

Conference

“Towards an Information Society for the Western Balkans”

Belgrade, Serbian Chamber of Commerce
Resavska 15, room 1, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

11 and 12 December 2008

The Conference will address Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) stakeholders such as leading researchers and experts from academia and industry and representatives of Ministries from the Western Balkan Countries (WBC). The conference aims at formulating a coherent strategy and actions for the development of the ICT research environment in the Western Balkans and for the region's integration in the wider European effort to achieve the Information Society. During the Conference, the regional ICT research needs, capacities and priorities will be discussed, the future challenges of the Western Balkan ICT research environment will be explored and concrete recommendations/actions for enhanced regional ICT research collaboration will be put forward.

The Conference is co-organised by the two European projects SCORE and WBC-INCO.NET with the support of the European Commission, and hosted by the Serbian Chamber of Commerce.

AGENDA Thursday, 11 December 2008

08:30-09:00 *Registration*

OPENING SESSION

09:10-09:20 **Introductory remarks** (*Raphael Koumeri, PLANET S.A., SCORE*) and *Ulrike Kunze (PT-DLR, WBC-INCO.NET)*

09:20-09:30 **Welcome note** (*Mrs. Jelena Jovanovic, Secretary of IT Association, Serbian Chamber of Commerce*)

9:40-09:50 **Inaugural speech** (*Dr. Radosav Cerovic, Assistant Minister of Science of Serbia - (Department For Technological Development, Transfer Of Technologies And Innovation System)*)

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

09:50-10:10 **The EU FP7 ICT Theme** (*Vlassios Venner – DGINFSO, European Commission*)

The ICT environment in the Western Balkans (*Djuro Kutlaca, MPI, WBC INCO.NET*)

- 10:10-11:10
- Needs vs. capacities, common elements and particularities
 - Discussion

11:10-11:30 *Coffee Break*

Regional ICT Research & Development Priorities (*Jelena Pantelic, Information Society SCG*)

- 11:30-12:30
- Methodological remarks; Common R&D priorities
 - Discussion

12:30-14:00 *Lunch*

Key barriers and challenges in ICT Research: the Regional & EU context
(*Soumi Papadopoulou, PLANET S.A. and René Wintjes, UNU-MERIT*)

- 14:00-15:00
- Key findings from SCORE and WBC-INCO.NET
 - Discussion

15:00 -15:30 *Coffee Break*

PANEL DISCUSSION

THE NEXT STEPS: what is needed for regional cooperation (the countries' own role)

Panel moderator: Raphael Koumeri, PLANET S.A.

- Barriers to cooperation and recommendations for Western Balkan decision-makers
- The role of higher education
- The role of ICT industry
- The role of policy-makers

Panel members:

- 15:30 - 17:30
- *Jelena Surculia, Assistant Minister of Telecommunications (Serbia)*
 - *Tatjana Knezevic, Ministry of Education & Science (Montenegro)*
 - *Miroslav Radinkovic, Ministry of Science and Technology, (Republika Srpska, BiH)*
 - *Diana Simic, chair eSEE initiative, CeGD (Croatia)*
 - *Betim Cico, Polytechnic University of Tirana; (Albania)*
 - *Neki Frasheri, Polytechnic University of Tirana; (Albania)*
 - *Zlatan Sabic, University of Sarajevo; (Bosnia-Herzegovina)*
 - *Dragan Domazet, Dean of Faculty of Information Technology (Serbia)*
 - *Kiril Minoski, USAID (FYR of Macedonia)*
 - *Ljubomir Trajkovski, Trajkovski & Partners (FYR of Macedonia)*

18:00 - 20:00 *Cocktail*

Friday, 12 December 2008

09:00 - 09:20 *Morning coffee*

09:20 - 09:30 **Summary from Day 1** (*Ulrike Kunze, PT-DLR, WBC-INCO.NET*)

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION: THE EU & REGIONAL DIMENSION

Opportunities for EU-Western Balkan research collaboration:

- 09:30 - 10:00
- **the 4th ICT Call** (*Svetlana Bogdanovic, ICT/NCP for FP7, Ministry of Science, Serbia*)
 - **FP6 project example: RACWeB** (*Gordana Dzamic, Ministry of Finance, Serbia*)

10:00 - 10:30 **Development of Information Society in WBC / SEE: Contribution of neighboring & EU countries** (*Blaz Golob, CeGD, Slovenia*)

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

PANEL DISCUSSION

THE NEXT STEPS: Concrete actions & recommendations for regional cooperation (EU & regional dimension)

Panel moderator: (Ulrike Kunze, PT-DLR, WBC-INCO.NET)

- Briefing on outcomes of WBC-INCO.NET consultation session
- Inputs for calls in the context of South East European ERA.Net PLUS and FP7
- Proposal for major generic activities (etc. networking, infrastructure etc.); other

11:00 - 12:40 *Panel members:*

- *Natasa Radovic, Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society (Serbia)*
- *Miroslav Radinkovic, Ministry of Science and Technology, (Republika Srpska, Bosnia-Herzegovina)*
- *Jozef Bushati, University of Shkodra (Albania)*
- *Leid Zejnilovic, Dzemal Bijedic University (Bosnia-Herzegovina)*
- *Vladimir Trajkovic, Faculty of Electrical Engineering & IT (FYR of Macedonia)*
- *Sokol Haxhiu, UNDP (Albania)*
- *Brano Vujicic, Association for Information Technologies in BiH (Bosnia-Herzegovina)*
- *Radovan Stojanovic, State University of Montenegro (Montenegro)*

CLOSING SESSION

12:40-12:50 **Closing note** (*Dr. Viktor Nedovic, Assistant Minister of Science of Serbia, Department For International Scientific And Technological Cooperation*)

12:50–13:00 **Presentation of the main conclusions and the way forward**
(*Raphael Koumeri, PLANET S.A., SCORE*)

13:00–14:00 *Lunch*