



*Intensifying the European Research Area
in Western Balkan Countries*

Duration: 1/1/2007 – 31/12/2008

Funded by the EC under the INCO Programme/FP6



Key project data

Funds: INCO Programme of FP6, DG Research of the European Commission

Duration: 24 Months
1/1/2007 – 31/12/2008

Consortium: 10 partners from 10 countries
(4 partners, incl. coordinator, located in Member States (MS), 6 partners located in West Balkan Countries (WBC))

Most of the partners are Governmental organisations and operate as National Contact Points (NCPs) for the 7th EU-Framework Programme (FP7)



Project consortium / Partners

Coordinator:

Austria, FFG-Austrian Research Promotion Agency



Partners:

- Albania, MESA-Ministry of Education and Science
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, SUS BiH
- Croatia, MZOS-Ministry of Science Education and Sports
- FYROM, MES-Ministry of Education and Science
- Germany, Helmholtz Association
- Greece, EKT/NHRF-National Documentation Centre
- Montenegro, ZAMTES-Agency for International Scientific, Educational, Cultural and Technical Co-operation
- Serbia, MS-Ministry of Science
- Slovenia, MHEST-Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology



Background and Rationale

Since the **EU enlargement** in 2004 (Hungary, Slovenia,) and 2007 (Bulgaria and Romania), the EU and the Western Balkan Countries (WBC) have become even closer neighbours

European integration and the present and future relations between the EU and the WBC are of immediate concern to the EU

The **ERA WESTBALKAN+** project addresses FP7 NCPs, Scientific and Research Communities, the industrial sector, and Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) in WBC



Project objectives

*Foster collaboration between Researchers and Scientific Communities in the EU and in WBC through **partnering events and researcher visits** in MS*

*Support FP7 NCPs from WBC to more effectively promote FP7 among their national target groups through **workshops and know how exchange***

Strengthen contacts to EU policy makers through a traineeship for NCPs from WBC in the liaison office of the Helmholtz Association in Brussels



Events and Activities

May 2007, Belgrade: FP7 workshop for NCPs from WBC

June 2007, Vienna: "Health" Partnering and researcher visit at the Institute of Cancer Research

Jan 2008, Brussels: Policy making Traineeship for NCPs from WBC

April 2008, Athens: Second Partnering and researcher visit

2008, Ljubljana: Third Partnering and researcher visit

2007-2008, WBC: 22 national FP7 info days and workshops for researchers

Matchmaking platform for researchers in WBC: West Balkan Research Database for researchers in WBC for increasing visibility within Europe and offering expertise with respect to scientific cooperation and participation in FP7 research consortia

FP7 promotion and awareness rising within Scientific communities in WBC: Project homepage, bi-annual E-newsletters, Guides on how to participate in FP7, Articles and announcements in local media and on CORDIS



More info and contacts

- **ERA WESTBALKAN+ Project homepage**
(providing documents and useful links, announcing news and events relevant for WBC)
<http://www.erawestbalkanplus.net>
- **West Balkan Research Database**
(matchmaking platform for researchers in WBC with more than 750 expertise profiles)
<http://www.westbalkanresearch.net>
- FFG, Victoria Solitander
Tel: +43 (0)5 7755 4606
Email: victoria.solitander@ffg.at

