

Project number 226160 – BS-ERA.NET

BS - ERA.NET

Networking on Science and Technology in the Black Sea Region

Instrument: Coordination and Support Actions (Coordinating type)

Annex 1- inputs for Deliverable 1.3

Identification of Good Practice Programmes through Short term Visits

Within the Frame of “Short Term Visits” in Task 1.3 Reports have been collected. Below information are responses from the visitors for to the question “Identification of Good Practice”.

➡ Armenia in Italy

All the presented programmes have both positive and negative features which can serve as model for BS ERA NET joined call. Though taking into account international and multilateral character of the call, more relevant seems to be **CEI's CERES research fellowship programme** in terms of project evaluation and selection.

Generally, during discussion of the issue with the leadership of SCS-RA, Armenian PO, it has been confirmed the interest of SCS for participation in BS ERA NET joint call. The approach of the SCS-RA towards setting up a joint programme is that it should be a new programme which might include 3-4 partners/countries. This can be 1-2 year researchers exchange program with up to 10000 EUR funding per project. Evaluation and selection procedure can be organized both on national level with further matchmaking among partners on a level of joint experts group or it can be allocated to a joint pool of experts with equal representation from each participating country. Further administration and reporting can be managed on a country level. But surely these issues need to be further discussed with relevant stakeholders based on concrete set of participants and thematic coverage.

➡ Moldova in Italy

Speaking about good practices for the future BS multilateral call we could mention the new initiative launched by the European Council – **Joint Programming**, which was presented during our visit by the representative of the MIUR. This Communication identifies three essential stages that make up the life cycle of research programmes:

- development of a common vision;
- adoption of a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) with specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-based (SMART) objectives;
- implementation of the SRA with the support of national research instruments (national and regional programmes, intergovernmental research organisations and collaborative schemes, research infrastructures, Mobility schemes, etc.). European Union funding and instruments can be used through the 7th Framework Programme.

The areas selected must meet the following criteria:

- correspond to a socio-economic or environmental challenge on a European or worldwide scale;
- be publicly funded;
- give added value to research work whose dimension transcends the individual capacity of a Member State;
- allow clear and realistic objectives to be defined.

Some useful practices can be also identified within **EUROTRANS-BIO** (funded in the frame of the ERA-NET scheme of FP7), which brings together 12 European member states and regions to work together in order to support trans-national R&D private/private and private/public co-operations between biotech firms, mainly SMEs. From 2004 to 2009 ETB has launched four joint calls (81 cooperative R&D&I projects).

CORNET¹ (Collective Research Networking), an ERA-NET project aimed at implementing information exchange and collaboration among national and regional programmes for **collective research**. 21 ministries and agencies in 17 EU countries and regions takes part in this project. Since 2005 Cornet has launched 8 joint calls for the selection of trans-national collective R&D projects.

➡ Georgia in France

Among the programmes we became aware of during the visit one may consider as a good practice the programme **PICS** managed by CNRS (Office of International Relations). Being permanent around 40 years PICS has proven its usefulness especially for facilitation sustainable and complementary cooperation. PICS is opens for all countries as well as for co-funding (especially for joint calls) and covers both basic and applied research.

The following instruments of the programme seem to be mentioned in the context of good practice: (i) Proposals selection criteria - availability of consolidating and

ongoing collaboration of partner organisations that has already produced joint publications. (ii) Proposals selection procedure is of 2-stage and first stage is in the hands of institutes while the second stage is fulfilled by PO (on the base of scientific excellence, complementarity of teams, young scientists participation). (iii) In case of joint calls, final decision is made by joint committee and IPR rules are agreed (e.g. nondisclosure agreement should be signed by individual researchers).

Another example of good practice is the programme “**Training and Research Networks**” (Reseau Formation Recherche) managed by the French Ministry of Education and Research. The main objective of the programme is to set up sustainable partnerships between French and Eastern European labs by supporting research activities (performed mainly by means of exchange) of researchers both seniors and PhD students. Each project must combine at least two French labs and two labs from two different Eastern European countries.

➔ Georgia in Germany

Number of programmes was presented by the host organisations during the visit and majority of them can be considered as the good practice for forthcoming BS Joint Call. Here we would like to mention just some of them. In particular, instruments of **PPP programme** (funded by BMBF and administrated by DAAD) seems efficient for support of young sciences and PhD students from BS countries. The programme is open for co-funding schemes that will give additional opportunities to co-funding country researchers.

The programme funded and administrated by DFG - Initiation and Enhancement of Bilateral Contacts (**IEBC**) provides grants for (i) Research Stays: The cooperation agreements between the DFG and its international partner organisations offer the possibility of funding preparatory visits (up to three weeks) or consultative visits (up to three months) at the respective partner's institute. (ii) Bilateral Events: The module of bilateral events serves to facilitate collaboration between researchers and to expand scientific contact. Currently 5 German-Georgian collaborations are taking place under IEBC. Priority fields for cooperation are: Geo-engineering and life sciences, mathematics, physics, linguistics.

Another (bilateral) programme funded by DFG is “**International Research Training Groups**” (**IRTG**) that aims to encourage and deepen bilateral cooperation between German universities and universities or research institutions in other countries. IRTG combines mobility and research with focus on long-term/sustainable cooperation.

Funding scheme, evaluation and selection procedures seems quite interesting. In particular, German university is expected to provide the necessary core support including appropriately equipped office and laboratory space, while the foreign partner institution should ensure basic funding for its doctoral researchers, their research, and visits to the German partner institution. The maximum funding period is nine years (two 4.5-year funding periods). The proposal for the first 4.5 years is written jointly by the principal investigators who participate on both sides.

Evaluation procedure consists of two stages. In the first stage, a draft proposal is submitted and reviewed. Draft proposals may be submitted at any time. Based on the

review, the DFG Head Office advises applicants on whether they should move to the second stage and submit a full proposal. Full proposals may be also submitted at any time, following successful review of the draft proposal.

Applications are reviewed during a site visit to the proposed host institution. The reviewers form their judgment on the basis of the written information contained in the proposal and the on-site presentation by the Research Training Group.

Selection criteria strongly recommends that postdoctoral researchers who undergo qualification for a career in research and education be included and given responsible positions within the Research Training Group.

➔ Ukraine in Turkey

1. International Industrial R&D Support Programme: This is a programme established to facilitate market oriented industrial R&D collaboration between Turkish and European countries by funding international R&D projects between firms, universities and research institutions which are initiated under European networks such as EUREKA and FP7. As a platform for support for industry in an international context, this programme can be useful if the joint call under BS-ERA.NET aims the industrial sector and projects. This scheme has been used in the context of SEE-ERA.NET Plus joint call by TUBITAK.

2. Research Fellowship Programme: There are two programmes in TUBITAK under this heading. One aims to support highly qualified PhD students/researchers to perform part of their research in Turkey, and the other aims to support highly qualified PhD students/researchers to perform part of their research abroad. The applications are taken twice a year. People should apply within the pronounced deadlines with the relevant documents Evaluation is made by TUBITAK - Department of Science Fellowships and Grant Programmes (BİDEB) Evaluation and Support Commission, following the deadlines of the programme within the year, with regard to the selection criteria defined for the programme. The programme provides support for maximum 12 months. The programme can be used if the joint call provides support for only mobility.

3. The Support Programme for Scientific and Technological Research Projects: This is the main programme of TUBITAK to support S&T research projects (yet mainly the universities and research centers benefit from it). Bilateral cooperation programmes between various institutions (24 programmes with 20 countries) are also based on this programme. Hence, this scheme may also be used in the international call of the BS-ERA.NET project.