

# **VIENNA MEMORANDUM<sup>1</sup> ON THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES<sup>2</sup> IN FUTURE EUROPEAN RTD<sup>3</sup> ACTIVITIES**

**Integration of the non-candidate countries in  
South Eastern Europe (Western Balkan countries) into  
the European Research Area and the future EU RTD activities**

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## **1.1.1**

<sup>1</sup> This Memorandum is based on the results of the Vienna Workshop "Future Perspectives of International Research and Technology Co-operation". A high level expert workshop on the preparation of FP6, organised by BIT in co-operation with the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture (AT), the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labour (AT), the European Commission, and SECI (South East European Co-operative Initiative). Vienna, 11 and 12 December 2000. For the list of participants of the Workshop, see Annex 1. For the Workshop Programme, see Annex 2.

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### *Executive Summary*

The Vienna Workshop succeeded to convene for the first time research and technology policy makers from responsible ministries and other organisations in the Western Balkan states – Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, including an observer from Yugoslavia - and from the neighbouring countries Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovenia.

The Workshop participants agreed that **in FP6 a specific EU RTD measure should be carried out for the Western Balkan states following the example of INCO COPERNICUS or an approach building on the experience made in such targeted initiatives.**

During the discussions, major general problems have been identified in the area of R&D **infrastructures and equipment.**

Specific problems, where European research co-operation will be most important have been specified in the areas of **health, agriculture, information society technologies, environment, energy and socio-economic research.**

There was an overall agreement that a broad spectrum of **different modalities for participation should be offered** in order to provide the right instruments for addressing different problem areas: Shared cost actions, thematic networks and concerted actions, Centres of Excellence, fellowship or bursary schemes, measures to support innovative start ups, access to research infrastructures. Funds should be available for the support of visits to Conferences in EU member states as well as for organising Conferences in the target countries.

There was unanimous agreement, that **regional collaboration** will be most important as a special eligibility requirement for specific measures addressing the Western Balkan countries in FP6. Thus, once again, science and research will be the first – the “avant-garde” – in times of transition.

**Policy makers from the Western Balkan countries have to get acquainted with the EU RTD system** and should be introduced in philosophy of the Framework Programme. **National EU RTD Contact Points have to be identified and trained** and placed in universities, research organisations and other appropriate organisations, in order to form a network for information and assistance on EU RTD activities. **Twinning arrangements with experienced organisations from neighbouring countries** would be promising.

**Special efforts will be necessary for the renewal, reconstruction and improvement of research infrastructures.** There will be a need to mobilise and utilise also other sources of funding outside the Framework Programme in a well co-ordinated way like infrastructural programmes, the instruments provided by CARDS, the Stability Pact, SECI and others. Necessarily, they have to be utilised to contribute to solving the problems of the research and development system in the region, as well as to solve specific problems of the region in the areas of health, environment, information technologies and others through European collaborative research and development.

### *List of Participants of the Vienna Workshop*

Albania	Prof. Dr. Salvatore Bushati Academy of Sciences	<i>Director, Sector of Project Management</i>
Albania	Ass.Prof. Andrea Marto Ministry of Education and Science	<i>Deputy Minister</i>
Albania	Prof. Agim Minxhozi Ministry of Education and Science	<i>Director of Scientific Research</i>
Austria	Dipl.-Ing. Franz Stephan Hinteregger BIT - Bureau for International Research and Technology Co-operation	<i>Head of Unit: Central and Eastern Europe</i>
Austria	Dipl.-Ing. Manfred Horvat BIT - Bureau for International Research and Technology Co-operation	<i>Director</i>
Austria	Dr. Michael Jandl IDM - Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe	<i>Expert</i>
Austria	Sektionschef Dr. Raoul Kneucker Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture	<i>Director General</i>
Austria	Mag. Georg Panholzer Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour	<i>Expert: Unit for International Innovation and Technology Member of the INCO-2 Programme Committee</i>
Austria	Dipl.-Ing. Otto Peperna Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour Sektion	<i>Head of Unit: International Innovation and Technology</i>
Austria	Ministerialrat DDr. Franz Pichler Federal Ministry of Education, Sciences and Culture	<i>Head of Unit: EU Co-ordination</i>
Austria	Mag. Klaus Schuch BIT - Bureau for International Research and Technology Co-operation	<i>Head of Unit: Co-operation with Third Countries Austrian NCP for INCO-2</i>
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Bosnia- Herzegovina	Mladen Rudez Federal Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment	<i>Assistant Minister</i>
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Croatia	Gordana Prutki-Pecnik Ministry of Science and Technology	<i>Co-ordinating National Contact Point</i>

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Macedonia	Prof. Dr. Doréana Hristova University of Skopje Faculty of Philosophy	Minister's Assistant at the Ministry of Education and Science
Macedonia	Vera Kolevska Ministry of Education and Science	Undersecretary
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Slovenia	Barbara Zupan Ministry of Science and Technology	Counsellor to the Government
Sweden	Karin Hjorth The Swedish EC R&D Council	Head of Secretariat
Sweden	Britt-Marie Tygard The Swedish EC R&D Council	International Co-ordinator NCP Innovation & SMEs, International Co-operation
Yugoslavia	Prof. Dregoslav Sumarac University of Belgrade Civil Engineering	Head of Department Observer

## **1. Introduction**

The Vienna Workshop was focussed on the future role – both the opportunities and the challenges – of the non-candidate South Eastern European countries – shortly called the Western Balkan countries – within the envisaged European Research Area and the future research and technology activities of the European Union, in particular the Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (FP6).

The Western Balkan countries include Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), the Republic of Yugoslavia. Based on the developments of the political situation, the Republic of Yugoslavia will be integrated in the proposed activities, as soon as feasible.

The basic assumptions of the Vienna Workshop were, that the Western Balkan countries will play an important role in the future development of Europe, and research and technology co-operation will be essential for a sound and sustainable social and economic development.

There was an agreement amongst the Workshop participants that the new policy framework of the European Research Area<sup>10, 11</sup> must not be limited to the EU member states. The enlargement of the European Union and the reintegration of the Western Balkan countries should be a matter for specific measures to be foreseen in future EU activities related to research and technological development.

There will be a need for appropriate measures to be taken primarily in the forthcoming Sixth EU RTD Framework Programme (FP6), but this will be not sufficient. Well co-ordinated support from other European and international programmes, initiatives and actions will be necessary too, in order to ensure that all aspects of the present problems of the Western Balkan countries including infrastructure can be addressed.

The present Memorandum will focus on the role of the target countries in FP6. Reference will be made to other policy instruments where appropriate, but details of these aspects will be worked out separately.

## **2. The Western Balkan countries and the EU RTD Framework Programmes**

So far, there were several possibilities for the Western Balkan countries to participate in the EU Framework Programme:

- **FP5 is open to all European countries with which the EU has relationships.** In the present context, this applies to Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from the start of FP5. Croatia became eligible for participation in FP5 in July 2000. Depending on the development of the political situation, FP5 will be open for the Republic of Yugoslavia as soon as feasible.

### **1.1.1**

<sup>10</sup> "Towards a European Research Area", European Commission, COM (2000) 6, Brussels, 18 January 2000

<sup>11</sup> "Making a reality of The European Research Area: Guidelines for EU research activities (2002-2006)", European Commission, COM (2000) 612 final, Brussels, 4.10.2000

- In the specific programme “Confirming the International Role of Community Research (INCO)”, a single **Call for Proposals for shared cost actions, concerted actions and thematic networks** was launched in 1999, covering the areas environment and industry, as well as the area of improving health care in a changing society. From the present target countries, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were eligible for participation in that Call.
- In 1999 and in 2000, a **Call for Proposals to promote the creation of networks** with a view to future participation in joint projects and concerted actions of the 5<sup>th</sup> EU Framework Programme was published. The first Call was open for Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). In 2000, for the second Call, also Croatia was eligible. These Calls offered opportunities to receive Community support for the establishment of networks for information and assistance to parties interested in the EU RTD activities.
- In addition, INCO offered support for **the participation of researchers from these countries in conferences** organised in Western Europe, as well as for **the organisation of conferences in the target countries themselves**.

In the INCO 5 Year Assessment Report <sup>12</sup>, the Panel of independent experts made several recommendations with regard to the Western Balkan countries:

- As regards the mid-term re-orientation of FP5, the Panel recommended (p. 23):  
“As far as the legal framework allows, some **preparatory measures for the Balkan region** should be set up. A dialogue on how to address this region in FP 6 should be initiated. For FP5 at least some accompanying measures should be offered to the Balkan countries.”

Making specific reference to the INCO 5 Year Assessment Panel’s recommendations, the European Commission has proposed a **Dedicated Call for Proposals for Balkan Reintegration**, which will be probably published in March 2001 and closed in June 2001. The areas covered are specific regional problems in environment and industry, and health problems specific for the region.

- For FP6, the Panel recommended (p. 24):  
“The Panel sees an **urgent need for the Commission to develop policies and strategies for RTD co-operation with the Balkan countries**. The Presidency’s conclusions from the Lisbon European Council of March 2000, that peace, prosperity and stability of South East Europe are strategic priorities for the European Union, are highly appreciated in this context. RTD co-operation with the Balkans could be based on mechanisms similar to those of COPERNICUS ... As a special requirement, **the regional trans-border co-operation between at least two organisations** should be one of the eligibility criteria for projects in addition to the co-operation with EU partners.”

These statements were also part of the final conclusions and recommendations of the Panel (pp. 45 ff.). In addition, the Panel stated there (p. 46), that “The integration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should be dependent on the political situation there.”

#### 1.1.1

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<sup>12</sup> Five Year Assessment Report related to the specific Programme “Confirming the International Role of Community Research” covering the period 1995-1999 (Panel: Wladimir Andreff, Anastasios Eleftheriou, Manfred Horvat (Chair), Lieselotte Krickau-Richter (Rapporteur), Thomas Nolan, Anne-Marie Pilotti, Nuno Ribeiro da Silva). European Commission, 2000; pp. 24 and 46

During two presentations of the report to the INCO-2 Programme Committee (8 June 2000 and 5 December 2000), these recommendations received particular support by delegations from both member states and the neighbouring associated countries from Central Europe.

### *3. Scenarios and issues for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in the 6<sup>th</sup> EU RTD Framework Programme (FP6) <sup>13</sup>*

There are several options for the participation of the Western Balkan countries in the EU RTD activities:

- **Project by project participation** in FP6 supported by national funds or by EU funds, e.g. by a future INCO programme;
- **a specific EU RTD programme** especially focussed on the needs and the potential of the Western Balkan countries (INCO COPERNICUS 3);
- **the full association of individual countries either to the Framework Programme as a whole, or to selected Specific Programmes.**

Concentrating on the specific needs and demands of the Western Balkan countries to be addressed by co-operating at European level, several issues have to be taken into account:

- Which are the **specific problem areas and R&D topics** relevant to the target countries, where co-operating with organisations from the EU member states and from candidate countries from Central Europe associated to the Framework Programme would be beneficial?
- Which **instruments and modalities for participation in the EU RTD activities** would be specifically important for the target countries?
- Which **specific rules for participation in EU RTD activities** should be applied?
- Which **flanking measures to prepare for the participation in EU RTD activities** should be taken by the target countries?

During the Vienna Workshop, these issues were discussed in depth. The discussion were preceded by presentations both by representatives of newcomers and of long standing members of the European Union as well as by reports on the present situation of research and technological development in the target countries, and the needs for European co-operation <sup>14</sup>.

In the following chapters, the results of the discussions are presented, as far as they are immediately relevant for the preparations of FP6. Detailed Proceedings with the full information on the Workshop contents are under preparation. Conclusions of the Workshop with respect to other European and international actions will be further elaborated separately.

### *4. Problem areas and necessary research and development activities*

In the following, as the outcome of the Workshop deliberations, the **problem areas and necessary research actions** are summarised.

#### *1.1.1*

<sup>13</sup> In the deliberations of this document, the terminology of the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme is used. There may be changes in the forthcoming EU RTD activities. In that case, the statements have to be adapted accordingly.

<sup>14</sup> See Workshop Programme, Annex 2



The following **general problem areas** have been identified in the R&D system and in industry

- the R&D systems have to be restructured and developed to western standards;
- there is a need for screening of the research organisations, as well as preparing a detailed account of the problems while, at the same time, identifying the potential for RTD collaboration at European level;
- in some of the countries, the research infrastructure is either destroyed or in very bad conditions;
- there is an urgent need for new laboratory equipment and for an upgrading of libraries;
- there is a lack of contacts to Europe; former existing links have to be re-established;
- support is needed for change management in industry (privatisation) with a specific focus on stimulating industrial R&D activities;
- the economic fabric is not developed; there are not enough innovative SMEs; start ups stemming from research activities should be supported.

The following specific areas and topics for R&D activities were identified:

- **Health:**
  - ✓ health problems resulting from war and migration (post-traumatic health problems);
  - ✓ epidemiology;
- **agriculture;**
- **information society technologies;**
- **environment:**
  - ✓ *environmental problems specific for the region;*
  - ✓ *environmental monitoring (air, water, soil and solid waste);*
  - ✓ *the river Danube;*
  - ✓ *hydrology;*
  - ✓ *natural hazards (earth quakes);*
- **energy:**
  - ✓ *energy saving in buildings;*
- **socio-economic research:**
  - ✓ *security studies;*
  - ✓ *development of a civil society to support transition;*
  - ✓ *precautionary research (e.g. national stability, participation in democratic processes);*
  - ✓ *socio-economic research for sustainable development.*

Some of the specific issues might even fill "white spots" in the European research map. There is an urgent need for further specifying the areas and topics of research and technological development. This will be accomplished by a survey in the follow up of the Workshop carried out by the participants of the Workshop.

## ***5. Offering specific opportunities for the Western Balkan states in EU RTD activities choosing the right modalities for participation in FP6 and utilising other instruments***

The Workshop participants agreed that **specific measures for the Western Balkan states** should be foreseen in FP6. Following the successful experiences of FP4 and FP5, these measures could be **organised on the lines of INCO COPERNICUS**. Of course, appropriate adjustments could be made building on the lessons learned. In any case, previous experience shows, that **a separate specific programme is useful**, because it ensures that institutional expertise is developed, that covers not only the topical areas but also deep insights into and understanding of the problems of a specific region.

### ***5.1 The modalities for participation in the EU RTD Framework Programme***

In principle, **the whole spectrum of modalities for participation in the EU RTD Framework Programme** should be applied in a specific measure for the Western Balkan countries, too. From the Workshop discussions, **the specific needs of the target countries as regards instruments** can be summarised as follows:

- All the various forms of **shared cost actions** (RTD projects, demonstration projects, SME specific measures and others) <sup>15</sup> should be possible;
- the participation in **concerted actions** and **thematic networks** will be important and beneficial to establish – or re-establish - contacts, to learn from each other and to prepare the ground for collaborative research activities;
- an **adjusted Centres of Excellence scheme** would be an appropriate instruments to support the previous objective in a small number of organisations that could have stimulating effects for the whole system. In addition, such a scheme would provide the opportunity for extended stays of researchers from EU member states and associated countries. This would ensure that EU researchers could work with local teams for appropriate periods. Thus, Centres of Excellence could become regional focal points and crystallising nuclei, thus contributing to developing a friendly environment for science and research activities, as well as perspectives for young scientists and researchers;
- in the candidate countries from central Europe, **European Chairs** had a very positive impact on the integration process; a similar scheme taking account of the lessons learnt from the mentioned scheme could be considered as one of the measures implemented in FP6;
- **bursary or fellowship schemes** will be necessary to offer the possibility for researchers from the Western Balkans to collect experience in EU RTD activities during placements in EU member states;
- past EU RTD activities have shown that **twinning arrangements** between organisations in new partner countries and EU member states have been very helpful to support the integration of newcomers into the EU RTD activities. Therefore, such twinning activities should be foreseen also for the Western Balkan countries in the future;

#### **1.1.1**

<sup>15</sup> the terminology used is here taken from the rules valid for the fifth Framework Programme (DECISION No 182/1999/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 December 1998 concerning the fifth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (1998 to 2002), Annex IV, Rules for financial participation by the Community, OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 29)

- support for the **creation of innovative SMEs**<sup>16</sup> will be essential. Activities in the area of innovation to support spin offs from research activities in industry and academia should be part of a specific programme for the Balkans;
- in general, **access to European research infrastructures** would support the integration of researchers from the target region;
- finally, there is a need for **renewal, improvement and restructuring of the research infrastructures**, to provide an supportive working environment for local researchers and for visiting researchers from abroad.

In addition to the instruments listed above, there will be a strong need for **Accompanying Measures in a future Framework Programme**, especially for:

- supporting the participation of researchers from the Balkan region in **Conferences in Western Europe**, as well as – most importantly – support for Conferences organised in the target countries. This would enable researchers from other parts of Europe getting acquainted with the organisations and colleagues from the Balkans;
- developing the **National Contact Point Systems** for information and assistance on the EU RTD activities. Also in that area, **twinning or even triangular arrangements** with experienced NCPs from EU member states and newly associated central European countries participating in FP5 would be very useful. Such measures would provide opportunities to disseminate best practice and experiences from getting integrated in the Framework Programme by **training and awareness actions and support for organisational development**; in addition, such arrangements and the personal contacts established between experienced intermediaries and EU RTD Contact Points in the Western Balkans would be a sound basis for **partner search and active project generation**;
- in addition, **training measures on the EU RTD activities for policy makers from national administrations** would be necessary as an accompanying measure to support the **development of the European Research Area**. This could be carried out in twinning or triangular arrangements involving ministries and other administrations from EU member states, from candidate countries and from the Western Balkans. National Contact Points could assist such activities.

## 5.2 *The need to utilise other instruments too*

However, the list of needs and demands shows, that **the instruments offered by the EU RTD Framework Programme will not be sufficient**. Also other measures and other instruments will be necessary. Therefore, the activities planned for the Framework Programme should be linked with measures supported by other instruments, such as

- CARDS<sup>17</sup>;
- The Stability Pact<sup>18</sup>;

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<sup>16</sup> SME: Small and Medium Sized Enterprise

<sup>17</sup> Community Assistance to Reconstruction Development and Stabilisation:

Council Regulation (EC) No 2666/2000 of 5 December 2000 on assistance for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, repealing Regulation (EC) No 1628/96 and amending Regulations (EEC) No 3906/89 and (EEC) No 1360/90 and Decisions 97/256/EC and 1999/311/EC. Official Journal L 306, 07/12/2000 p. 0001 - 0006

<sup>18</sup> Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Cologne, 10 June 1999. <http://www.stabilitypact.org>

- SECI<sup>19</sup>;
- bilateral programmes of member states and candidate countries and their possible co-ordination or concertation;
- others.

As has been shown by the first ad hoc account taken during the Workshop on the problems related to research and technological development in the Western Balkans in a European context, these problems cannot be solved by utilising the opportunities offered by the EU RTD Framework Programme only. These problems have to be addressed and gradually solved by a **concerted, well co-ordinated action integrating all appropriate instruments offered by the different programmes, actions and initiatives** at supra-national and national level. The details of an agenda incorporating the different mentioned fora have to be elaborated separately. **This Memorandum concentrates of the EU RTD Framework Programme in the broader context of the forthcoming European Research Area.**

#### **6. The rules for participation for a specific Balkan measure in future EU RTD activities**

In the Workshop discussions there was unanimous agreement on the **importance of regional RTD co-operation** as an integral part of European collaborative RTD activities. Therefore, the same rules can be applied as in the forthcoming Call for Proposals for Balkan Reintegration. Accordingly, with respect to the most important modalities for participation, the **specific criteria for the proposed measure** should be as follows:

Minimum partnership required (eligibility)			Additional criteria (selection)
	Shared Cost actions	Concerted Actions/Thematic Networks	
A2	2 EU (2 MS or 1 MS + 1 AS) + 2 CEEC	3 EU (3 MS to 1 MS + 2 AS) + 3 CEEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• links to relevant EU and wider policies (notably CARDS, Phare, Tacis, WHO, EIB, Agenda 21, Stability Pact, SECI, as well as bi-lateral programmes and initiatives)</li> <li>• significant and balanced participation between partners</li> <li>• sufficient size to have an appreciable impact</li> <li>• usage of local resources, involvement of local target groups</li> </ul>

In general, organisations from the target countries should be financed according to the **additional cost scheme**.

For the **other modalities**, specific criteria have to be developed based on careful consideration of the specific needs of the region.

### *7. Flanking measures to prepare for the participation in EU RTD activities*

Participating in the EU RTD programmes calls for certain **national provisions for research and technology policy development and implementation**. In addition, there is also the necessity to organise **operational measures for creating awareness, disseminating information and providing assistance** to interested researchers.

At the **policy level**, there should be clear **responsibilities** both for the national co-ordination of the participation and for the different thematic and horizontal aspects of the specific measure to be implemented. It will be important, to have clearly defined **interfaces and contact persons** for communicating with the European Commission, with EU member states and with the candidate countries. It will be relevant to **get integrated into European RTD policy networks**.

A **National Contact Point system** should be developed. The main tasks of persons and organisations forming such a system would be:

- ✓ identifying possible participants in and beneficiaries of measures in the EU Framework Programme (companies, universities, research organisations, other organisations),
- ✓ creating awareness on EU RTD activities,
- ✓ spreading the information,
- ✓ supporting partner search, and
- ✓ assisting in preparing proposals.

It would be probably good to have **well informed EU RTD contact persons** at universities, in research organisations and in chambers of commerce.

One must be clear about the fact, that, in general, the research and technology activities and the respective potential of the Western Balkan countries are just not known in the European Union and probably – at least to a certain extent - also in the candidate countries. Therefore, there should be **promotion campaigns of Western Balkan countries** for informing the EU member states and the candidate countries on the research potential and the needs for co-operation in the area of research and development in problem areas of national interest. There would probably be a need for European support for such measures. As has been said before, **twinning arrangements with experienced contact point organisations** would be most helpful in that area of activities.

### *8. Summary*

The Vienna Workshop succeeded to convene for the first time research and technology policy makers from responsible ministries and other organisations in the Western Balkan states – Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and FYROM – and from the neighbouring countries Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovenia. One participant from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia attended the Workshop as an observer.

During the discussions, major general problems have been identified in the area of **R&D infrastructures and equipment, in the deficits of an underdeveloped economic structures, and in a serious lack of contacts to researchers in other parts of Europe**.

Specific problems, where European research co-operation will be most important have been specified in the areas of **health, agriculture, information society technologies, environment, energy and socio-economic research**. Within the next weeks, more specific information will be gathered on the needs in the target countries.

In general, the Workshop participants agreed that **in FP6 a specific EU RTD measure should be carried out for the Western Balkan states following the example of INCO COPERNICUS**.

There was an overall agreement that a broad spectrum of **different modalities for participation should be offered** in order to provide the right instruments for addressing different problem areas: Shared cost actions, thematic networks and concerted actions, Centres of Excellence, fellowship or bursary schemes, measures to support innovative start ups, and access to research infrastructures. Funds should be available for the support of visits to Conferences in other European countries as well as for organising Conferences in the target countries.

There was unanimous agreement, that **regional collaboration** will be most important as a special eligibility requirement for specific measures addressing the Western Balkan countries in FP6. Thus, once again, science and research will be the first – the “avant garde” – in times of transition.

**Special efforts will be necessary for the renewal, reconstruction and improvement of research infrastructures.**

**There will be a need to mobilise and utilise also other sources of funding outside the Framework Programme in a well co-ordinated way.**

**Policy makers from the Western Balkan countries have to get acquainted with the EU RTD system and should be introduced into the philosophy of the Framework Programme.**

**National EU RTD Contact Points have to be identified and trained and placed in universities, research organisations and other appropriate organisations, in order to form a network for information and assistance on EU RTD activities. Twinning arrangements with experienced organisations from the neighbouring countries would be most promising.**

Finally, one has to emphasise that **beyond the EU Framework Programme also other programmes, initiatives and actions should be mobilised to support the research and development sector in the Western Balkan countries**. This holds for example for infrastructural programmes, the instruments provided by CARDS, the Stability Pact, SECI and others. Necessarily, they have to be utilised **to contribute to solving the problems of the research and development system in the region, as well as to solve specific problems of the region in the areas of health, environment, information technologies and others through European collaborative research and development.**

## **9. ANNEX Workshop Programme**

## **Workshop Programme**

### **Future perspectives of international research & technology co-operation in FP6<sup>1)</sup> for the non-candidate countries in south eastern Europe**

(Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia)

#### ***A high level expert workshop for the preparation of FP6***

##### **Organisators:**

BIT - Bureau for International Research and Technology Co-operation, AT  
Ministry for Education, Science and Culture (BMBWK), AT  
Ministry for Economic and Labour Affairs (BMWA), AT  
European Commission, DG Research  
Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)

##### **Date:**

11 - 12 December 2000

##### **Venue:**

Radisson SAS Palais Hotel, Vienna, Austria

##### **Target countries:**

Non-candidate S/E-European countries (SEEC): Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia

Neighbouring countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia

##### **Participants:**

High level representatives of the target countries such as Vice-Ministers, Directors General and Directors responsible for science, research and technology policy as well as Co-ordinating National Contact Points responsible for operational issues of EU RTD activities  
European Commission

##### **Topics:**

The strategic role of transnational R&D co-operation in Europe  
The European Research Area and international co-operation  
The 6th EU Framework Programme for RTD  
Experiences of candidate countries in FP4 and FP5  
R&T co-operation: Needs and expectations of non-candidate south-east European countries

##### **Intended results:**

Position paper on

- S&T topics and problem areas relevant for the non-candidate countries in South Eastern Europe
- Appropriate instruments for participation in FP6
- Specific rules for participation in FP6

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<sup>1)</sup> Sixth EU Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration



**ANNEX 2/**

**Programme:**

**11 December 2000**

**Opening Session:**

Chair: Erhard BUSEK, AUSTRIA

10:00 - 10:30

**Welcome and Opening**

Erhard BUSEK, AUSTRIA

Raoul KNEUCKER, AUSTRIA

Gottfried ZWERENZ, AUSTRIA

10:30 - 10:45

**Workshop Introduction**

Manfred HORVAT, AUSTRIA

10:45 - 11:30

**The European Research Area and the future Framework Programme: Main objectives, strategies and actions**

Jürgen ROSENBAUM, EC

11:30 - 12:00

**Coffee Break**

**Panel Discussion**

Chair: Raoul KNEUCKER, AUSTRIA

12:00 - 13:15

**Perspectives of International Co-operation within the European Research Area and FP6**

Introduction:

Rudolf MEIJER, EC

Manfred HORVAT, AUSTRIA

Panelists:

Jürgen ROSENBAUM, EC

Davor BUTKOVICS, CROATIA

Andras SIEGLER, HUNGARY

Carlo RIZZUTO, ITALY

Britt-Marie TYGARD, SWEDEN

13:15 - 14:30

**Buffet Lunch**

**Afternoon Session:**

Chair: Otto Peperna, AUSTRIA

**R&D in the non-candidate S/E-European countries - the present situation and the needs for European co-operation**

14:30 - 15:00

**Albania**

Agim MINXHOZI

15:00 - 15:30

**Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Joshko KARAMEHIC

Mladen RUDC

15:30 - 16:00

**Coffee Break**

16:00 - 16:30

**Croatia**

Davor BUTKOVICS

16:30 - 17:00

**FYR of Macedonia**

Tomislav DZEKOV

17:00 - 17:30

**General Discussion**

Programme(Continued)

12 December 2000

09:00 - 12:30	<b>Morning Session:</b> Chair: Manfred HORVAT, AUSTRIA <b>Experiences of "old hands" and newcomers</b>
09:00 - 09:10	<b>Italy</b> Carlo RIZZUTO
09:10 - 09:20	<b>Greece</b> Dimitris GLAROS
09:20 - 09:30	<b>Austria</b> Anneliese STOKLASKA
09:30 - 09:45	<b>Bulgaria</b> Todor POPOV
09:45 - 10:00	<b>Hungary</b> Andras SIEGLER
10:00 - 10:15	<b>Romania</b> Mircea SBARNA
10:15 - 10:30	<b>Slovenia</b> Albin BABIC
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	<b>Workshop on objectives, contents, modalities and rules for the participation of the non-candidate S/E-European countries in FP6</b>
11:00 - 11:10	Introduction: Peter HÄRTWICH, EC
11:10 - 11:50	<b>Objectives and Contents</b>
11:50 - 12:00	<b>Modalities</b>
12:00 - 12:10	<b>Rules</b>
12:10 - 12:30	<b>General Discussion</b>
12:30 - 13:00	<b>Closing Session</b> Chair: Erhard BUSEK, AUSTRIA <b>Summary and Conclusions</b> Raoul KNEUCKER, AUSTRIA <b>Follow up and outlook</b> Peter HÄRTWICH, EC and Manfred HORVAT, AUSTRIA <b>Synthesis and closing</b> Erhard BUSEK, AUSTRIA