



INSTITUT DE FRANCE
Académie des sciences



Western Balkans Process / Berlin Process

3RD JOINT SCIENCE CONFERENCE

TURN IDEAS INTO ACTION:
INVEST IN YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND JOBS FOR GROWTH
14 – 16 JUNE 2017 · PARIS, FRANCE

IN COOPERATION WITH



Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften

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Académie des sciences – Institut de France

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EDITING

Content

Académie des sciences – Institut de France
German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Design

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Abbreviations:

WBP – Western Balkans Process / Berlin Process
JSC – Joint Science Conference
SEE – South-Eastern Europe
WB – Western Balkans
EU – European Union

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INTRODUCTION



Photo: Académie des sciences

Dear participants,

It is a great pleasure and an honor for the *Académie des sciences* to welcome you in Paris and to have the opportunity of meeting you during this 3rd Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process (JSC-WBP). You reacted once again positively to the invitation and if some of us are newcomers, there is a strong basis in this group that gives us hopes for the future. As current president of the *Académie des sciences*, I wish I could have welcomed you all in our premises, *quai de Conti*. Unfortunately, it was not possible to do this but I think you will feel comfortable in this beautiful *Del Duca* foundation that we share with the other national academies and the *Institut de France*.

As indicated by its name, the Western Balkans process (WBP) is an on-going process which achieved, thanks to the constancy and the commitment of the different stakeholders, a lot in a relatively short period of time. This 3rd meeting, after Berlin and Halle in 2015, Vienna in 2016, gathers eminent scientist, fellows of academies and institutional representatives. And what we have done so far, as well as what we will achieve in these three days is strongly connected to the general cycle of this process and especially in some weeks with the next 4th Western Balkans Summit in Italy in early July 2017. We do have a responsibility towards present and future generations and in our case, towards the future scientists and leaders. Our Conferences give an opportunity to exchange ideas and to debate and, despite our different experiences and backgrounds, to promote what brings us together, namely science. At the same time, our Conferences have been constantly focused on practical approaches while seeking for perspectives for junior scientists and graduates from the Balkans and I wish that the Paris Conference be held with the same principle in mind.

At this stage and referring to the aims of the process, two tasks are mobilizing us and they are of equal interest:

- Investing in Junior Scientists in order to reduce *brain drain* and stimulate brain circulation and, at the same time, develop excellence in the Balkans;
- We also have to foster university-enterprise dialog and cooperation so that qualified graduates meet the countries' needs. What are the consequences in terms of curricula and how can we strengthen innovation, develop entrepreneurship and do this in a sustainable manner?

Regarding the first topic, the expert group is offering a remarkable contribution which will form the basis of our discussion and which hopefully will define a mechanism that will allow Junior Scientists to build their research teams and actively participate to the Western Balkans development of research and higher education. Concerning the second topic, we have invited leaders with experience in the university-business dialog and we hope that an agenda with specific steps will be established during this meeting to improve links between science, innovation and enterprises.

I am confident in the various and strong inputs our group is able to bring. Each one of us is ready to share his/her expertise and to listen to each other's viewpoints – that is something scientist usually do. And I am confident because of the serious preparation of this meeting, preparation we owe for a great part to the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and for a nice collaboration between our academies. This conference also takes place thanks to the constant support of our Ministry for Foreign affairs and the Embassies of all the countries involved but I would like to mention more specifically the German and Italian Ambassadors.

I hope that this conference will correspond to our expectations thanks to your active participation, and that it might even exceed these expectations and bring new ideas and perspectives.



Sébastien Candel

President, Académie des sciences – Institut de France



Photo: David Ausserhofer for the Leopoldina

Dear colleagues,

Let me extend my warm welcome to you all on behalf of the Leopoldina. Thank you very much for your positive reaction to our invitation to participate at the 3rd Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process.

In this year, our colleagues and friends from France are hosting us in Paris. Since 2012, the French and the German National Academies have engaged in a strategic cooperation, in the spirit of the Franco-German friendship. I am particularly grateful to President Sébastien Candel and his dedicated team from the Académie des sciences for taking the series of conferences further and for the excellent collaboration. Je vous remercie beaucoup pour votre engagement!

Our platform already reached its third year of functioning, working synchronised and complementary with the overall Western Balkans Process. We achieved credibility by offering a shielded and neutral format for mutual exchange, based on openness and equality of treatment. We established trustful communication channels with political decision-makers and made this science diplomacy initiative visible. This paved the way for our recommendations to reach the highest political levels and nurtured the momentum of our efforts. I would like to remind you of the Final Declaration of the 2016 Western Balkans Summit in Paris, which formulated the following request to us: “to propose [by summer 2017] funding mechanisms for excellent young researchers from the Balkans, allowing them to gain experience abroad and to create their own laboratories of excellence.”

In 2017, Italy is holding the presidency of the Western Balkans Process and the UK has also joined the Process. The initiative developed into a remarkable multilateral process, providing one of the most suitable formats – alongside with the enlargement negotiations managed by the European Commission – to achieve the greater aim of integrating the Balkans into the European Union.

The journey is the reward. Already at the 1st Joint Science Conference back in 2015, we saw that we share the same concerns and visions. We want results and our recommendations turned into actions. This is not solely the responsibility of politics, but also our responsibility as scientists and institutional representatives. Only by endurance, we can achieve our goals.

It is now time to turn ideas into action. Building on the work of the past three years, the Paris conference focuses on two topics:

1. Investing in Junior Scientists: the “Nikola Tesla Research Foundation”.

The foremost aim is to achieve consensus on a proposal for a funding mechanism for junior researchers to create laboratories of excellence in the Balkans. This proposal was prepared by an Expert Group, covering all disciplines, with

both senior and junior scientists, both from the EU and from South Eastern Europe, including people with strong experience as science managers. The Group worked for several months and produced a blueprint based on consensus. We propose the establishment of an international and independent “Nikola Tesla Research Foundation” in Trieste, Italy. By doing so, we are following the request addressed to us by the heads of state and government on 4 July 2016, in Paris. We will discuss this blueprint and take necessary steps to achieve broad endorsement from you.

I am convinced that the Foundation will be a success. It will lead not only to excellent science in South East Europe, but also to a much stronger connection of Balkan science to the European Research Area. It will also lead to positive spill-overs, which will change standards and routines, and thus increase performance and make brain circulation attractive.

2. Education and Innovation for Jobs and Growth

Our second aim is to formulate recommendations to optimise the link between education, skills, innovation and jobs for smart growth in the Balkans. Smart growth means more jobs, higher labour productivity and more value – added business – knowledge- and technology based. This covers issues such as curricular reform, skills gap, university-business ventures and innovation ecosystems. Because this topic is complex with manifold implications, we intend to establish a Task Force, with the mission to elaborate an “Action Plan for Western Balkans Smart Growth”, in time for the 2018 Western Balkans Summit, to be held in the UK.

Both deliverables will be submitted as formal recommendations to the heads of state and government at the 2017 Western Balkans Summit on 12 July in Trieste, Italy. For this, we need to prepare a Joint Statement, as we did the previous two times. We have encouraging signals from the political umbrella of the Western Balkans Process regarding a window of opportunity for our proposals at the Trieste Summit.

Let us work together, in a constructive, cooperative and goal-oriented manner. Let us join forces and use the scientific expertise and academic reputation to do something meaningful for future generations.

Sincerely yours,



Jörg Hacker
President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 14 June 2017

Institut de France – Fondation Simone et Cino del Duca
10, Rue Alfred de Vigny, 75008 Paris

16:30 – 17:00 **Registration**

17:00 – 17:30 **OFFICIAL OPENING**

Sébastien Candel

President, Académie des sciences

Jörg Hacker

President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

NN

French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Fabrizio Nicoletti

Minister Plenipotentiary, Director-General for Innovation and Research, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

17:30 – 18:30 **KEYNOTE-SPEECH**

Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission (tbc)

Discussion

Moderation:

Sébastien Candel, *Académie des sciences* and Jörg Hacker, *Leopoldina*

18:30 – 18:45 **Break**

18:45 – 19:45 **Discussion**

Vladimir Šucha

Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General Joint Research Centre

Christian Danielsson

Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (tbc)

Moderation:

Sébastien Candel, *Académie des sciences* and Jörg Hacker, *Leopoldina*

20:00 – 20:45 **Transfer by bus**

21:15 – 23:15 **Official dinner reception and boat tour followed by bus transfer to the hotel**

Thursday, 15 June 2017

Institut de France – Fondation Simone et Cino del Duca
10, Rue Alfred de Vigny, 75008 Paris

- Until 9:30 **Arrival of participants**
- 9:45 – 10:00 **Information on conference proceedings**
Sébastien Candel, *Académie des sciences*
-
- 10:00 – 12:00 **SESSION 1:**
Investing in Junior Scientists
Nikola Tesla Research Foundation:
Funding mechanism for junior researchers in the Balkans
Moderation:
Donald B. Dingwell, *Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich; Leopoldina*
Arjan Gjonça, *London School of Economics and Political Science*
- SESSION 2:**
Education and Innovation for Jobs and Growth
How to optimise the link between (higher) education, skills, innovation and the labour market in the Balkans
Moderation:
Didier Roux, *Saint-Gobain S.A.; Académie des sciences*
Ivan Svetlik, *University of Ljubljana*
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Buffet lunch**
-
- 13:00 – 14:30 **SESSION 1 (CONTINUATION)** **SESSION 2 (CONTINUATION)**
- 14:30 – 15:00 **Break**
-
- 15:00 – 16:30 **SESSION 3**
Plenary report and consultations on the results of Session 1
Moderation:
Arjan Gjonça, *London School of Economics and Political Science*
Donald B. Dingwell, *Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich; Leopoldina*
- 16:30 – 17:00 **Break**
-
- 17:00 – 18:30 **SESSION 4**
Plenary report and consultations on the results of Session 2
Moderation:
Ivan Svetlik, *University of Ljubljana*
Didier Roux, *Saint-Gobain S.A.; Académie des sciences*
- 18:45 **Transfer by bus**
- Hôtel de la Rochefoucauld-Doudeauville | Residence of the Italian Ambassador**
47, Rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris
-
- 19:30 – 21:30 **DINNER RECEPTION (COCKTAIL DÎNATOIRE)**
Greetings by Giandomenico Magliano, *Italian Ambassador to France*
- 21:30 **Transfer by bus**

Friday, 16 June 2017

Institut de France – Fondation Simone et Cino del Duca

10, Rue Alfred de Vigny, 75008 Paris

Until 9:30 **Arrival of participants**

9:30 – 11:00 **SESSION 5**

Next steps of the Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process

Moderation:

Sébastien Candel, *Académie des sciences* and Mario Stefanini, *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*

11:00 – 11:45 **Transfer by bus**

Hôtel de Beauharnais | Residence of the German Ambassador in Paris

78, Rue de Lille, 75007 Paris

12:00 – 12:30 **POLITICAL OUTREACH AND BRIEFING OF THE AMBASSADORS**

Greetings by Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, *German Ambassador to France*

Introduction: Sébastien Candel, *Académie des sciences*

Summary of the results of the conference: Donald Bruce Dingwell,
Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich; Leopoldina

With the participation of ambassadors and other officials of the countries involved in the Berlin Process

12:30 – 14:00 **FAREWELL COCKTAIL (COCKTAIL DÉJEUNATOIRE)**

Afterwards **Departure of participants**

As of 1 June 2017. Subject to change.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES (AND ARTS)

in alphabetical order by country

| | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------|
| Academy of Sciences of Albania | Muzafer Korkuti | President |
| Austrian Academy of Sciences | Anton Zeilinger | President |
| Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina | Miloš Trifković | President |
| Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts | Zvonko Kusić (tbc) | President |
| German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina | Jörg Hacker | President |
| French Académie des sciences | Sébastien Candel | President |
| Italian Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei | Mario Stefanini | Academy Member |
| Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo | Nexhat Daci | Academy Member |
| Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts | Taki Fiti | President |
| Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts | Dragan K. Vukčević | President |
| Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts | Ljubomir Maksimović | Vice-President |
| Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts | Tadej Bajd | President |
| The Royal Society (observer) | James Jackson (tbc) | Academy Member |

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: NATIONAL RECTORS' CONFERENCES AND UNIVERSITIES

in alphabetical order by country

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Rectors' Conference of the Republic of Albania (Representative: University of Tirana) | Valentina Duka |
| Austrian University Conference (Chair of the International Forum: Rector of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz) | Elisabeth Freismuth |
| University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Rector) | Rifat Škrijelj |
| University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Rector) | Milan Mataruga |
| Rectors' Conference of the Republic of Croatia (Representative: Rector of the North University in Koprivnica) | Marin Milković |
| Conference of Deans of French Schools of Engineering (Representative: President of the University of Technology of Troyes) | Pierre Koch |

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Conference of University Presidents of France (President of the Commission for International and European Relations: President of the University Jean Moulin Lyon 3) | Jacques Comby |
| German Rectors' Conference (President) | Horst Hippler |
| Conference of Italian University Rectors (Acting president: Rector of the University of Naples Federico II) (tbc) | Gaetano Manfredi |
| Hasan-Prishtina-University of Pristina, Kosovo* (Rector) | Marjan Dema |
| Saints-Cyril-and-Methodius-University of Skopje, FYRo Macedonia (Rector) | Nikola Jankulovski |
| South East European University of Tetovo, FYRo Macedonia (Rector) | Zamir Dika |
| University of Montenegro (Rector) | Radmila Vojvodić |
| Conference of Serbia's Universities (Acting president: Rector of the University of Belgrade) | Vladimir Bumbaširević |
| University of Novi Sad, Serbia (Rector) | Dušan Nikolić |
| Rectors' Conference of the Republic of Slovenia (Acting president: Rector of the University of Primorska, Koper-Capodistria) | Dragan Marušič |

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS AND SCIENCE MANAGERS *AD PERSONAM*

in alphabetical order by name

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Boban Arsenijević | Linguist, University of Niš (Serbia) |
| Blerjana Bino | Communication & Media Studies, European University of Tirana (Albania) and Uppsala University (Sweden) |
| Donald B. Dingwell | Volcanologist, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (Germany) |
| Dhimitër Doka | Geographer, University of Tirana (Albania) |
| Arjan Gjonça | Demographer, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) |
| Zoran Hadži-Velkov | Telecommunication Engineer, Ss.-Cyril-and-Methodius-University of Skopje (FYRo Macedonia) |
| Armanda K. Hysa | Anthropologist, Centre of Albanological Studies Tirana (Albania) |
| Marija Janković | Industrial Engineer, CentraleSupélec, University of Paris-Saclay (France) |
| Stipan Jonjić | Immunologist, University of Rijeka (Croatia) |
| Erna Karalija | Biologist, University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) |
| Almir Maljević | Jurist, University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) |
| Fetah Podvorica | Chemist, Hasan-Prishtina-University of Pristina (Kosovo*) |
| Miroslav Radman | Molecular Biologist, Mediterranean Institute for Life Sciences Split (Croatia) and Paris Descartes University (France) |
| Oliver J. Schmitt | Historian, University of Vienna (Austria) |
| Sofija Stefanović | Physical anthropologist, University of Belgrade (Serbia) and BioSense Institute, University of Novi Sad (Serbia) |

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Federica Mogherini | High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission (tbc) |
| Christian Danielsson | Director-General, European Commission, Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (tbc) |
| Vladimir Šucha | Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General Joint Research Centre |
| Fabrizio Nicoletti | Central Director for Innovation and Research, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation |
| NN | French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs |
| Will Bartlett | Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) |
| Jean-Paul Chabard | Scientific Director for R&D, Électricité de France EDF S.A. (France) |
| Adnan Ibrahimbegović | Professor, Compiègne University of Technology (France) |
| Didier Roux | Vice-President for R&D and Innovation, Saint-Gobain S.A., Paris (France) |
| Ivan Svetlik | Professor, Rector of the University of Ljubljana; President of the Council of the Regional Platform for Inter-University Cooperation in Higher Education and Research (Slovenia) |

As of 1 June 2017. Subject to change.

EX-ANTE CONSULTATION

TOPIC 1: INVESTING IN JUNIOR SCIENTISTS

PROPOSAL FOR THE “NIKOLA TESLA RESEARCH FOUNDATION”

BACKGROUND

1. At the Western Balkans Summit of 4 July 2016 in Paris, the Heads of State and Government formulated the following request to the Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process: *“to propose [by summer 2017] funding mechanisms for excellent young researchers from the Balkans, allowing them to gain experience abroad and to create their own laboratories of excellence.”*
2. Subsequently, an international **Expert Group** has been appointed, which through an intensive process has developed a comprehensive blueprint for a new **“Nikola Tesla Research Foundation”**. Thereby, the following aims were taken into account:
 - Reduce brain drain by enabling research conducted by outstanding junior researchers in the Balkans (investigator teams / excellence labs);
 - Increase brain circulation by connecting junior researchers to high-quality international research teams through blended mobility options;
 - Develop research excellence nuclei in the Balkans as successful models of performance-based individual funding and hereby trigger positive spill-overs into the science systems;
 - Prepare future successful applicants for Horizon 2020 funded frontier research and other competitive international grants.
3. The members of the Expert Group were selected jointly by the French Académie des sciences and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina based on their academic expertise.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Dingwell, Donald B. (Chair) | Volcanologist, Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich, past Secretary-General of the European Research Council (ERC), Vice-President of the Academia Europaea, member of the Leopoldina |
|--------------------------------|---|

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|----------------|---|
| Bino, Blerjana | Communication & Media Studies, European University of Tirana and University of Uppsala, junior scientist |
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|---------------|---|
| Gjonça, Arjan | Demographer, London School of Economics and Political Science, Chair of the Higher Education and Research Reform Group of the Albanian Government |
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| Janković, Marija | Industrial Engineer, CentraleSupélec, Ecole Centrale Paris – University of Paris-Saclay, group leader, junior scientist |
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|----------------|---|
| Karalija, Erna | Biologist, University of Sarajevo, group leader, junior scientist |
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| Jonjić, Stipan | Immunologist, University of Rijeka, ERC advanced grant hold- er, USA NIH R01 grant holder, member of the Leopoldina |
|----------------|--|

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Radman, Miroslav | Molecular Biologist, University Paris V René Descartes, Founder and Head of the Mediterranean Institute of Life Sciences, member of the Académie des sciences |
| Schmitt, Oliver J. | Historian, University of Vienna, Speaker of the Vienna Eastern Europe Forum, member of the Presidium of the Austrian Academy of Sciences |
| Stefanović, Sofija | Physical Anthropologist, University of Belgrade & BioSense Institute at the University of Novi Sad, ERC starting grant holder, group leader |
| Trifković, Miloš | Jurist, President of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, member of several academies and learned societies |

4. The group convened for two working meetings, on 5 – 6 December 2016 in Berlin and on 16 – 17 February 2017 in Belgrade.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND DRAFT CONCEPT

5. **The “Nikola Tesla Research Foundation” is designed to enable outstanding young scientists from the Balkans and from Europe to build up excellent research labs and research teams in the Balkan countries within a period of five years. This is a central measure of brain gain aimed at the Balkans. In addition, the possibility of an upstream two-year training period in top research labs in Europe is provided. The latter is instrumental for brain circulation and transfer of excellence. Three optional add-on actions support (a) the establishment of research networks within the Balkans, (b) the outreach of scientific findings and (c) innovation and technology transfer.**
6. Through the foundation’s grants, a critical mass of excellent researcher teams in the Balkans will be shaped progressively. These teams will form a driving force of change: by participating in these “germ cells” of excellence, the national education and science systems will profit from sustainable improvement, hence aiding their efforts to keep on the European track or setting the course for it. This has obvious positive implications for economy, societal and regional cohesion in the Balkans. Science today knows no national divisions and requires cross-border networking in order to be competitive.
7. In the international competition for the greatest minds, the foundation’s grants should act as attractors for the best of the best. Participation is therefore open to all scientific fields; criteria are clearly defined. Only the quality of applicants and research projects are evaluated. Currently, there is no such approach for or in the Balkan science landscape. Thus tailor-made, smart and strategically-fitted instruments are necessary, which really interconnect Balkan and European researchers and innovators.
8. **The foundation should be set-up as an independent international institution (perhaps comparable to the ICTP in Trieste or the EMBL in Heidelberg). It should be located in Trieste, Italy and – if all parties agree – carried by the countries involved in the Western Balkans Process. At a later stage, other interested countries such as Switzerland or Norway could join. A contribution from the European Commission and a cooperation agreement with the European Research Council as well as further collaboration with public and private donors are highly desirable.**

9. The management of the foundation and its operational routines will strictly follow international standards in order to safeguard credibility and reputation. The administration should be as lean and efficient as possible. The recruitment of the Scientific Council and the administrative staff needs to take place exclusively according to quality criteria and must be publicised internationally. The grantees and the research performance are at the core of the foundation's work.

NIKOLA TESLA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

PROGRAMMES



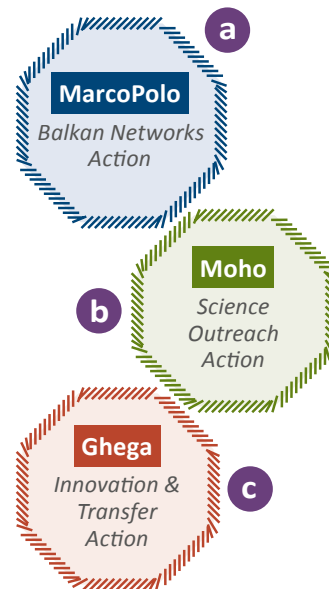
1

- 2 years training in top European labs
- Afterwards, access to StartLab = in total 7 years of funding



2

- Establishment of own excellence lab, as a principal investigator
- 5 years investigation-driven research



- 3 optional actions as add-ons to the StartLab

BACKGROUND

Request by Heads of State and Government at the Western Balkans Paris Summit in 2016:

"The parties [...] ask the national academies of science to propose, by their next conference to be held in France in 2017, funding mechanisms for excellent young researchers from the Balkans, allowing them to gain experience abroad and to create their own laboratories of excellence."

Recommendations of the Joint Science Conference of the Berlin Process in 2015 and 2016.

TARGET GROUP & PREREQUISITES

Junior scientists (max. 45 years of age), irrespective of origins or scientific field.

Grant based at a research organisation in a WB country, principal investigator must spend majority of time there.

Minimal requirements: PhD (certificate in hand), PhD- thesis must be released, either printed or electronically (exceptions in case of patents).

MISSION

Reduce brain drain from the Balkans and enable brain circulation and brain gain in Europe.

Grant selection based exclusively on scientific excellence.

Create excellent research labs in the Balkans by personal grants, according to international standards.

Interlink excellent researchers (labs) within the Balkans and from the EU and the Balkans.

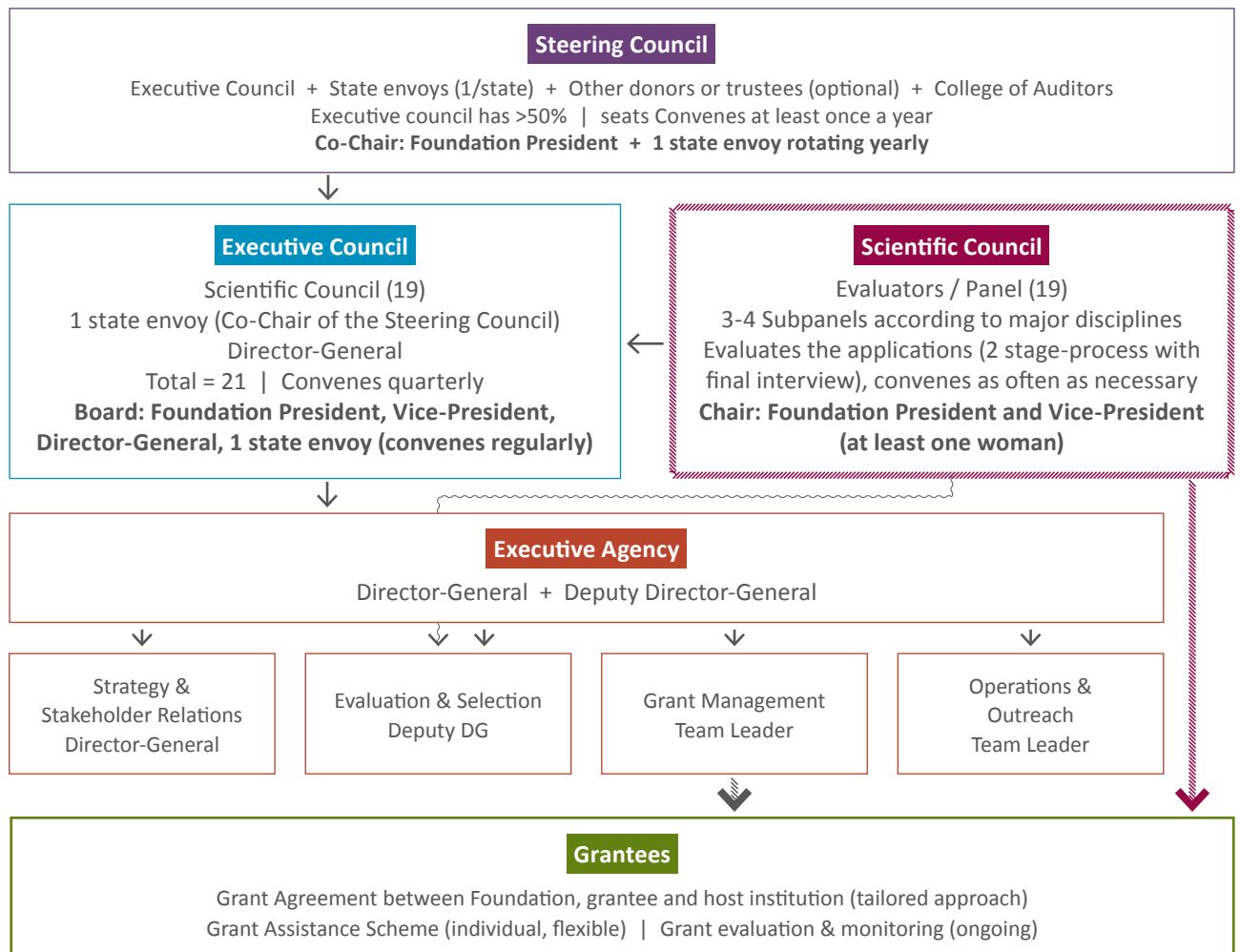
Diminish the science divide in Europe and widen participation of Balkan science to EU programmes (e.g. Horizon 2020) through a leverage effect.

Act as an "agent of change": improve national funding mechanisms and routines, and the academic community in SEE.

Create a core of talents in each country of the Balkans, which act as agents of change.

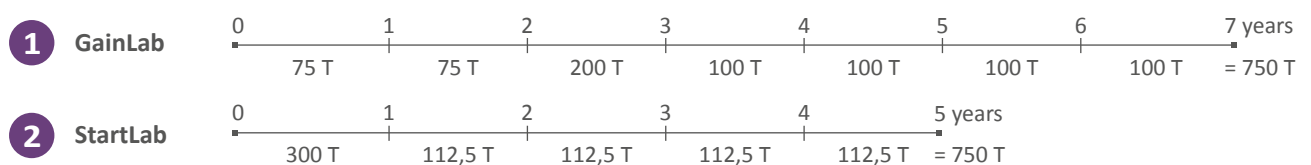
ORGANISATION

Status of a self-standing international organisation ←
 Carried by the 13 countries of the Berlin Process ←
 Located in Trieste, Italy ←



15

FINANCIAL PROJECTION



Budget projection for GainLab grants + add-ons (multiannual projection for 7 years, maximum):

15 GainLab grants × 750 T × 7 years = 78,75 M In total 105 grants in 7 years
 15 Add-on actions × 12,5 T × 7 years = 1,31 M
 80,06 M / 7 years = 11,44 M per annum + 5% administrative costs (572 T) = 12,01 M per annum

Budget projection for StartLab grants + add-ons (multiannual projection for 5 years, maximum):

15 StartLab grants × 750 T × 5 years = 56,25 M In total 75 grants in 5 years
 15 Add-on actions × 12,5 T × 5 years = 0,94 M
 57,18 M / 5 years = 11,44 M per annum + 5% administrative costs (572 T) = 12,01 M per annum
Total: 24,02 M per annum

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

10. Following items are expected to be part of the formal proposal to the Western Balkans Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in Trieste on 12 July 2017, as **part of the Joint Statement of the Paris conference**:
 - a. Concept for the “Nikola Tesla Research Foundation”, including motivation and extended description;
 - b. Possibly a draft statute for the foundation.

PLANNED COURSE OF ACTION

11. Prior to the Paris conference, the responses will be collected and aggregated. The draft concept will be presented at the Paris conference, followed by a discussion on previously identified thematic fields and open questions. Eventually, a discussion on the draft statute can take place. The organisers will then seek endorsement from stakeholders prior to the official submission to the Trieste Western Balkans Summit.
12. At the Trieste Western Balkans Summit, a **Declaration (Memorandum of Intent)** could be signed by the Heads of State and Government. This would be then followed by a one-year implementation phase until the 2018 Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process, to be held in Italy.

An **implementation group**, consisting of scientists and country envoys, would lead the negotiations on the establishment, funding and launch of the foundation. An **identification group** of internationally acknowledged scientists would find suitable candidates for the Scientific Council.

During the summer of 2018 the foundation would be opened with a specific ceremony, possibly in the frame of signing ceremony by the Heads of State and Government at the Western Balkans Summit in the UK.

TOPIC 2: EDUCATION AND INNOVATION FOR JOBS AND GROWTH

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SMART GROWTH IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

BACKGROUND

1. The previous Joint Statements of the Joint Science Conferences of the Western Balkans Process and the Final Declarations of the Western Balkans Summits in Paris (2016) and Vienna (2015) highlighted the crucial role of skills and innovation, which originate from education, research and knowledge transfer, for the creation of jobs and economic and societal growth in the Western Balkans.
2. Therefore, **the better interlinking of education and science with jobs and economy with the aim to create smart (sustainable and inclusive) growth** addresses critical problems facing the Western Balkans:
 - Brain drain and emigration;
 - Skills gap between qualifications provided by the education systems and labour market requirements;
 - Low labour productivity, alongside with underrepresentation of high added value jobs;
 - Underused potential for innovation and technological transfer, next to insular vivid innovation-based entrepreneurship;
 - Cumbersome and unstable conditions, which hinder the development of local, regional and macro-regional innovation ecosystems and best-practice communities;
 - Global challenges, which affect the Western Balkans also, such as digitalisation, international competition, societal exclusion, development disparities, financial crises, international migration etc.
3. These problems are interconnected and require a comprehensive approach on different levels: European Union, macro-regional, national and local, involving the contribution of different non-political and political stakeholders. The Western Balkans Process provides the multilateral framework to push for action in this inter-sectorial area.

POSSIBLE DELIVERABLES

4. At the Paris conference we intend to **formulate formal recommendations for the Trieste Western Balkans Summit (12 July 2017) concerning the link between – on the one hand – education, skills and innovation and – on the other hand – job creation and growth**. These recommendations will be calibrated on three major thematic areas:
 - a. **Skills gap and the need for curricular modernisation;**
 - b. **University-business-cooperation;**
 - c. **Innovation ecosystems and knowledge-based entrepreneurship.**

5. Additionally – as this topic is complex – the Paris conference could be the take off for a **Task Force** which would elaborate a **Western Balkans Action Plan for Smart Growth**. This Action Plan would be fed into the preparation of the next Western Balkans Summit to be held in the UK, in July 2018.
6. The **Task Force** would follow a multilateral approach and bring together acknowledged representatives from education, research, innovation and business (from all over the world, but with interest in South East Europe). The **Action Plan** would have three main aims / stages:
 - (1) assessment of existing strategies / programmes / initiatives in this field of action;
 - (2) identification of problematic areas;
 - (3) elaboration of recommendations to be implemented until 2020 or 2030: formulation of corrections and – if necessary – new instruments.

REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

7. EX-ANTE QUESTIONS

- (1) What is your view on the existence of a gap between the skills provided by the higher education system and the requirements of the national labour market?
- (2) What kind of actions would improve the employability of higher education graduates, in terms of (a) curricula and teaching methods, (b) dual higher education programmes together with private enterprises, (c) joint degree programmes with other universities?
- (3) Which forms of university-business cooperation (in education and research) are available in your country? Which models should be developed further? Which new forms of cooperation would be effective?
- (4) What is the state of technology & innovation transfer in your country? And that of innovation-based entrepreneurship?

PLANNED COURSE OF ACTION

8. The following steps are envisaged for addressing this topic before and after the Paris conference:
 - (1) Session 2 of the Paris conference will begin with several input lectures, followed by Q&A:
 - W. Bartlett (London School of Economics and Political Science): *Skills gap and curricular reform*
 - A. Ibrahimbegović (University of Technology of Compiègne): *University-business-cooperation*
 - J.-P. Chabard (Électricité de France EDF S.A.): *Research partnerships*

Moderation: D. Roux (Saint Gobain S.A.; Académie des sciences) & I. Svetlik (University of Ljubljana)

- (2) ■ Discussion of results from the ex-ante consultation
 - **Identification of possible measures as recommendations of the Joint Statement** (for different levels: European Commission, national authorities, universities, businesses etc.)
 - Discussion towards the identification of coordinates for a possible **Action Plan for Western Balkans Smart Growth**
 - Afterwards, presentation of the results to all the stakeholders in the reunited plenary session
- (3) Post-Paris conference: elaboration of the Joint Statement
- (4) Seek endorsement of stakeholders via email
- (5) Submission of the official Joint Statement to the Trieste Western Balkans Summit (12 July 2017), insertion in the Final Declaration of the Summit

HOST



Photo: Christophe Pelletier

ACADÉMIE DES SCIENCES – INSTITUT DE FRANCE

The *Académie des sciences* of Paris has its origins at a time when Superintendent, Comptroller General, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, planned to create an academy of general calling. This was in keeping with the heritage of various groups of scholars who, during the 17th century, met around a patron or a learned personality. Colbert selected a small group of scholars and presented them to King Louis XIV on December 22, 1666. The group was installed in the King's library, in rue Vivienne, Paris, where it held twice-weekly meetings.

On August 22, 1795, the National Institute of Sciences and Arts was created, bringing together the former academies of sciences, literature and arts. In 1805, the National Institute of Sciences and Arts was transferred to the premises of the College of the Four Nations situated on the left bank of the Seine.

In the 20th century, in the face of accelerated development of scientific research and the birth of new disciplines; and in order to remain faithful to its calling, the Academy adapted its structures and its missions. It initiated

a deep-reaching reform of its statutes, in 2002 and 2003. Membership was more than doubled (from 120 to 250) and rejuvenated: at each elections session, at least 50% of the new members have to be less than 55 years old. These younger members are engaged in professional activities and through them the Académie is in touch with the research community. The Académie also has about 90 corresponding members and more than one hundred foreign members.

Gathering some of the most eminent French and foreign scientists, the Académie des sciences is a multidisciplinary assembly with an open international outlook. Its two divisions comprise eight sections: mathematics, physics, sciences of the universe, mechanical sciences and informatics, on one hand and on the other chemistry, and three biology sections including human biology and medical sciences. In addition a transdisciplinary section is concerned with the applications of science. Numerous standing committees gather members of different sections to discuss important issues, initiate actions and prepare position papers, reports, statements and support the missions of the Académie by preparing reports, statements and advices to inform the public and decision makers about scientific issues.

Following a well-established tradition, the Académie holds a meeting nearly every week. Most of these meetings are public and take the form of conferences and debates around current topics with a permanent desire to address all audiences. The presentations are made available on the Academy web site and also can be viewed in real time on the web. These actions are taken to disseminate knowledge. Many other events are directed at high school students with invitations to participate to special conferences and to a “Speed science” session.

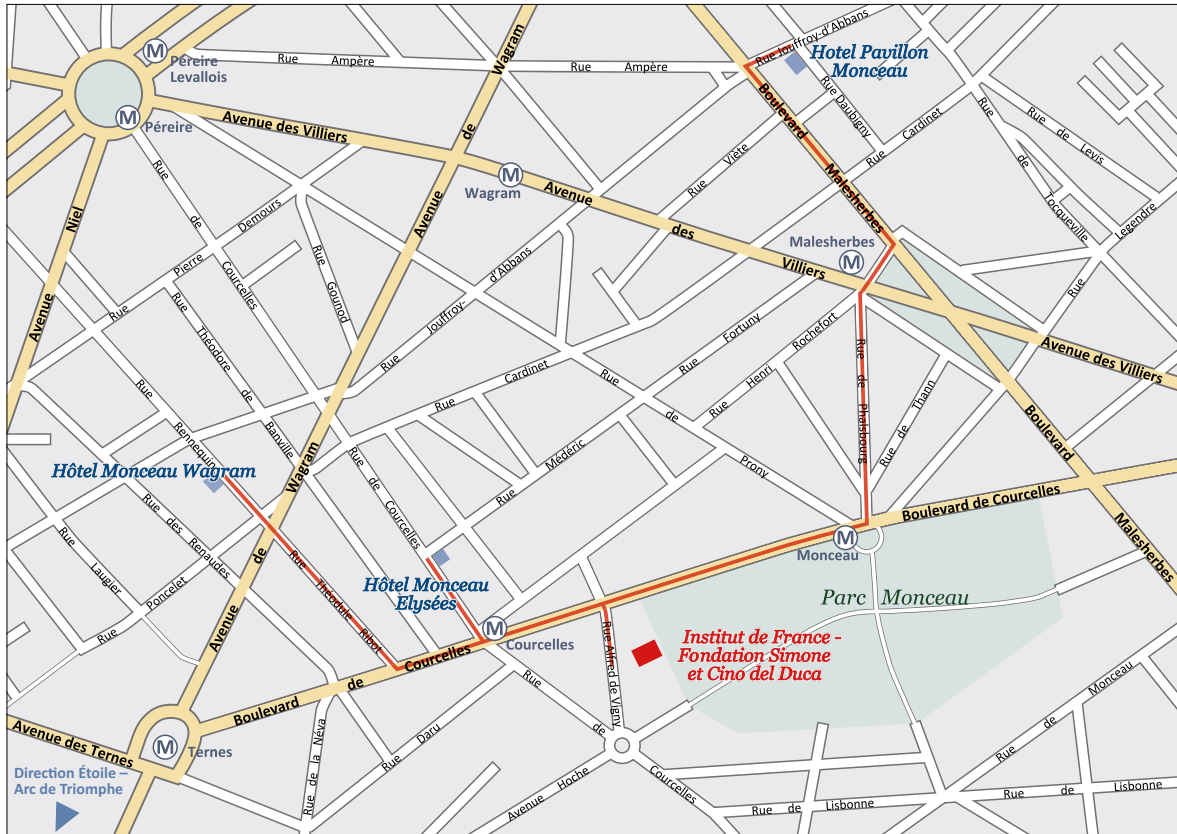
One of the missions of the Académie is to encourage scientific life. This is done by inviting brilliant scientists to present their work at its meetings, by awarding prizes and medals to the best and most promising researchers and by electing new members.

The Académie is heavily engaged in the promotion of science education. One of its most visible action has taken the form of “La Main à la Pâte” launched in 1995 by Georges Charpak, Nobel Prize winner. This consists in teaching science in primary schools by hands on experience and inquiry based activities. This is now carried out by a specific Foundation that is supported by the Académie.

The Académie is also engaged in international inter-academic networks and bilateral academic collaborations. International relations are in the DNA of the Académie since its creation: science does not know borders. Relations with other nations might be based on personal acquaintance or on a more institutional basis in the form of bilateral agreements (nearly 60 such agreements), as well as on interactions with some other academies on specific projects or inside international scientific organizations and other interacademic networks. Although no part of the world is excluded from its relations, the Académie des sciences pays special attention to what is happening in Europe. It is therefore quite natural that the Académie des sciences be involved in the Western Balkans process and that it actively supports this unique process in welcoming the 3rd Joint Science Conference.

LOGISTICS

ORIENTATION MAP PARIS



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Simone et Cino Del Duca
10, Rue Alfred de Vigny
75008 Paris

Hotel Monceau Wagram
7, Rue Rennequin
75017 Paris

Hotel Pavillon Monceau
43, Rue Jouffroy D'abbans
75017 Paris

Hôtel Monceau Elysées
108, Rue de Courcelles
75017 Paris

Wireless Internet Access at Fondation del Duca

Name of network: DEL_DUCA_ETAGE | DEL_DUCA_VIGNY | salle_du_conseil

Password: INSTITUT@DELDUCA

Name of network: INSTITUT DE FRANCE | WIFI DEL DUCA

Password: idfconnexion75008

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