

**Western Balkan Countries  
INCO-NET and related initiatives to  
integrate the region in the European  
Research Area**

**Elke Dall**, Zentrum für Soziale Innovation  
Consultation Session – AgroFood  
Podgorica, Montenegro  
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# Content of the presentation

- ❑ Thanks
- ❑ Context of the activities
  - ❑ Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries
- ❑ Western Balkan countries INCO-NET
  - ❑ Priority Setting Activities
- ❑ SEE-ERA.NET plus

# Context



## Before 2006

- **Coordination and Specific Support Actions** in different fields are supported by the Framework Programmes (Balkan Agro Food Network, EU-FAB-NET, ERA WESTBALKAN+, SCORE, SMEs go Health, SEE-SCIENCE.EU,...)
- FP7 supports **activities to support bi-regional dialogue and networks of funding bodies: SEE-ERA.NET** (development of a pilot joint call for research project proposals -> leading to a joint programme)
- **Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries** established in June 2006

# Context



- European Commission develops the **INCO-NET scheme** (FP7) to structure bi-regional dialogue: WBC-INCO.NET starts 1.1.2008
- Western Balkan countries are becoming **Associated Countries** to the Framework Programme
- **European Commission** is interested to support cooperation in priority areas in the thematic fields
- **WBC-INCO.NET** will follow-up on the priorities defined (checking workprogrammes, networking activities, etc.)
- **SEE-ERA.NET** is planning a new call in autumn 2009 (**SEE-ERA.NET plus**) and results will feed into the planning procedures
- Further activities based on the priorities set (e.g. on national level)

# Steering Platform on Research



- Regular meetings conveyed by
  - European Commission
  - Council Presidency
  - Western Balkan countries

Current co-chairs are EC, Czech Republic, Albania

- Members: EU27 + AC + EC (Ministries responsible for Science)

Launched during Austrian presidency in 2006

Next meeting will be held in Libelice (CZ), May 28, 2009.

- Supported by WBC-INCO.NET (logistically, administrative)

# WBC-INCO.NET Objectives



- Structuring and supporting S&T **bi-regional dialogue**,
- Developing concrete research **priorities** of mutual interest (with a special focus on FP7 priority fields),
- Supporting and transferring know-how to research community and NCPs,
- Enhancing production and use of knowledge based indicators,
- Creating a base for the further preparation of participation in multilateral RTD activities,
- Increasing competitiveness and networking, etc.

# Partners in WBC-INCO.NET



<b>1. ZSI (Austria)- Coordinator</b>	<b>2. MOES (Albania)</b>	<b>3. MZOS (Croatia)</b>
<b>4. MON-MK (FYR of Macedonia)</b>	<b>5. MPIN (Montenegro)</b>	<b>6. MSTD (Serbia)</b>
<b>7. SUS BiH (Bosnia and Herzegovina)</b>	<b>8. MPI (Serbia)</b>	<b>9. Ivo Pilar (Croatia)</b>
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<b>16. PT-DLR (Germany)</b>	<b>17. FFG (Austria)</b>	<b>18. TÜBITAK (Turkey)</b>
<b>19. GSRT (Greece)</b>	<b>20. MHEST (Slovenia)</b>	<b>21. BMWF (Austria)</b>
<b>22. BMBF (Germany)</b>	<b>23. MES-CRA (Bulgaria)</b>	<b>24. TURBO (Belgium/Turkey)</b>
<b>25. APRE (Italy)</b>	<b>26. MCA (Bosnia and Herzegovina)</b>	

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WBC-Ministries

EU-MS/AC-Ministries

WBC- Support Institutes

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# Workpackages

No.	Work Package Title	Lead Participant	Contact
1	European & Regional Dialogue	BMWf	Mr. Heribert Buchbauer Ms. Anneliese Stoklaska
2	Priority Setting to Structure Participation in FP7	PT-DLR BMBF	Ms. Ulrike Kunze, Ms. Karin Wedde-Mühlhausen Ms. Erika Rost, Mr. Andreas Kahle
3	Monitoring & Analysis of S&T Cooperation	MHEST	Ms. Slavi Krusic Mr. Davor Kozmus
4	Building Capacities	GSRT	Mr. Nikos Sidiropoulos
5	Facilitating Networking and Increased Participation in FP7	MSCI	Mr. Viktor Nedovic
6	Project Management	ZSI	Ms. Elke Dall Ms. Carmen Siller
7	Dissemination	ZSI	Ms. Elke Dall

# Current priority setting activities

- Based on the guidelines for priority setting developed by UNU-MERIT, a first round of consultations is organised.
- Cooperation with SCORE project in the field of ICT (FP6 project with the objective to research priorities in WBC): session was linked to a conference on Information Society in the Western Balkans – December 10-12, 2008 in Belgrade
- Cooperation with BalkanAgroFood Network (FP6 project) for the organisation of the consultation meeting in Podgorica, January 15-16, 2009
- Background documents are distributed to prepare the consultations (input from cooperation projects or from subcontractors).
- Results are disseminated to European Commission and other stakeholders.

# Further Activities

- Communication Activities
  - Regular eJournal (presenting also your success stories)
  - <http://www.wbc-inco.net> website
  - brochure, dissemination, databases, etc
  - presentations and training workshops
- Exploring synergies with other initiatives (ERA NET, Technology Platforms – e.g. on organic farming)
- Analysis on Cooperation Barriers, Access to Infrastructure, etc.
- Training for Financial Managers
- Information Sessions at EU conferences
- Etc.

# Implementing SEE-ERA.NET plus Joint Call

## SEE-ERA.NET plus:

- Capacities - Call FP7-INCO-2007-3 – SEE-ERA.NET PLUS Proposal
- Objective is to launch and implement one joint call for transnational research proposals (JERPs)
- Call budget 3.5 million
- Planned to fund approx. 23 transnational research projects
- Selected through an independent peer review process
  
- Call open in autumn 2009

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<b>TUBITAK (Turkey)</b>	<b>MVP (BiH)</b>	<b>ANCS (Romania)</b>
<b>MESR (France)</b>	<b>MAE (France)</b>	

# Thank you for your attention!

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