



South East Europe Regional Workshop
“Role of Public Research Institutes in Development of Countries”
Istanbul-Turkey, 8-9 March 2010

Conclusions

Participants of the workshop;

- Recognize the importance of this event organized by TÜBİTAK and the RCC Secretariat, under the auspices of the Chairmanship in Office of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) of the Republic of Turkey.
- Praise the Turkish SEECP Chairmanship in Office for placing the science and research cooperation among priorities of its Chairmanship.
- Underline the significance of RCC’s role in strengthening cooperation in SEE in the fields of Science and Research.
- Extend their sincere thanks to TÜBİTAK for the excellent organisation of the event and the hospitality.
- Recognize the importance of further development of strategies for the three pillars that constitute the triangle of knowledge (education, research and innovation), starting from awareness rising to development and implementation.



They also acknowledge that;

- Research infrastructures (RIs) play an increasing role in the advancement of knowledge, technology and their exploitation.
- RIs clearly stimulate industrial impacts and play an outstanding role in building the interface between science and industry.
- RIs also create ‘knowledge factories’ and have been shown to stimulate technological innovation. However, the processes of identifying, developing and managing such infrastructures are complex and costly. Development of cutting-edge research infrastructures requires a broad range of expertise.
- Building qualified human resources is a vital key to the efficient operation and the sustainability of Research Institutes.
- Research Institutes are expected to enable rich research environments and attract researchers from different countries, regions and disciplines.

They recall that;

- Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation for the Western Balkans has the overall objective to strengthen innovative capacity of the Western Balkans by stimulating R&D using the regional potential.

They stress that;

- Cooperation between R&D, higher education and business sectors should be fostered among the Balkan countries.



- Research institutes in the region should focus either on extensive specialization or comprehensive integration on RTD.
- Research Institutes and universities in SEE should better explore and use benefits of regional cooperation by participating in the EU R&D programmes, especially the EU Framework Programmes.

Western Balkan Countries (WBC) acknowledged the Turkish experience in developing the Research Institutes. Turkey expressed interest in sharing its best practices and participating in development of the similar models in WBC.

Participants of the Workshop appreciated the visit to the Institutes of TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Centre, based at Gebze Settlement.