

Towards 2020:

New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region

WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference & Brokerage Event

Tech Gate Vienna / Donau-City-Straße 1 / 1220 Vienna / Austria

Panel 1: *Cooperation on Research and
Innovation at Regional Level: Creating
Synergies*

International research cooperation of WBC with the stress on FP

Jadranka Švarc,
Institute Ivo Pilar

Introduction

- ▶ The **Institute of Social Sciences “Ivo Pilar”** is founded in 1991 and presently is the largest multidisciplinary national research institute in Croatia in social sciences and humanities with more than 100 researchers and PhD students. It carries out research in psychology, sociology, demography, anthropology, history and other fields.
- ▶ The Institute publishes the Current Content referred scientific journal “Social Research”.
- ▶ **Dr Jadranka Švarc**, is senior researcher at the Institute Ivo Pilar, Zagreb. She holds MA in information sciences and PhD in sociology from the University of Zagreb.
- ▶ Her field of scientific interest is the role of science and innovation systems in the socio-economic progress and the knowledge society.
- ▶ She has worked as an innovation expert in various national and EU projects such as the Croatian National innovation strategy 2013-2020, the World Bank project on development of the Croatian innovation system, etc. She is the national correspondent for the EU ERAWATCH and METRIS projects and participant in other European projects such as WBC.INCO-NET, MASIS and DIOSCURI.

Why to study barriers to research cooperation of WBC?

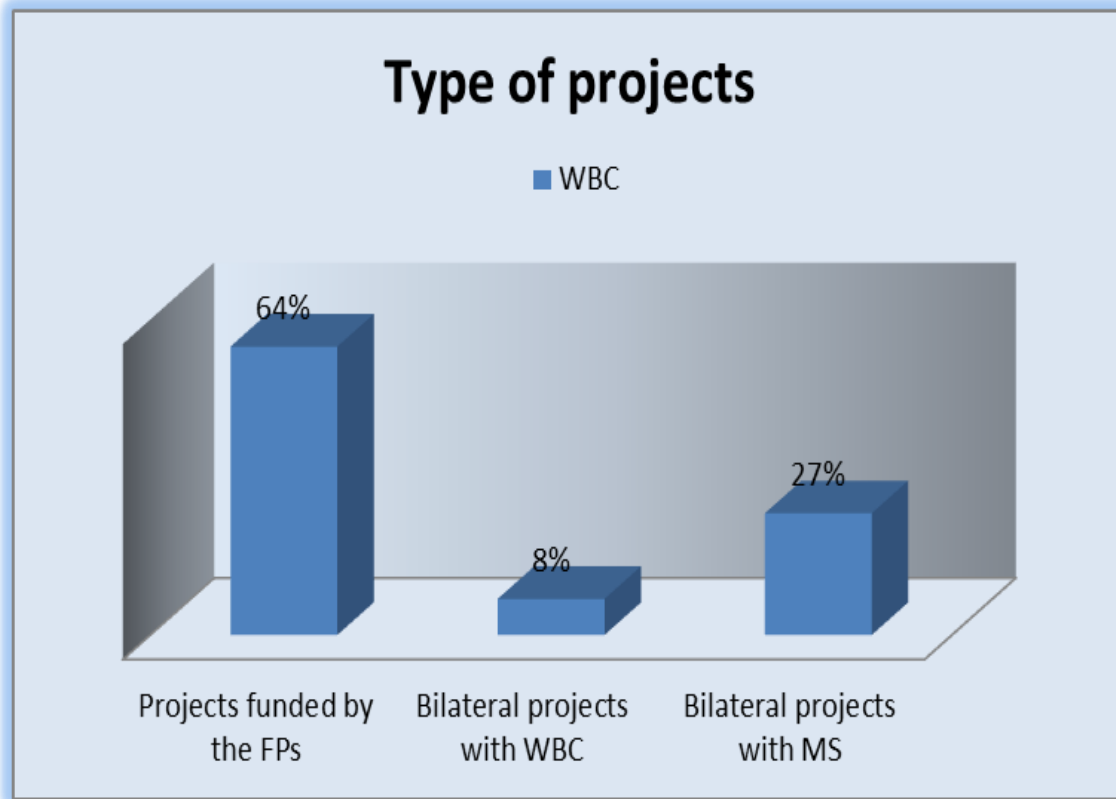
Researchers from WBC significantly lag behind EU in:

- ▶ **intensity of international research cooperation** (31% have not participated in international collaborative research projects in the last 10 years.)
- ▶ **research mobility** (43% have declared no visit abroad in the last ten years)

It calls for concerned actions of policy makers at the national and EU level



Types of international projects



The **dominant type of international research projects of WBC** are EU FP projects:

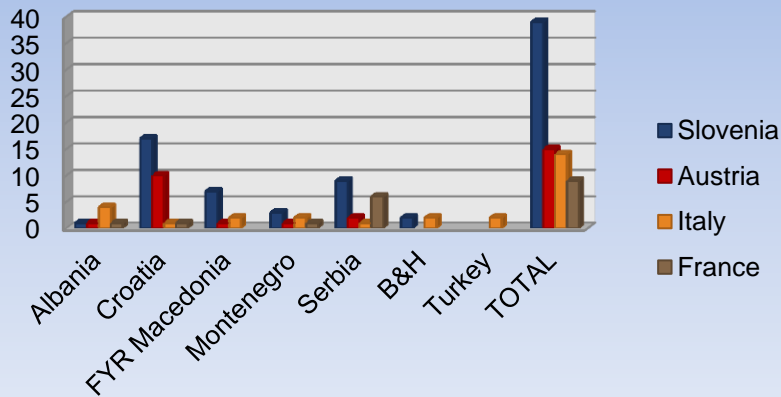
64% EU FP
27% bilateral with MS
8% bilateral with WBC

FP7 applications, 1.1.2007-21.2.2014

	No. of applicants	No. of applicants per 1000 population	No. of applicants in retained proposals	% of successful applicants	EC financial contribution for retained proposals (€)	% of EC approved funds
Montenegro	196	0,32	47	23,98	3.4 m	11,36
Macedonia, FYR	602	0,28	96	15,96	13.5 m	9,26
Croatia	2290	0,52	388	16,94	74 m	11,15
Bosnia and Herzegovina	367	0,09	45	12,26	3.2 m	5,22
Albania	284	0,08	41	14,44	2.3 m	7,98
Serbia	2084	0,28	317	15,21	54 m	8,38
TOTAL WBC	5823				1.5 b	
Austria	15014	1,78	3.346	20,95	1.1 b	20,95

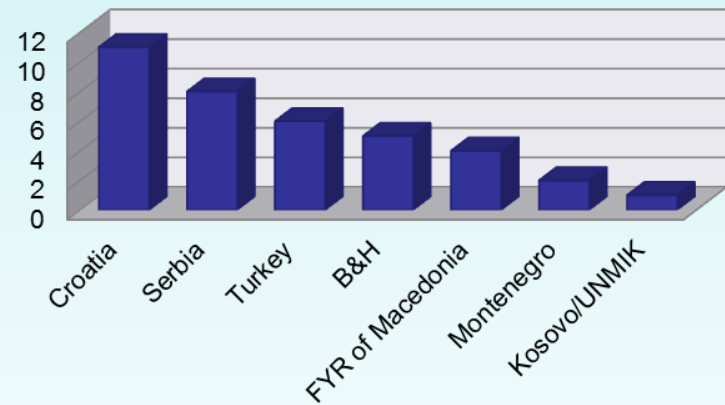
Bilateral cooperation

Number of bilateral projects of WBC with MS



The most intensive **inter-regional** bilateral cooperation between WBC and MS is with **Slovenia** followed by Austria, France and Italy

Number of bilateral projects among WBC

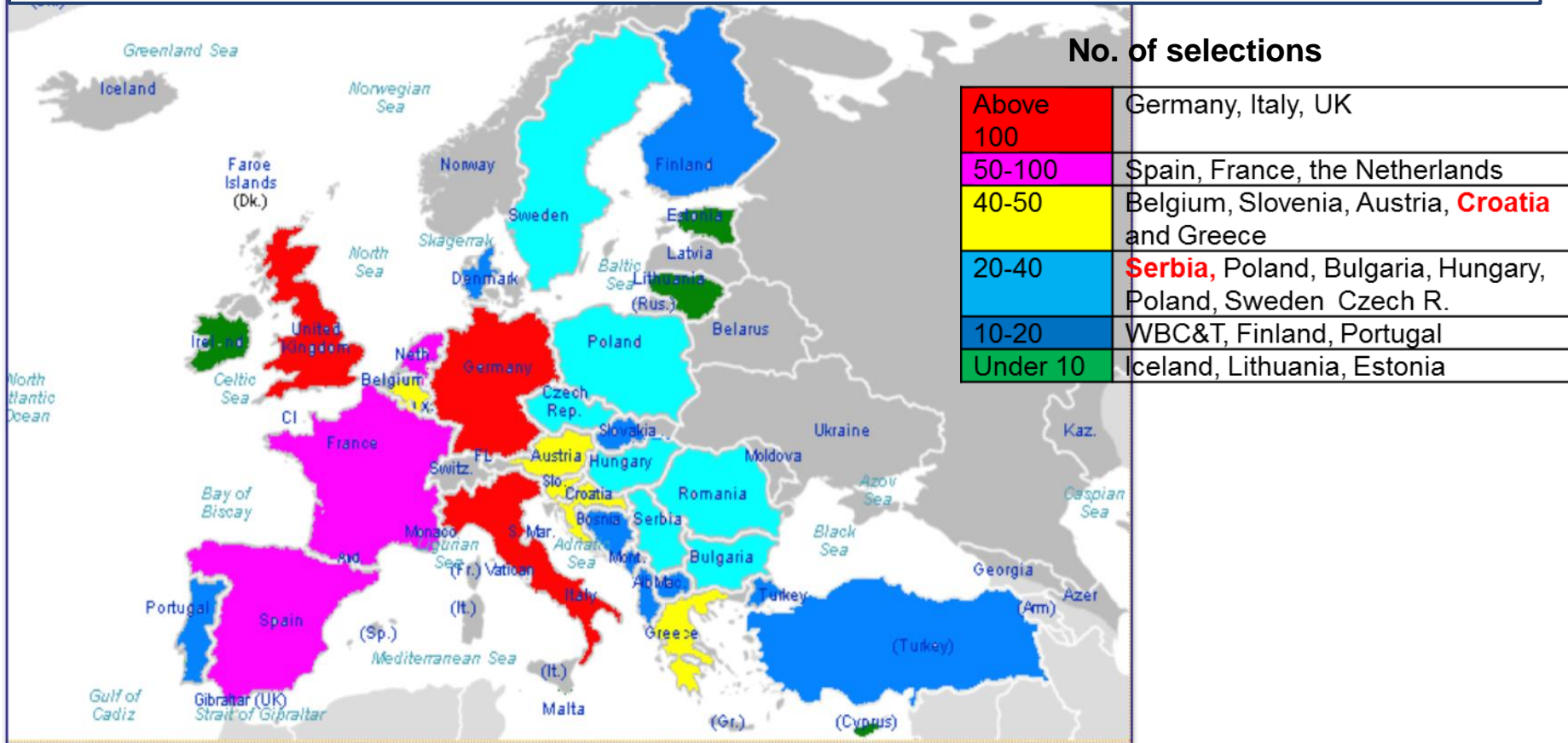


The most intensive **intra-regional** bilateral cooperation among WBC is with **Croatia** and **Serbia**

DESTINATION COUNTRIES OF VISIT/STAY

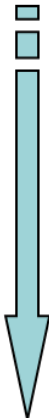
Where researchers are usually going?

Researchers gravitate towards Germany, Italy and UK among the MS and to Serbia and Croatia in the region

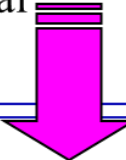


Main barriers to participation in FP

LACK OF THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES

- 
1. Finding appropriate call;
 2. Accounting and financial rules;
 3. Finding research partners and building consortium;
 4. Co-financial obligation of institution;
 5. Understanding the application procedures;
 6. Technical knowledge on how to submit project (e.g. on-line);

“EU BUREAUCRATIC BARRIERS” modus operandi of EC administration

1. Constant changes of the rules and procedures in project submission and monitoring;
 2. Payment delays;
 3. Changes in projects objectives and deliverables;
 4. Duration of project evaluation;
 5. Long response time to technical questions.
- 

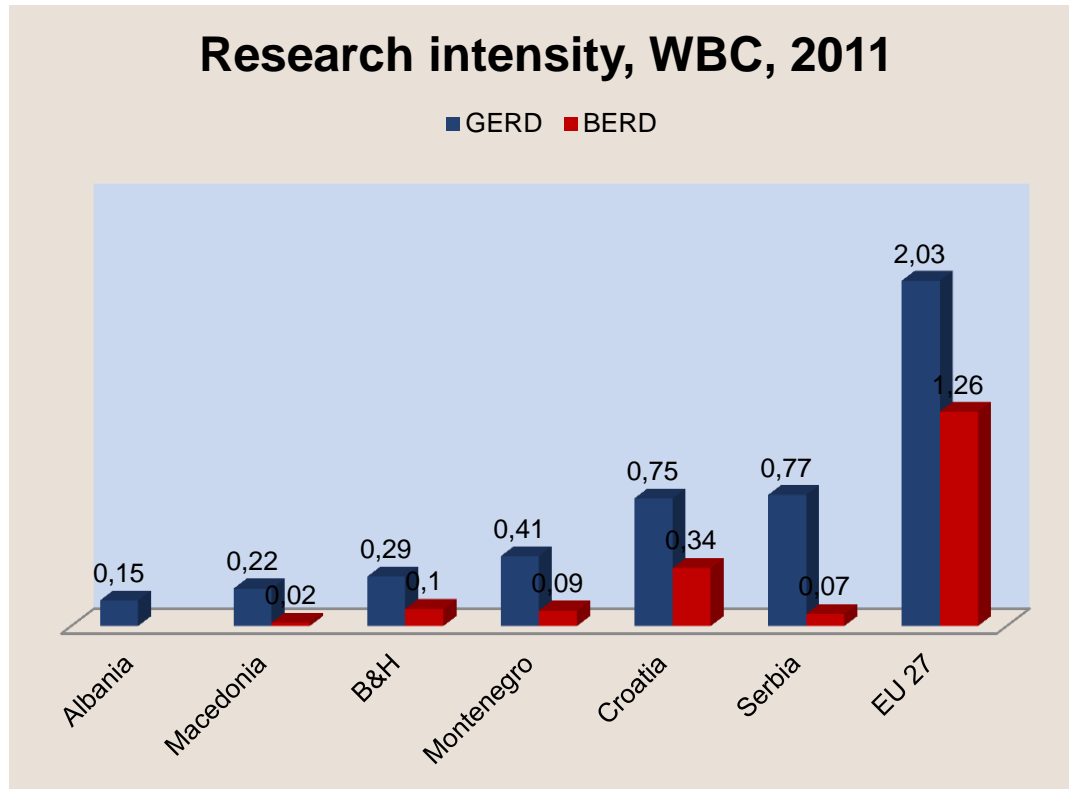
The HIGHSET SCORE - barrier formulated as A SMALL ACCEPTANCE RATE OF PROJECT PROPOSALS IN RELATION TO INVESTED EFFORTS

Competition is huge while projects are mainly very large and requires significant administrative capacities

Why participation in FP is an imperative?

- ▶ FP constitutes in itself a 'research system' of strategic importance for all EU member states;
- ▶ EU's decisions on research programmes and funding dictate the dynamic and direction of research trajectories of all countries in the region;
- ▶ national scientific systems are weak if they are not integrated into FP programmes

Do we believe?

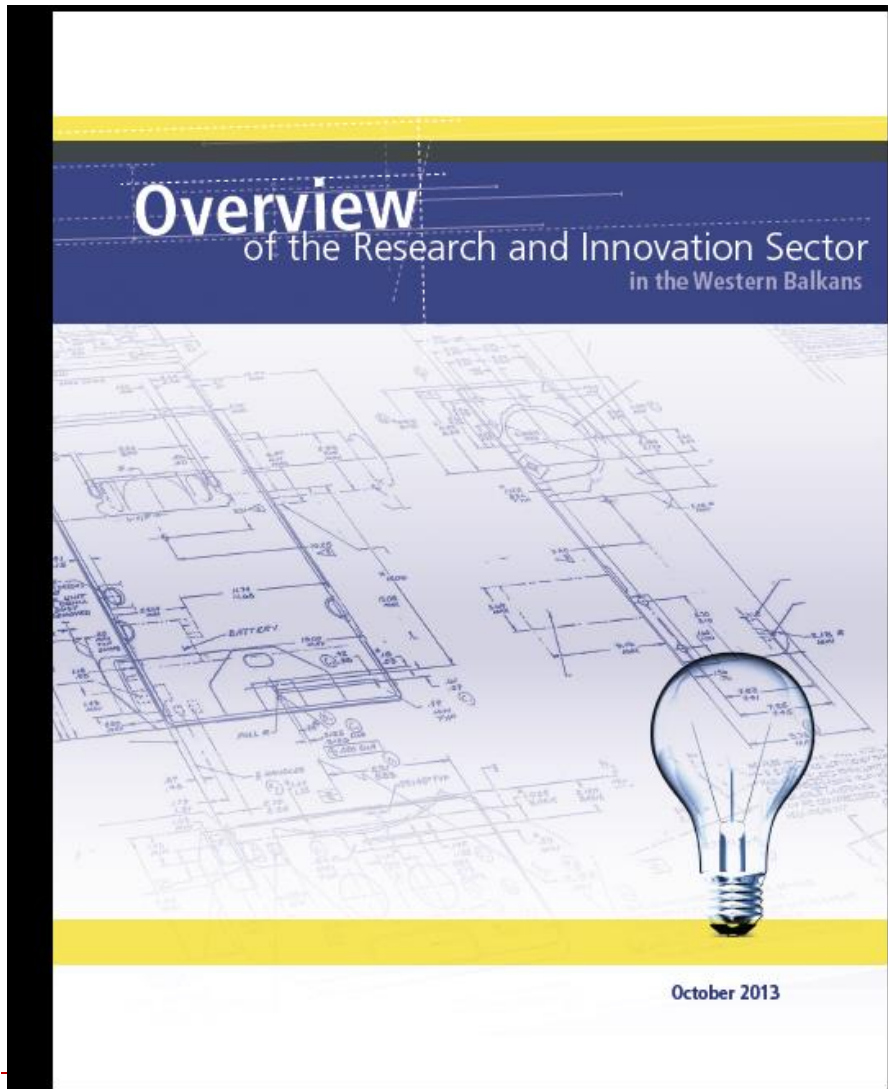


Do we really believe that countries which invest between 0.15% and 0.77% of GDP in R&D could participate in FP on equal footing?

Some recommendations

- ▶ To strengthen national investments in research to maintain national research base since the EU funding will not substitute the national budget resources;
- ▶ To create regional programmes and funds;
- ▶ To upgrade the capacity building of research institutions and researchers for participation in FP;
- ▶ Participation in FP should be a standard indicator of the research institutes' performance and individual researchers' career promotion

Further readings



World Bank Technical Assistance Project (P123211)

October, 2013

Towards 2020:

New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region

WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference & Brokerage Event

Tech Gate Vienna / Donau-City-Straße 1 / 1220 Vienna / Austria

Thank You For Your Attention!

Jadranka Švarc

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar

Address: Marulićev trg 19, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

E-mai: jadranka.svarc@pilar.hr