

Towards 2020: New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region

WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference & Brokerage Event

Tech Gate Vienna / Donau-City-Straße 1 / 1220 Vienna / Austria

2nd Panel: *“Framework Conditions for
Research and Innovation Cooperation”*

Germany supports framework
conditions for research and
innovation in the WBC's

Dr. Matthias Hack
Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

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- ▶ Head of the Ministry: Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka
- ▶ Objectives and tasks:
 - ▶ Promote education & research to face future challenges
 - ▶ Establishment of social equality in education
 - ▶ Support research excellence to create innovation
 - ▶ Foster international cooperation within the European Research Area
 - ▶ Realization and completion of the European Research Area
 - ▶ Implementation of the High-Tech Strategy and the Internationalization Strategy

Strategic Framework Conditions for Research and Innovation

- ▶ German Coalition agreement (11-27-2013):
 - ▶ Completion of ERA, strengthening of the European innovation system, cooperation in research with CEE and SEE countries as central political aims.
- ▶ The High-Tech Strategy 2020 for Germany (HTS):
 - ▶ The aim of the HTS (strategy of the Federal Government, coordinated process of major stakeholders in academia, industry and policy, launched in 2006, updated in 2010, further adaptation 2014) is to create lead markets, intensify cooperation between science and industry (e.g. cluster strategy), and improve the general conditions for innovation (public procurement, IPR, standards and norms).
 - ▶ Fields of activity, forward-looking projects: climate/energy (renewable biomaterials), health/nutrition (ageing society), mobility, security (secure identities), and communication.

Strategic Framework Conditions for Research and Innovation

- ▶ Strategy for the Internationalization of Science and Research:
 - ▶ Aiming at strengthening Germany's role in the global knowledge society (strategy of the Federal Government, launched in 2008, further adaptation 2015)
 - ▶ About 95% of global knowledge is generated outside Germany
 - ▶ Four main priorities:
 - ▶ Strengthening research cooperation with global leaders
 - ▶ International exploitation of innovation potentials
 - ▶ Intensifying the cooperation with global followers and developing countries in education (higher education, vocational education and training), research and development on a long-term basis, brain circulation
 - ▶ Assuming international responsibility and mastering global challenges

European Networking

- ▶ EU enlargement high on political agenda for BMBF
- ▶ Germany engaged in support of cooperation with the Western Balkans since 2002
 - ▶ Supporting the Action Plan for Western Balkan Countries (Thessaloniki June 2003),
 - ▶ Member of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries (2006)
- ▶ Strong engagement in several European Network projects
 - ▶ SEE-ERA.NET (2004 – 2009)
 - ▶ WBC-INCO.NET (2008 – 2014)
 - ▶ SEE-ERA.NET PLUS (2009 – 2013)
 - ▶ DANUBE-INCO.NET (2014 – 2016)

German Impact in WBC-INCO.NET

- ▶ BMBF and PT-DLR leading the activities on priority setting in WBC-INCO.NET
- ▶ Identifying joint thematic research priorities for the Western Balkan region which were considered in the SEE.ERA-NET PLUS “Joint Call”
 - ▶ Research topics are based on regional needs of the partners and the WBC
 - ▶ Emphasis on integration of WBC partners in the European Research Area, cooperation among the WBC
 - ▶ Identified topics: ICT and AgroFood
- ▶ Engaging in innovation support:
 - ▶ Selection of good practice examples of innovation schemes
 - ▶ Developing their adaptation to the Western Balkan region (e.g. Voucher Scheme, Innovation Officer, Strategic Innovation, Soft Landing Platforms)

German Funding Programmes addressing the Western Balkan Countries

- ▶ Call for multilateral projects in South East and Central East Europe
Aim: Preparation of project applications within Horizon 2020 and other EU measures, e.g. structural funds and IPA.
A new call is under preparation.
- ▶ Ideas competition for the establishment and development of innovative R&D networks with partners in the Danube States
Aims: to establish networks with excellent researchers in the Danube States in order to develop joint cooperation strategies and projects and to encourage international links along the entire value chain in order to support technology transfer and innovation.
- ▶ Opening-up of a Hungarian call to strengthen bilateral and finally EU cooperation (excellence-driven networks, using “Lead Agency-principle”).

What is needed in the future?

- ▶ Identifying the demands and needs of the respective countries
 - ▶ Regional innovation strategies (RIS) and sustainable funding by using instruments for pre-accession assistance (IPA) and structural funds
 - ▶ Good quality of vocational education and training (VET), higher education (HE) and brain circulation
 - ▶ Good conditions and incentives for mobility from VET to HE
 - ▶ Sustainable structures for research and innovation: e.g. regional centers of excellence and knowledge hubs, improvement of R&D capabilities in SME's, perspective clusters
 - ▶ Sustainable cross-boarder networks (academia, industry) of WBC's
 - ▶ Cooperation along value chains in the region and with EU
- ▶ ⁸ countries.



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Thank You For Your Attention!

**Dr. Matthias Hack, Federal Ministry of Education and
Research, Germany**

Matthias.Hack@bmbf.bund.de