



The EU-BALKAN FABNET Newsletter

Index

EU-Balkan-FABNET: Looking ahead after two years onboard	2
How to turn your ideas into European projects? – Handbook on FP7	3
Overview of projects in Western Balkan Countries	4
Agripolicy - Enlargement Network for Agripolicy Analysis	5
KnowShycles – Knowledge and innovation circles	6

EU-Balkan-FABNET: Looking ahead after two years onboard

EU-Balkan-FABNET is about to reach its completion! During the last two years, the 11 partners of project have worked intensively with local actors of the Western Balkan countries in order to promote the research funding opportunities of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and to support a culture of openness for the benefit of transnational cooperation in research.

In total 19 training sessions have been organized in the countries of Western Balkans, attended by a high number of researchers and “information multipliers”, i.e., people in a position to drive the project’s message further, to a much wider audience.



Such events were further reinforced by the capacity of providing FP7 support to local researchers on an individual basis. The partners also raised the visibility of the research community of the Balkan region by sponsoring local researchers to participate in international events, where they could meet researchers from other countries, active in projects of the Framework Programme.

Moving onto the New Year, beyond the expected lifetime for EU-Balkan-FABNET, does not mean the end of the project’s support to the local research community. The partner organizations firmly believe in the added value of transnational research cooperation. Supporting interested parties from academia or industry has been a core activity for them and will continue to be in the coming years. Under the same approach, the project’s website www.balkan-fabnet.eu will remain active after the end of the project, promoting any FP-oriented information identified by the partners with relevance to the local audience and acting as a communication channel with the local research community.

[For further information](#)

Return to [index](#)

How to turn your ideas into European projects? – Handbook on FP7

The handbook “How to turn your ideas into European projects” is a guide on the European 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7). It was prepared in the frame of **the EU-Balkan FABNET project**, which general objective is to increase the participation of researchers from Western Balkans (in the field of agri-food sector) in FP7 projects.



To reach such a goal, the handbook was conceived as a complete tool providing information from general to accurate, from procedures presentation to concrete advices, directly inspired from practical experience. The handbook provides agri-food researchers and SMEs from Western Balkans with the necessary tools to set up and implement a good FP7 project under the relevant programme. It focuses on the targets' specific needs: individual trainings, capacity increase or research projects for agri-food researchers; SME involvement and academia-industry cooperation for SMEs.

To maximise the impact of this handbook, the latter will be widely distributed in the Balkan region, in English and in all WBC languages, as part of the FabNet dissemination activities.

The document is divided into four chapters. In the **first chapter**, the handbook generally presents the FP7 and focuses on the five most interesting sub programmes available for agri-food researchers and SMEs. For each sub-programme, the success rate recorded last year and an example of a financed project are provided. The **second chapter** presents a general overview of the FP7: mechanism and main steps of a project, information sources, potential participants and financing rates. It focuses on procedures and rules of participation. **The third chapter** provides information on each step of a project's life cycle, from the preparation to the end of its implementation. It focuses on a practical approach, each time providing ingredients of success. As a complementary illustration tool, concrete examples of agri-food projects and detailed information about the BAFN and EU-Balkan FABNET projects are provided in the **last chapter**.

[For further information](#)

Return to [index](#)

Overview of projects in Western Balkan Countries

As a continuing action to promote integration of the Western Balkan countries (WBC) in the European Research Area, the European Commission funded in the frame of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP), over the years, several support projects.

The ongoing projects are specific instruments to find information about WCB research capacity, support for participating to the 7FP and funding opportunities.

The projects directly involve WBC partners in their consortia, providing them information and tools to be better involved in the ERA.



ERA WESTBALKAN + is funded under the 6th FP and is about to end (December 2008). The project produced an online database of universities, institutions and companies active in R&D WBC, i.e. Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (<http://www.westbalkanresearch.net>).

It allows searching the West Balkan research landscape against all themes of activities defined within the 7th EU-Framework Programme (FP7), organisation type and geographical region for a simple and successful identification of R&D collaboration partners.

WBC INCONET will last until 2011 and provides news overview on WBC research (<http://www.wbc-inco.net/object/news/list>). It covers all the relevant programmes with a focus on FP7. It also aims to identify the Western Balkan research needs and capacities, to select tools for the upgrading of existing scientific assets, and to create synergies between the different actors and stakeholders.

SEE-ERA.NET, that will end in 2009, and its follow-up **SEE-ERA.NET plus**, that will last until 2012 aim at networking of research activities within national, bilateral and regional research programmes throughout Europe, especially targeting Southeast Europe.

SEE-ERA.NET launched a pilot joint call in November 2006. The design of the call was based on research on the priorities and needs of the Western Balkan countries with a view to their better integration into the European Research Area. SEE-ERA.NET plus, currently under negotiation, will launch a call for Joint European Research projects probably in spring 2009.



Return to [index](#)

Agripolicy - Enlargement Network for Agripolicy Analysis

The FP7 AgriPolicy project started on June 1st 2008 and will last 2 years. It is built on the results of the previous FP6 project "CEEC AGRICULTURE POLICY" (www.agripolicy.net) which has been a awarded financial support following the call FP6 -2003-SSP-3 (task 15: Agro -economic policy analysis of the accession and the candidate states and the countries of Western Balkan).



The FP7 AgriPolicy project gathers 22 partners from 21 countries including Member States, Associated countries, Candidate countries and Potential Candidate Countries (Western Balkan Countries and Turkey).

The overall objective of the FP7 AgriPolicy project is to support the formulation of Community agricultural policies. AgriPolicy has the following 4 specific objectives:

1. Networking and information sharing: the objective is to stimulate the networking and the sharing of information between organisations involved in agri-economics analysis. The networking will be stimulated mainly through the organisation of symposia and workshops.
2. Provide scientific input for policy making: the objective is to prepare analyses on a number of specific topics. The results of the two 8-monthly reports will be presented at symposia. The "report on demand" will be prepared following a specific request from the European Commission.
3. Prepare future analysis: the objective is to prepare for future policy and sectorial analyses and research by collecting quantitative and qualitative information. The information will be available on the project web site (www.agripolicy.net).
4. Develop analytical capacities: the objective is to strengthen the analytical capabilities of the research organisations involved in the project in the field of policy evaluation and foresight analysis. This will be achieved by implementing training sessions as well as conducting pilot studies.

[For further information](#)

Return to [index](#)

KnowShycles – Knowledge and innovation circles

It has long been acknowledged that innovation, i.e., the effective application of knowledge for the benefit of practical problems, can be a strong drive for local or regional development.

The ongoing KnowShycles project tries to develop methodologies that will allow local communities to become more open to innovation. The project is being implemented in the Greek regions of Attica and Western Greece and the Italian region of Basilicata and is supported by the INTERREG IIIB-ARCHIMED programme of the EC.



In the project, a lot of emphasis is placed on small and medium enterprises, their perception of sustainability and their capacity to identify and adopt innovation that can help towards that, with the possible involvement of actors of the local society. A training package covering diverse topics, such as quality management systems, enterprise and society through corporate social responsibility approaches, transnational research cooperation, etc., has been drafted and improved through the active participation of local enterprises, helping the project partners to improve their advice capacity for the benefit of their local SME audience.

International cooperation is very relevant to such an initiative, allowing for, not only better access to new technology, but also for exchange of views and discussion on good practices that can benefit sustainability and competitiveness.

The project is coordinated by ETAT (based in Athens, Greece) and implemented together with BIC of Attica (Greece), the University of Patras (Greece), Sviluppo Italia Basilicata SpA (Italy) and the Chamber of Commerce of Potenza (Italy).

[For further information](#)

Return to [index](#)