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– MONTENEGRO –**

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 Chapter 25 - Science and research

**NEGOTIATING POSITION OF MONTENEGRO FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
CONFERENCE ON ACCESSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE EUROPEAN UNION
CHAPTER 25 – SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**

Montenegro accepts the EU *acquis* in the area of science and research as it stands on 15 November 2012, anticipating no difficulties in implementation of the EU legislation by the time of accession. Montenegro requests no permanent exceptions or transitional periods for implementation of the EU *acquis* in this Chapter.

1. RESEARCH POLICY – INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

In the area of science and research, Montenegro has harmonised its legal system with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and acknowledged the EU objectives, guidelines and priorities in this area. Furthermore, Montenegro has accepted participation in the EU Research Framework Programme in this area – FP7. Montenegro declares its intention to participate in the new framework programme HORIZON 2020 as well as to contribute to the EU activities defined by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Research policy in Montenegro is implemented through national programmes of public interest as well as through international programmes and projects. Implementation of this policy is ensured by the institutional framework and by the scientific research community.

The institutional framework is composed of: Parliament, Government, Ministry of Science, Council for Scientific Research Activities and the scientific research community (Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts and 46 licensed scientific research institutions recorded in the Register in the Ministry of Science - universities, institutes, faculties, and companies).

The Ministry of Science has a central role in this institutional framework since it implements the Strategy on Scientific activities and on Research and Innovation Policy. It is responsible for the implementation and funding of research activities in the country through national and international programmes of public interest, negotiations and implementation of bilateral and regional agreements on scientific and technological cooperation, as well as for the conclusion of memoranda, protocols and programmes on cooperation with ministries and international organisations.

Scientific and research policy in Montenegro is defined by the Law on Scientific Research Activities (Official Gazette of Montenegro no 80/10). Article 112 of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and Their Member States and the Republic of Montenegro (SAA) provides for cooperation in research and technological development taking due account of the priority areas related to the EU *acquis* in the field of research and technological development. In this context actions undertaken by Montenegro on research and innovation have been monitored on a regular basis and are all aiming at facilitating integration into the European Research Area and contributing to the Innovation Union.

The 2008 Government Strategy for Scientific Research Activities (2008-2016) defines objectives, institutional framework, research priorities, international cooperation, financing of scientific research activities, and provides an Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy with annually defined measures. A mid-term revision of the Strategy for Scientific Research Activities is under preparation with a view to adjusting it to the new Law on Scientific Research Activities adopted at the end of December 2010 and to take new actions aiming at strengthening national research and innovation capacity.

Scientific research activities are financed from the: Budget of Montenegro allocated for that purpose by the Budget Law, Capital budget, budgets of scientific research institutions, international resources and private sector investments. With a view to stimulating the scientific and technological cooperation Montenegro will take further steps to strengthen its institutional, administrative and financial capacities in the forthcoming period through increase in national budget, use of the EU external programmes and notably the Pre-Accession Instrument (IPA) and cooperation with the EU member states and international partners notably through FP7 and later under Horizon 2020.

2. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

National programmes are being implemented through programmes of public interest. The most important among them is a programme concerning financing of national scientific research projects implemented on the basis of open competition. This programme is used for financing: projects in ten priority research areas, fully in line with the priorities under FP7; employment of young researchers (students of PhD studies) in scientific institutions through projects for three-year period and procurement of new equipment through project implementation. Annual calls for proposals are also organised for financing other scientific research activities such as: participation in FP7, COST and EUREKA programme; promotion of science and research in education and society; cooperation with scientific Diaspora; PhD and Master studies; study visits based on the scientific training abroad; participation in scientific congresses in the country and abroad; organization of scientific congresses in Montenegro; subscription fees for scientific research databases; publication of scientific works in reference journals; stimulation of authors of patents and innovations; and publication of scientific journals.

3. RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

A) - PARTICIPATION IN THE SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES (2007-2013) – FP7

Montenegro participated in the European Community framework programmes (FP5, FP6 and first year of FP7) as a third country. As of 1 January 2008 Montenegro has participated as an associated country to the EU Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities – FP7. A network of National Contact Points (NCP) has been established and Montenegro has nominated observers in most FP7 management committees. The administrative capacity in the Ministry of Science has been increased to ensure good dissemination of information, support in searching adequate partners and assisting in FP7 project preparations and promoting research cooperation with other partners and stakeholders.

- NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND COOPERATION WITH THE IAEA

Montenegro has not participated yet in the EURATOM Framework Programme FP7. In the forthcoming period consultations will be held with the scientific research community in order to identify priorities and future activities of possible interest for Montenegro taking into account that Montenegro is a non-nuclear country. Montenegro is member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

B) NEW FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME “HORIZON 2020”

Montenegro is preparing new guidelines concerning science and research in view of its participation in the next Framework Programme HORIZON 2020 to ensure effective participation, as an associated country, to this programme.

C) OTHER PROGRAMMES

Montenegro has developed bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the areas of science and technology (COST, EUREKA, NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, IAEA). Eight research teams from Montenegro are involved in the current COST Actions. Application for accession of Montenegro to the COST programme was submitted on 24 July 2012. Montenegro is a member of the EUREKA programme as of 22 June 2012 and participates in two projects. Montenegro is a partner country to NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme since 2006 and participates in three projects.

4. SUPPORT TO INNOVATIONS IN MONTENEGRO

Contribution to Innovation Union: taking the necessary framework conditions. Montenegro has recently concentrated its efforts on stimulating innovation. The main strategies in the area of innovation are: Strategy for Scientific Research Activities (2008-2016), Strategy for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (2011-2015), Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth of Montenegro (2012-2016) and National Strategy on Intellectual Property (2012-2015). All actions are fully in compliance with the EU *acquis* and aiming at contributing to the Innovation Union.

These Strategies focus in particular on: stimulation of technological development and innovations; raising awareness on the importance of application and development of new technologies for increasing market efficiency; improving financial support to small and medium-sized enterprises with a view to stimulating innovations and entrepreneurship; growth of competitiveness; cooperation between the private and public sector; and involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises in international scientific and technological cooperation programmes. The Ministry of Science supports and promotes growth of innovations in researches, through invitations for co-financing of scientific research activities including co-financing of patents, as well as through invitations for co-financing of national scientific research projects, with special emphasis put on applied and development research. In order to stimulate innovations in the economic sector, significant support has been provided through the programmes for establishing the first Centre of Excellence (CoE), Science and Technology Park (STP), local and regional business centres, incubators, clusters and voucher schemes, which should increase demand for consulting services, with a view to increasing innovativeness of products and services, business procedures, organization and marketing.

Intellectual property rights (IPR) and transfer of technology

Legislation governing the intellectual property area in Montenegro has been fully harmonised with the *acquis*. Main strategies include: Strategy for Scientific Research Activities, Strategy for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and National Strategy on Intellectual Property.

As of 2008, the Intellectual Property Office is competent for reviewing applications and assessing fulfilment of conditions for recognition of intellectual property rights. Thus far, 767 patents have been registered, of which 27 patents are held by domestic right-holders and 740 are held by foreign right-holders. Special attention has been paid to commercialisation of research results through the co-financing of patent registration costs and innovative solutions. Priority in co-financing has been given to those projects in which cooperation has been developed between the academic sector and industry.

Particular attention is also devoted to raising awareness on the importance of intellectual property rights as well as to enhancing education on intellectual property rights in universities, especially on technical faculties. Montenegro participates as an observer in the Working Group on Transfer of Technology and is willing to take up the necessary actions and adjust its strategy to increase the number of patents and commercialisation of research results through the IPR.

5. PARTICIPATION OF MONTENEGRO IN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA)

Integration into ERA

One of the key priorities of the Law on Scientific Research Activities is to facilitate the integration into the European Research Area and strengthen Montenegro's involvement in the EU Research Framework Programmes. Montenegro has nominated representatives in most ERA governance bodies. It participates on a regular basis in the European Research Area Committee (ERAC) as well as the other bodies overseeing the different EU actions on Research and Innovation notably the Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility (SGHRM), the Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC), the Board of Governors of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) and the High Level Group of EU Member States and FP7 Associated Countries on Nano science and Nanotechnologies.

3 per cent of GDP Objective

Montenegro is fully aware of the importance of science, research and innovation in order to become a knowledge-based society and increase economic competitiveness in a sustainable way. The share of investments in research and development in Montenegro has been raised from 0.13 per cent of GDP in 2010 to an estimated level 0.43 per cent of GDP in 2012. Montenegro has set as a target to reach 1.4 per cent of GDP invested in research by 2016.

New instruments enacted under the 2010 Law on Scientific Research Activities are opening new research opportunities for the science community and stimulating cooperation between the private and public sector. The implementation of the project Higher Education, Research and Innovation for Competitiveness (HERIC) 2012-2017 is expected to result in higher investments in research in particular by the business sector. The project envisages establishment of a first Centre of Excellence in Montenegro including a programme for financing large-scale collaborative research grants that will be focused on strengthening excellence research teams, internationalisation and connection of research and industry. The amount of seven million € has been allocated for this science component. It has also been decided to revise the Strategy for Scientific Research Activities and define new objectives, instruments and measures, aiming at reaching the target of 1.4 per cent of GDP or, if necessary, adjust it in the light of new developments and experiences notably through following closely the open method of coordination of the EU.

Montenegro is fully prepared to further contribute to the overall EU objective of investing 3 per cent of GDP in research.

Human Capital building and mobility of researchers

Montenegro has been taking many actions with a view to improving and increasing the mobility of researchers such as additional funding in research projects bringing researchers from abroad; setting up the national Euraxess Portal and encouraging the use of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct on their recruitment. All three universities in Montenegro have signed European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for their recruitment. An Action Plan on Mobility for the period 2011-2012 has resulted in an increase of the number of researchers from 800 prior to 2010 to 1191 in 2012. A March 2012 Action Plan to increase the number of researches for the period 2012-2013 is aiming at strengthening cooperation between the Academia and Industry. Montenegro is fully prepared to further contribute to the Human Resources Excellence objectives of the Innovation Union towards increasing the number of researchers and the quality of its scientists.

Research Infrastructure

The basic mapping of the national infrastructure has been completed in key areas for Montenegro: ICT, seismology and marine biology. Leading institutions in these areas are active members of international organisations and partners in larger EU and international projects, where research infrastructure is available to and can be used by all the partners. A part of research infrastructure is used by small and medium-sized enterprises as support to practical application of innovations in the industry. Montenegro intends to establish a roadmap on infrastructure according to the ESFRI standards.

6. ETHICS

Ethics in the science is regulated by the Constitution of Montenegro and by the Law on Scientific Research Activities. Scientific research activities in Montenegro are based on the principle of freedom and autonomy of scientific works, with observation of ethical standards and principles of scientific truth and criticism as well as on the principle of ethics and responsibility of persons involved in scientific research activities for the consequences of their work. Apart from the mentioned legislation, universities in Montenegro have prescribed the adoption of the Code of Academic Ethics as an obligation in their Statutes. The violation of the Code implies bringing the scientists before the Courts of Honour.

Ethics revision system in the area of science in Montenegro is decentralised. Namely, scientific councils of faculties and institutes are expected to consider all project proposals prior to applying for co-financing of projects devoting particular attention to adherence to ethical principles. As regards projects in the area of medical research, a double check of adherence to ethical principles is required, and it is carried out not only by the scientific committee but also by the Ethic Committee for Medical Research. An initiative has been accepted and procedures launched for setting up ethic committees in all universities in Montenegro.

7. ACTIVITIES IN SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Montenegro has been directing particular attention to systematic and continuous promotion of science along with increase of investments in this area. Activities are mainly focused on promotion of the scientific research work, visibility of science in the society, and importance of networking of the Montenegrin scientific research institutions with other national and European agencies for promotion of science and research. Montenegro has been also paying special attention to the gender equality in science. Numbers of male and female researchers in Montenegro are practically the same (gender parity) as well as percentage of genders in various areas of the scientific research activities.

8. RESEARCH FUND FOR COAL AND STEEL

Production of coal and steel takes place in Montenegro. Coal represents the most significant non-renewable energy source of Montenegro whereas the production of steel is a significant segment of private industry sector. Montenegro currently does not have a separate research fund for coal and steel but research is undertaken at faculty level. Montenegro is willing to participate in the research Fund on Coal and Steel upon accession. In preparation thereof, it is ready to provide experts for the evaluation of calls to be launched under the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) in the coming years prior to becoming a member of the Fund.

9. BIO-ECONOMIC, BIOTECHNOLOGICAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCHES

Research on biotechnology and agricultural research is one of Montenegro's national research priorities. Legislative and strategic framework is governed by the following documents: Law on Scientific Research Activities, Law on Agriculture and Rural Development, Strategy for Scientific Research Activities, Agriculture Development Strategy (2007-2013), National Programme for Preservation and Sustainable Usage of Agricultural Genetic Resources, with the accompanying Action Plan (2008-2013), and National Biodiversity Strategy with the accompanying Action Plan (2010-2015). These strategic documents define main priorities of research, principally carried out in the University of Montenegro - Faculty of Biotechnology and Institute for Marine Biology, University of Donja Gorica, and „13 Jul Plantaže” Company. Scientific research community in this area comprises 61 researchers, out of whom 51 researchers work at the University of Montenegro - Faculty of Biotechnology. Montenegro raised investments in this area in the project cycle 2012-2015 by 26.96 per cent in comparison to the project cycle 2008-2010. Montenegro has been participating in numerous multilateral programmes and projects such as: FP7, EUREKA, COST, SEE-ERA.NET.PLUS, as well as in bilateral cooperation with numerous countries.

Montenegro has adopted various regulations governing breeding and production of planting material and protection of varieties, in accordance with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) rules. Montenegro is in the final stage of accession to the UPOV; has an observer status in the UPOV Council; is a member of the International Plant Protection Organisation (IPPC); has received invitation for membership in the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO). Montenegro has nominated its delegate and participates actively in the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR). Montenegro is fully committed to contribute to the realisation of the Bio-Economy and take up the actions identified in the EU Roadmap.
