

## S&T "Renaissance" of a Region?

*The status of Research Infrastructures in the  
West Balkan Countries*

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December 2005

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## „Region“ is a complex term

< 150 „regions“ within EU, „defined“ by specific  
economic and cultural conditions

### Groups of countries = regions ?

- Converging regions – economic approach
  - Emerging economies
  - Developing countries
- West Balkan Countries – geographic approach
- Candidate Countries – political/legal approach

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## Approaches in FP 7

Key question: How to unlock the research potential of  
regions?

FP 7 – Capacities:

- Themes and Activities
  - 4. Research Potential
  - 6. International Cooperation
- Regional priority setting and definition of S&T  
Cooperation policies
- Enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships  
including structural activities and networks

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REPORT ON THE RTD NEEDS OF THE WEST BALKAN  
COUNTRIES

In terms of infrastructure following priority needs were  
identified:

1. development of a more coherent RTD and innovation  
system that will optimize the capacities of the existent  
RTD infrastructure at different levels,
2. modernizing the equipment at research laboratories  
and universities,

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3. access to main European multi-gigabit computer  
network for research and education – GÉANT,
4. access to prominent scientific journals and literature in  
libraries,
5. improvement of electronic networks and information  
infrastructure with exploiting the potential of modern  
electronic infrastructure – Internet

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## RI-cooperation in WBC

Good practice models in ICT, earth-sciences

- SEEREN: South East European Research and Education  
Network
- Intraregional use of RIs and networks in seismology,  
geology, disaster prevention, meteorology, astronomy  
etc.

But what about

Large facilities ? Centres of Excellence?

Regional clusters? Access to facilities abroad?

Membership in international organisations, institutions?

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### **Pre-conditions for improvement**

- Information, information, information
- Clearing up of misunderstandings
- Stocktaking
- Support for capacity building measures
- Possibility to use CARDS/IPA-money for RI
- Adaptation of visa-requirements
- No paternalisation
- Equal treatment

### **Motto**

Cooperation and competition on equal terms means  
not only to encourage also the small ones  
to pick fruits from high trees  
but to give them a ladder!