



R&D Project in BiH

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Capacity building and institutional strengthening of Science and Research in BiH

Izgradnja kapaciteta i institucionalno jačanje nauke i istraživanja u BiH

POLICY WORKSHOP

Concept Paper

WP3, Action 1, Task 2 (WP3.1.2.)

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1 Rational

In May 2009, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) adopted the new **Framework law** on ‘*Scientific Research Activities and the Coordination of Internal and International Scientific Co-operation in BiH*’. The law has created a more transparent legal basis for multi-level governance in the country, with a specified role of the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA) at state level. The law provides for the creation of a new coordination body, called the Science Council that is under setting up. The law also underlines the importance of the need to improve significantly the current S&T information system, including the statistical data collection, according to international (EUROSTAT, OECD and UNESCO) standards. International scientific collaborations are at the forefront of the present S&T policy of BiH and the MoCA’s position is clearly defined and strengthened.

Another important policy document is under preparation, called the **Strategy for the Development of Science in BiH – 2010-2015**. Following a public consultation it is expected to be adopted by the Council of Ministers of BiH by the end of 2009. The strategy, prepared by the MoCA, specifies actions in line with the implementation of the Framework Law on Science (like the renewal of the RTDI statistical and information system) and the role of the public authorities at each level (state, entity, canton and district). It also identifies priorities for and the main focus of RTDI policy in the coming five years. At the end of the document nine priority areas are explicitly named as urgent, short-term activity lines. Six out of these nine areas have strong relevance to both the general objective and the planned activities of the assistance provided by this project:

- Strengthening the Sector for the Science in the MoCA
- Stronger co-operation with the European Union with the aim of using the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) funds for strengthening the scientific research activities in BiH
- Participation in the activities of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) of the EU as well as in other international programmes
- Establishing a mechanism of collecting statistical data and monitoring scientific activities
- More intensive co-operation on exchanging information between the ministries responsible for science and education
- Establishment of the Science Council

The implementation of both the STI Strategy 2010-2015 and its Action Plan will probably challenge the government offices responsible for the implementation. The project aims at providing assistance to MoCA during the early phase of the implementation (until the end of this project, August 2010).

2 Objective of the Policy Workshop

The Policy Workshop with the participation of four international experts for a working session with MoCA and other key actors in STI policy (based on the suggestion of the beneficiary) aims

- To present international experience on STI policy formulation in countries of major social and economic transformation,
- To discuss selected key topics in relation to the implementation of the strategy and the action plan

3 Conceptual approach

The one-day workshop will consist of two sessions:

- (a) Morning session (10.00-13.00) formal presentation of international experts
- (b) Roundtable discussion including both international and national experts (14.00-15.30)

Both sessions should focus on selected topics and give chances for questioning the presenters and the panellist and for open discussions.

The topics should firmly linked to the tasks indicated as urgent businesses by the draft STI Strategy 2010-2015.

The following tour de table is advised to use as a starting point for consultation with the Beneficiary and the international experts in order to make a final decision on the topics selected:

- Fund allocation systems and mechanisms – Is there a European model?
- Challenges of intensive transition of the Central and Eastern European national innovation systems
- The requirements of a fact (evidence)-based policy making in STI
- Measuring performance in science, technology and innovation – Ways and challenges
- Indirect public measures to promote RTDI (note: the introduction of tax incentives to increase business expenditures on S&T is among the high priorities of the government)

4 Date and venue

Date: 29 January 2009

Location: Sarajevo, BiH

Venue: BiH Parliament

Duration: 1 day

5 Participants

Invited international experts

When the topics of the workshop is decided, the Consortium members should be invited to suggest international experts (all together 4 experts can be financed by the project; additional experts may also be invited from the Commission, from OED and from UNESCO).

In addition to participating at the workshop some international experts are planned to be asked to have a one-day training course as well in Sarajevo or on other location. Experts who can accept this invitation should be given preference to be invited (and contracted).

Participants from BiH

According to the Beneficiary's suggestion (Biljana Camur) about 25-30 people should be invited from state level (MoCA, the ministries of finance and foreign policy), from entity and canton level, and all the vice-rectors responsible for science, plus the presidents of the academies of science.

This combination of people will require a simultaneous interpretation.

6 Need to be decided

- Topics to be discussed