The Black Sea Cooperation Programme in STI

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BLACK SEA HORIZON
Bi-regional STI Dialogue

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The project BLACK SEA HORIZON has received funding from Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, under the Grant Agreement 645785 (H2020-INT-INCO-2014).
The **BSCP** constitutes one of the *main objectives* of the BSH project. It aims at:

- Enhancing the *intra-regional STI cooperation*;
- Contributing to the *EU-BS bi-regional dialogue*;
- Enhancing *participation in ERA and H2020*;
- Creating *synergies with other programmes*.

Through the involvement of a *large variety of stakeholders* (Pprog. Owners; RPOs, SMEs, EU MS, Int. Org.)
Methodology towards the BSCP

- Collection of analytical evidence;
- Contacts with policy dialogue fora;
- Consultation process among BSH partners;
- Organization of a Workshop in Brussels (Dec. 2017), involving policy makers (EU and BS), EC representatives, Liaison Offices, etc.

Guiding principle: rooting the BSCP to policy documents and creating synergies with policy dialogue fora (Joint strategy/EaP Panel; BSEC WG/Action Plan; ENI; Black Sea Synergy, etc.)
Content of the BSCP

1. A series of measures:
   A. Joint Research Calls;
   B. Capacity Building Activities;
   C. Strengthening Mobility;
   D. Support to Innovation.

2. Governance, Steering and Funding of the BSCP
A. Joint Research Calls

…’enlarging the ongoing bilateral cooperation and building on previous multilateral activities’ (e.g. BS-ERANET)

- **Principles**: variable geometry; participation of researchers from countries committing funds; thematic priorities to be defined by funding parties
- **Topics not** in H2020 **and/or** topics overlapping with H2020 (to pave the way for H2020 participation)
- **Sustainability** and **periodicity** of such calls;
- Jointly agreed **Evaluation and Selection criteria**

Concrete step: a Joint Call already under preparation
B. Capacity Building activities (1/2)

…’to improve the framework conditions and eliminate obstacles for an enhanced participation in the ERA’

Such activities should:

☐ Build on past experiences (e.g. Inco projects);
☐ Be tailor-made to address different stakeholders;
☐ Deserve priorities and needs of the participating countries;
☐ Should be organized locally to increase their impact (encompassing young researchers, SMEs, etc.)
B. Capacity Building activities (2/2)

Proposed activities:

1. Regional Benchmarking exercises among Institutes;
2. Trainings of researchers on Research Management Thematic trainings e.g. on IPR;
3. Trainings for policy makers on STI policy setting;
4. Follow up (or repeat) Peer Reviews of STI systems;
5. Consolidate the STI Evaluation Platform;
6. Implement a Foresight exercise to develop a vision for the region.
C. Strengthening Mobility (1/2)

…”intra-regional and towards EU, to reduce isolation of researchers and to enhance their performance’

Such measures should be:

- Complementary to existing schemes
  - Coordinating bilateral towards multilateral schemes (?)
  - Promoting access to Research Infrastructures
- Incoming **and outgoing** to promote brain circulation (key words: excellence, young researchers, diaspora)
- Serving **priorities** of the region;
- Include targeted mobility for **proposal preparation and/or twinning** between research entities.
C. Strengthening Mobility (2/2)

Proposed activities:

1. Organization of regional **Summer Schools**;
2. Twinning/mentoring actions between research organizations with two-way mobility components
3. Grants for networking with EU organizations;
4. Supporting **access to Research Infrastructures**;
5. Exchange of best practices on mobility schemes.
D. Supporting Innovation (1/2)

…”A major challenge in Black Sea and beyond”

Several recommendations of the Peer Reviews in that field are highly relevant also for the BSCP

1. **Voucher schemes** allowing SMEs to ‘buy’ research services;
2. Calls for **cross-border clustering**;
3. Calls for **Academia – Industry cooperation**;
4. Calls for **Industry – Academia inter-sectoral mobility**;
D. Supporting Innovation (2/2)

5. **Improve access to Risk Finance** (Awareness raising; trainings; studies on obstacles; feasibility studies for V. C. and B. A., etc.);

6. **Developing Regional Competence Centres** to provide research-based solutions for specific economic sectors;

7. **Extending the European Innovation Scoreboard** (sharing experiences; trainings and mentoring; pilot applications);

8. **Training experts on technology transfer and commercialization support.**
2. Governance, Steering and Funding

‘The BSCP: a joint effort of countries and institutions sharing the same challenges’

A *Governing procedure* is necessary to *initiate* and to *implement* every specific activity

- **Steering task** (overall monitoring, initiation of activities, etc.)
- **Implementation task** (collect expressions of interest - ‘critical mass’, define rules, etc.)

+ **Funding**: on a case-by-case basis
2. Governance, Steering and Funding (2/2)

A link to Policy Dialogue Fora needs to be established including the:
- EaP Panel on Research and Innovation;
- BSEC Working Group on S&T.
To act as facilitators and initiators of activities

Complemented by a ‘Secretarial task’
Permanent? rotating? Ad-hoc per activity? Other?
In Conclusion…

The BSCP should be seen as:

- An **agreed framework** for intra- and inter-regional STI cooperation;
- Reflecting national and regional **priorities**;
- To be implemented on a **voluntary** and **variable geometry** basis.

A **challenging perspective to jointly work on!**
Thank you for your attention!

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