of tomorrow and to ensure that the European 'knowledge triangle' is a match for the world's best. The Commission has decided to significantly step up its support for the EIT by proposing a budget of €2.8 billion for 2014-2020 (up from €309 million since its launch in 2008). The EIT is based on a pioneering concept of cross-border public-private-partnership hubs known as Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). Its three existing KICs, focused on sustainable energy (KIC InnoEnergy), climate change (Climate KIC) and information and communication society (EIT ICT Labs), will be expanded with six new ones in 2014-2020 (see IP/11/1479 and MEMO/11/851).

Funding for the European Research Council (ERC) will increase by 77% to €13.2 billion. The ERC supports the most talented and creative scientists to carry out frontier research of the highest quality in Europe, in a programme that is internationally recognised and respected.

International cooperation will also be further promoted in Horizon 2020, in order to strengthen the EU's excellence and attractiveness in research, to tackle global challenges jointly and to support EU external policies.

The Joint Research Centre (JRC), the in-house science service of the European Commission, will continue providing scientific and technical support to EU policy making on everything from environment, agriculture and fisheries through to nanotechnology and nuclear safety.

Horizon 2020 will be complemented by further measures to complete the European Research Area, a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation by 2014 (IP/11/1025, MEMO/11/597).

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu>

News from the Region

On 20 December 2011 the European Commission has finalised a series of aid programmes to support reforms in countries wishing to join the EU. The funding, totalling almost EUR 1 billion, comes under the 2011 budget of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA).

Especially EUR 232,9 millions will be allocated for Turkey (including participation in European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument). Main financed sectors are justice, home affairs and fundamental rights; environment and climate change; support to Turkey's participation in Union programmes; economic and social development in the Black Sea region.

"All these programmes have been designed to achieve concrete results in terms of better public administration, more efficient judiciary and law enforcement, stable economy as well as safer environment. This is good news both for the recipient countries and the EU: we all face common challenges that do not stop at EU borders and we need to tackle them together", said European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle.

These actions are funded through IPA 2011, under the Transition Assistance and Institution Building and Cross-Border Cooperation Components. They are based on the priorities set out by the EU and have been designed together with the governments concerned, local stakeholders and other donors.

Annual Joint Programming Event 2011

As the variety of public-public partnerships and associated support instruments increases, it is imperative to share experiences and draw recommendations concerning ways of improving the design of these partnerships and instruments, especially in terms of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of their contribution to the solution of grand societal challenges. This was the overall aim of the Annual Joint Programming Event 2011, held in Brussels on 9-10 November, 2011.

The event offered an opportunity to discuss the latest policy thinking concerning the Joint Programming of research and innovation in Europe and public-public partnerships in general, as well as a chance to exchange views and experiences to date and draw conclusions about success factors and guiding principles for future ventures. Based on the former 'Annual ERA-NET events', the target audience for the 2-day conference was broadened to include 300-400 policy makers and research funders in Europe with an interest in public-public partnerships. Following the positive experiences from past events the programme offered a mix of plenary sessions, including overview presentations providing a common forum for all participants, and interactive smaller sessions with working groups around key issues related to Public partnerships in the context of the upcoming Horizon 2020.

The ICBSS organized a **Workshop on "Innovation in the wider Black Sea region: Policies and Structures"** in the context of the EU co-funded project S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries (IncoNet EECA) in Athens on 15-17 June 2011.

The main objectives of this workshop were to present latest developments in innovation policies and regarding the European Commission's initiatives; to provide insight on successful innovation policies and activities in the countries of the Black Sea, including the establishment and operation of innovation related infrastructure such as technological parks and incubators; and to investigate concrete opportunities for regional cooperation in the field of innovation.

Details at: <http://www.inco-eeeca.net/>

BSEC International Conference "Tourism Infrastructure Development in the Black Sea Region" was took place in Gelendzhik, the Russian Federation on 27-28 October 2011. The conference attracted more than 180 participants from the BSEC Member States, international organizations, associations and scientific institutions dealing with

tourism issues, around the agenda of tourism infrastructure development in the Black Sea Region.

During the meeting, participants had lively discussion and exchanged views within the framework of three round tables organized on a number of practical issues pertaining to tourism development. The round table topics included the role of modern tourism infrastructure in competitive tourist product development, actual issues and perspectives of cultural tourism development and human resources development for the tourism industry.

It was pointed out that in order to further develop tourism, the Black Sea region needs common initiatives and projects and a joint marketing approach toward third countries to attract more tourists from outside the region. Investment in tourism infrastructure development was highlighted as the main precondition for any future development in this field.

Source: www.bsec-organization.org

Armenia

Armenia Virtual Science Library Launched

CRDF Global (U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation) and its partners have launched the Armenia Virtual Science Library (AVSL), an efficient Internet portal that provides a convenient, single point of access for research articles written by scientists in Armenia and around the world. The launch was held on Nov. 29, 2011 at the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia and was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern. After the event, 30 librarians participated in the first set of training-of-trainers workshops. An extensive national workshop series is planned in 2012 to assure that users and librarians throughout the country derive full benefit from the system.

Greece

The 4th International Black Sea Symposium 2011 "The Black Sea Region in Transition: New Challenges and Concepts" was took place at Attica, Greece from 19 September through 23 September 2011. This year, the 4th IBSS offered participants the unique opportunity to gain insights into a wide range of issues related to Black Sea regional cooperation, such as security concerns, relations with key stakeholders, democratic institutions, good governance and environmental governance presented by prominent scholars, experts and policymakers. In this context various sessions addressed the following issues:

- i. Security concerns: transnational risks; Euro-Atlantic institutions
- ii. Institutional reforms and participation
- iii. Regional cooperation and sustainable development
- iv. Environmental governance: green growth, entrepreneurship; energy security.

The three-day intensive course was consisted of interactive sessions, relevant reading material was provided in advance and participants received a certificate of attendance. While speakers set the stage for lively and interactive discussion on the different topics, workshops provided participants with the opportunity to closely analyze specific conflicts, develop action recommendations for policy makers and civil society leaders and produce project ideas to be pursued after the end of the Symposium.

Details at: <http://www.icbss.org>

The Round Table Discussion on "Energy Cooperation and Environmental Protection in the wider Black Sea area" was organised within the framework of the "Hellenic-Azerbaijani Green Energy Forum" an initiative of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) and the Centre for Strategic Studies, under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CSS).

The discussion focused on the promotion of Hellenic-Azerbaijani relations, under the ICBSS coordination, in the field of economic cooperation, within the context of environmental protection and with a view to promoting environmental friendly policies and to adopting of a clean energy model in the wider Black Sea area.

The event took place on 29 November 2011 at Athens, Greece.

Turkey

The 10th Harvard Black Sea Security Program Regional Workshop

The 10th Harvard Black Sea Security Program Regional Workshop took place in Istanbul, Turkey from October 2-6, 2011. The event was held in partnership with Kadir Has University, Ministry of Defense of Turkey and with generous grant support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and Black Sea Trust. The primary topic of discussion were security challenges in Black Sea and its greater region. The event was a follow-on to the eleventh annual Black Sea Security Program, which took place in April 2011.

Details at: <http://www.harvard-bssp.org>

Ukraine

The 37 General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was held in Kyiv on 30 June—2 July 2011 upon the invitation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The General Assembly was attended by the national delegations of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece,

Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The topic of the General Debates was "Legislative support to the transition to the green economy". The participants stressed that during the last two decades the world community has developed environmental and world economy renovation programs and formulated the concept of "green economy", which is generated to ensure the harmony of its three main components: social, environmental and economic.

More details at: www.bsec-organization.org



Upcoming Events

9th International Conference "BlackSeaGrain-2012"

The Conference will be held on April 18-19, 2012 at InterContinental Hotel, Kiev, Ukraine. The Conference objectives include discussion of the factors of agrarian and export policy development in the Black Sea region, growing influence of climate change on agricultural production, revealing the growing impact of capital markets on global ag development, potential for further costs increases in agricultural production, analysis of Asian economies growth and their role in the agricultural consumption in order to forecast prospects for the ag sector in the 2012/13 season.

«Black Sea Grain: Market Maker» is an international platform providing participants with an opportunity to meet and review all the important global tendencies and the newest market drivers to improve and sharpen their business strategies in the fast changing world.

Black Sea Forum: Increasing Trade and Investment to Reach Growth

The Federation of Industries of Northern Greece (FING) in collaboration with the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) and the Greek International Business Association (SEVE) with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are organising a Black Sea Business Forum entitled "Increasing Trade and Investment to Reach Growth" on 23 February 2012 in Thessaloniki, Greece..

The forum is divided into two sections:

- The first section is a conference focusing on export and investment opportunities in the Black Sea Region.
- The second section is a B2B event, which mainly focuses on pre-arranged individual business meetings.

ICOM CECA Annual Conference 2012: Tradition and Innovation will be held in Yerevan

ICOM National Committee of Armenia will be hosting the Annual Conference of ICOM International Committee of Education and Cultural Action (CECA) in Yerevan, Armenia, from 20th to 25th of October 2012. This International Meeting is intended to become a special platform for discussing questions and problems on different types of texts in the museums on international level.

The main themes of the conference will be:

Museum Exposition as a "Text"

Using Modern Technologies for Communication

The Book and Written Sources in Museum Culture

For more information and registration please visit the conference website:

<http://ceca12.icom-armenia.org/en/>

Upcoming BS-ERA.NET project activity

During the next period BS-ERA.NET consortium is going to organise and or to attend several meetings i.e. BS-ERA.NET Workshop, EECA Conference, targeting BS, WBC, EECA and Russian regions.

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