



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

**Negotiation position of the Republic of Serbia for the Inter-governmental Conference on -
accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union
for Chapter 25 “Science and Research”**

Belgrade, October 2016

I. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The Republic of Serbia accepts the *acquis* of the European Union (EU) covered by the Chapter 25 Science and Research as it stands on 1 January 2016 and it does not expect difficulties in implementing the EU *acquis* within this Chapter. Republic of Serbia will have implemented any outstanding *acquis*, namely *acquis* adopted after 1 January 2016, by the date of accession, subject to the outcome of the negotiations under this chapter.

The Republic of Serbia has a full legislative and institutional framework necessary to implement the EU *acquis* in this chapter and it has the capacity to participate in the EU programmes for research and innovation.

Republic of Serbia does not request specific adaptations under this chapter.

II. EXISTING LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

II.1. Policy on Research and Innovation

Strategic and legislative framework of the Republic of Serbia in the field of science and research is in line with the EU *acquis*. The Republic of Serbia shares the same objectives, guidelines and priorities of the EU in the field, participates in the framework programmes of the EU and is willing to contribute to the objectives of the Community defined by the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU in this field. Scientific research and innovation policy in the Republic of Serbia is realised through the national programmes of general interest and the international programmes and projects. The institutional setup and scientific research community ensure the realisation of this policy.

II.1.1. Legislative framework

Scientific research and innovation activity is regulated by the Law on Scientific and Research Activity (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 110/05, 50/06-correction, 18/10 and 112/15) and the Law on Innovation Activity (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 110/05, 18/10 and 55/13) with the relevant set of bylaws and the laws regulating the field of intellectual property. The basic strategic document defining the scientific policy is the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia 2010-2015 (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 13/10) and the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Research of the Republic of Serbia 2014-2015 (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 11/14). New National Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016-2020 “RESEARCH FOR INNOVATION” was adopted on 3 march 2016 (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 25/16).

II.1.2. Institutional Framework/Administrative Capacities

Institutional governance consists of the following institutions: National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MESTD), National Council for Scientific and Technological

Development, Specialised Scientific Committees and other bodies, committees and institutions jointly participating in the implementation of the scientific research and innovation policy.

The central role in the institutional governance belongs to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, a body of the state administration in charge of performing the activities related to development, improvement and financing of the scientific research and innovation activities in the function of scientific, technological and economic development of the Republic of Serbia.

In addition to the aforementioned, it is important to underline that there are several institutions of national importance cooperating with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development on the implementation of the activities in the field of science and scientific research activity. Those are primarily the following:

- **Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA)** is the highest scientific and artistic institution in the Republic of Serbia. Activities of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and its institutes are regulated by the Law on Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 18/10).
- **Matica Srpska** is the oldest literary, cultural and scientific society of Serbian people, which has been continuously active for almost two centuries, achieving outstanding results in the field of encyclopaedias, publishing and scientific research. Activities of the Matica Srpska are defined by the Law on Matica Srpska (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 49/92).

According to data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in 2014 for all sectors of performance on R&D, the total number of researchers was 15.163 (out of 21.044 total number of R&D personnel) or in full time equivalent (FTE) amounting to 13.026 researchers.

II.1.3. International Cooperation

International cooperation is regulated by the Law on Scientific Research Activity (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 110/05, 50/06-correction, 18/10 and 112/15), defining the programmes of general interest for the Republic of Serbia, through which the general interest in the scientific research activity is achieved. Basic programmes, frameworks and instruments through which the international cooperation is realised are mostly through multilateral or regional programmes: EU Framework Programme 7/Horizon 2020, European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), EUREKA; NATO SPS, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNESCO, Central European Initiative (CEI), EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Scientific co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland (SCOPEs), Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Western Balkans Research and Innovation Centre (WISE) (in process of being established), International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and bilateral programmes of cooperation with, amongst others, Spain, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Slovakia, France, Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Portugal, China and Belarus. Other bilateral agreements, notably with some Western Balkan Countries are currently being negotiated and the Republic of Serbia commits to inform about any new international agreement on science and technology as and when concluded and adopted.

II.2. Participation in EU Framework Programmes

HORIZON 2020

Republic of Serbia had the status of the so-called third country in the Sixth Framework Programme for research, technological development and experimental activities (FP6).

Through participation in FP6, the Republic of Serbia had achieved a good level of research and innovation capacity to become associated to the Seventh Framework Programme on research, development and demonstration activities (FP7) which the Government of the Republic of Serbia did through signing on 13 June 2007 the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Community and the Republic of Serbia allowing for participation as associated country from the first year of FP7. Participation in FP7 resulted in 319 Serbian successful applicants (out of which 51 private entities) in 236 projects in total. Out of that number Republic of Serbia was the coordinator of 42 projects. The field in which the researchers were most successful were information and communication technologies followed by food, agriculture, fishery and biotechnology, as well as environmental protection, including the climate changes. The total amount of funding received amounted to about €64 million. By this Republic of Serbia demonstrated a very good administrative and scientific capacity resulting in a successful participation in FP7.

Republic of Serbia continued to participate as an associated country in the next EU framework programme by signing on 1 of July 2014 the Agreement between the European Union and Republic of Serbia on the participation of Republic of Serbia in the Union programme Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). Following the Law on Ratification of the Agreement (“Official Gazette of the RS - International Agreements”, No. 9/14) on 8 September 2014, the Association Agreement became retro-actively into force as from 1 January 2014.

The status of the associated country which the Republic of Serbia received by signing this Agreement ensures that all legal entities from our country have equal opportunities and obligations as legal entities of an EU Member State who apply at the open calls for funding the projects in this programme.

In line with the Association Agreement on Horizon 2020, a network of National Contact Points has been established and national representatives have been appointed for all Horizon 2020 Programme Committees which allows the Republic of Serbia to become familiar with the EU decision-making on EU funding on research and innovation (Comitology).

Euratom

Republic of Serbia is currently not associated neither participating in the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) Horizon 2020 Programme for nuclear research and training activities (2014-2018). The areas for possible cooperation which the Republic of Serbia is considering are primarily the radiation protection, radioactive waste management and nuclear safety.

The Republic of Serbia has developed cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Republic of Serbia has one signed bilateral agreements with Government of Hungary for the early exchange of information in the event of radiological emergency.

National legislation in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection is partially aligned with the EU *acquis* in this area.

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is active and confirmed by a Memorandum of Understanding (2010-2015). Renewal of the Agreement or any form of cooperation is currently under discussion. Through association to Horizon 2020, Republic of Serbia has nominated a delegate in the JRC Board of Governors and participates in the meetings. It has also nominated a National Contact Point for the JRC activities. Republic of Serbia mainly participates in the JRC's activities through the JRC's particular programme aimed for Enlargement countries.

Rules of Ethics

Ethical issues related to the scientific research in the Republic of Serbia are applied starting with the principle of respect for human rights defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia ("Official Gazette of RS", No 98/06), as well as the principle of respect for ethics and legality of science and profession defined by the Law on Scientific Research Activity ("Official Gazette of RS", No 110/05, 50/06-correction, 18/10 and 112/15). Ethic committees are established within the faculties of the University of Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad and Kragujevac, as well as within the scientific institutes. The National Bioethics Committee of the UNESCO, with the head office at the SASA, was established on 31 October 2003

II.3. Innovation Union including European Research Area

Investment in research, development and innovations

Research, development and innovations (RDI) for public and private entities are financed from the budget of the Republic of Serbia which allocated the funds for this activity in line with the Law on the Budget for each relevant year. At the moment RDI activities are financed through the following programs: Basic research programme, Research program in the field of technological development, Programme for co-founding of integrated and interdisciplinary research and Innovation activity programme. In addition to this, RDI activities are partly financed by other funding sources and notably from credit funds, international funds and private sector investment. Innovation activities are additionally financed from the funds secured for this purpose by the Pre-accession Fund (IPA) allocated to Republic of Serbia topped up with the budget of the RS and co-financed by the private sector. In the period from 2008 to 2014, the total investment in research, development and innovations was in the range between 0.7% and 0.9% of GDP (0.78% in 2014 according to Eurostat).

Mobility of Researchers

An important prerequisite for producing scientific excellence is to have sufficient and well qualified researchers. Republic of Serbia is following closely the activities of the EU steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility. So far six Serbian research institutions have endorsed the principles of the “*European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers*” and one of them, the University of Nis has obtained the *Human Resource Excellence in Research logo*. In order to encourage mobility of scientists, primarily incoming, and reduction of the obstacles to mobility of scientists, Republic of Serbia is actively promoting the use of the EURAXESS network which is part of the pan-European EURAXESS network.

Under its bilateral programmes the Republic of Serbia supports mobility grants, particularly for young researchers.

Serbian diaspora was included in the evaluation of the project that belongs to the previous project cycle. In addition to this one of the members of the National Research Council was coming from diaspora.

Research Infrastructures

The key funding sources for infrastructure projects in the Republic of Serbia are based on the “Research and Development Infrastructure investment initiative in Public Sector” as indicated in the Strategy for Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia 2010-2015. During the period of 2010-2015 Republic of Serbia invested in total 154 million EUR in research infrastructure.

Science in Society

In the Strategy for Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia 2010-2015, Republic of Serbia has recognised the need for the establishment of a special institution which is in charge of the relationship between science and society: the Centre for the Promotion of Science. The centre was established by the Law on Scientific Research Activity (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 110/05, 50/06-correction, 18/10 and 112/15), as an independent legal entity with the competence to promote science and technologies and scientific and technological achievements in the country and in the world.

Innovation Union

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, in line with the Law on Ministries (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 44/14, 14/15 and 54/15) and the Law on Innovation Activity (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 110/05, 18/10 and 55/13), as the Ministry of the Republic of Serbia responsible for the innovation activity, performs the activities of state administration related to the following actions: creation and implementation of the innovation policy, encouraging techno-entrepreneurship, transfer of knowledge and technologies in economy, development and improvement of the innovation system in the

Republic of Serbia, regulations in the field of protection of the intellectual property rights, as well as the activities of surveillance of the operations of the Intellectual Property Office.

Law on Innovation Activity (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 110/05, 18/10 and 55/13) established the Innovation Fund, as a particular legal entity, specialised in managing financial funds for encouraging innovations and in performing the activities of financing, preparing, realising and developing of the activities in the field of the implementation of the national innovation policy, in particular through the cooperation with the international and domestic institutions and the private sector.

Innovation Fund has established mechanisms for support of innovative companies through the two types of financing instruments: the program of early-stage development (Mini Grants Program) and program of innovation co-financing (Matching Grants Program).

Centralized Technology Transfer Facility is established within Innovation Fund in order to coordinate individual technology transfer offices created at four State Universities.

Innovation activities are being primarily coordinated through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, as the ministry in charge of national innovation and R&D system, with the relevant support for innovative entrepreneurship provided by the Ministry of Economy. The activities of both ministries are coordinated and aligned at strategic level.

Intellectual Property Management in Knowledge Transfer

Intellectual property rights are subject of Negotiation Chapter 7. Under Chapter 25, the management of intellectual property related to research and innovation are considered such as promoting knowledge of transfer between public scientific research organisations and private sector and creating awareness on the importance of IPRs when engaging in research and innovation.

There is an established legal framework and infrastructure for knowledge transfer and utilisation of results from publicly funded research. The Law on Scientific and Research Activity (“Official Gazette of RS”, No. 110/05, 50/06-correction, 18/10 and 112/15) and the Law on Innovation Activity (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 110/05, 18/10 and 55/13) are major instruments for protection of the results of publicly funded research and innovation. The additional legal framework for the protection of the results of publicly funded research and innovation in Republic of Serbia are set of IPR laws.

Bio-economy and Agricultural Research

In the Strategy for Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia for 2010-2015, out of seven national priorities in the scope of science and technology in total, three are directly or indirectly related to the development of bio-economy: (1) Environmental Protection and Climate Changes, (2) Energy and Energy Efficiency, and (3) Agriculture and Food. These priorities are defined based on the alignment with the strategy for development of the country, possibility of successful participation in the Lisbon agenda and scientific priorities of the European Union.

Environmental Protection

With the Strategy for Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia for 2010-2015, and through the analysis of the scientific fields, the field “Environmental Protection and Climate Changes” has been identified as one of seven national priorities in the area of science and technology. Environmental protection and sustainable development in the process of joining the EU are a part of the national and regional initiatives.

Coal and Steel Research

Coal and steel research, financed by the MESTD through the Technological Development Programme, is related to the field of technology of materials and mining and energy. Iron and steel industry had the main role before the economic crisis in the entire industry of the Republic of Serbia when it comes to the scope of the industrial production and export value.

Coal research in the Republic of Serbia mostly refers to the applied geological research and laboratory tests for defining the coal quality.

Article 185 and 187 Initiatives

Institutions forms the Republic of Serbia have participated in some Article 185 actions called ERA-NETs and notably in the following projects: SEE-ERA.NET, SEE-ERA.NET+, ERA-CAPs and SAFERA under FP7.

Currently Republic of Serbia is not participating in any Article 185 action nor in any Article 187 (private-public partnership) action at EU level.

III. ALIGNMENT OF LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK WITH THE EU ACQUIS

III.1. Policy on Research and Innovation

In order to prepare for the full application of the *acquis*, the Republic of Serbia will align and update the existing measures and, where necessary, initiate additional measures in order to continue with the work on the alignment of its research and innovation policy with the objectives and priorities of the EU policy on Research and Innovation as specified in the European Research Area and the Innovation Union.

For the purpose of effective integration into the European Research Area and contribution to the Innovation Union flagship, the Republic of Serbia will ensure the necessary framework conditions for conducting research and innovation in a competitive way and creating scientific excellence. A new strategic framework as well as other actions aiming at strengthening the administrative capacity is currently being considered aiming at increasing participation in the EU research programme and in particular in the first Pillar on Scientific Excellence including ERC grants.

In accordance with the new strategic and legislative framework, the mission of the MESTD is to prepare and enforce the package of reform measures which will create the conditions for the

realisation of the vision specified in the National Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016-2020 “RESEARCH FOR INNOVATION” adopted on 3 march 2016 (“Official Gazette of RS”, No 25/16) (hereafter the new Strategy): “Within five years, science in the Republic of Serbia will be based on a competitive system that supports excellence in science and its relevance to economic development, competitiveness of the Serbian Economy, and development of society as a whole”.

In order to achieve the defined vision and mission, this Strategy defines six specific objectives, as follows:

1. Encouraging excellence and relevance of scientific research in the Republic of Serbia

Instruments to be used for achieving this objective will include: strengthening basic research, introducing targeted basic research program, improving the technical-technological research, improving the scientific research evaluation system, modifying the financial model for scientific research, establishing the Fund for Research promotion, developing the scientific research infrastructure, and promoting the importance of science and innovations for the society in general.

2. Strengthening the connections between science, economy and society to encourage innovation

Instruments to be used for achieving this objective will include: encouraging the application of scientific research results, strengthening the work of Innovation Fund, further development of the Serbia Innovation Project, establishment of joint projects of the private sector and the scientific research organisations, improving the transfer of knowledge and technology, motivating the establishment of the companies based on the scientific research (spin-off), public-private partnership, Science Technology Parks and research and development clusters and competitiveness networks.

3. Establishing an effective management system for science and innovation in the Republic of Serbia

Instrument to be used for achieving this objective will include: improving the institutional framework, establishing a strategic management for scientific research organisations, reform of the scientific institute network, integrated policy analysis (policy mix peer review).

4. Ensuring excellence and availability of human resources for science and economy and social affairs

Instruments to be used for achieving this objective will include: improving the legislative framework for human resource development, improving the doctoral programmes, including the young researchers in projects, strengthening the cooperation with the diaspora, improving mobility of researchers and improving the gender and minority equality in science and innovations.

5. Improving international cooperation in the field of science and innovation

Instruments to be used for achieving this objective will include: establishing a coordination body for international cooperation, strengthening participation in the European framework

programmes for science and innovation - Horizon 2020, strengthening the regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and the Danube Region, ensuring the access to the international research infrastructures.

6. Increasing investment in research and development through public funding and encouraging the investments of the business sector in research and development

Instruments to be used for achieving this objective will include: increasing investments in research and development from public sources, increasing the business sector investment into research and development, investment in research and development from other national and international sources.

Measures and activities, including a timeline, tasks and bodies and organisational competence for the implementation of this strategy shall be specified in Action Plans and By-laws implementing the new Strategy.

Action Plan shall be defined by the Government following the adoption of the new Strategy aiming at having most implementing actions, drafted before the end of the year 2017.

III.1.1. Plans for harmonising legislative framework with EU *acquis*

Legislative framework and the status of the implementation and enforcement of the *acquis* is in line with the National Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016-2020 “RESEARCH FOR INNOVATIONS” (adopted on 3 March 2016, “Official Gazette of RS”, No 25/16). There are plans for further alignment of the Law and bylaws, regulating the field of science and research, transfer of technology and intellectual property with the ERA priorities. In addition to that, according to the ESFRI rules, a Research Infrastructure roadmap will be develop and adopt by the Government in 2017. Republic of Serbia will start preparation of the Smart Specialization Strategy.

III.1.2. Science governance: institutional framework

Institutional governance consists of the following: Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, and other bodies, committees and institutions jointly participating in the implementation of the scientific research and innovation policy.

The central role in the institutional setup belongs to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, a body of the state administration in charge of performing the activities related to development, improvement and financing of the scientific research and innovation activities in the function of scientific, technological and economic development.

III.1.3. Administration of national funds

Administrative capacities regarding the enforcement of the scientific research and innovation policy will be further strengthened and reformed in particular to take account of the ERA priorities and in particular ERA priority 1 aiming at more effective national research systems. As

part of the new Strategy, Republic of Serbia will allocate funding on a competitive basis and apply fully the principles of international peer review. The Innovation Fund and the Science Promotion Centre will also actively implement the most effective and competitive funding schemes at national level.

III.1.4. International Cooperation

Future plans relating to the international cooperation include activities towards achieving the objectives and addressing the existing challenges: become a full member of the European Research Area, attract additional foreign funds, ensure excellence through the cooperation with the leading scientific research organisations from abroad, provide incoming and outgoing mobility and promote the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the research and innovation cycle.

A research attaché will be appointed to the Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the EU.

Further integration in the European Research Area (ERA) will be supported by intensifying the existing measures and introducing new measures in line with the ERA priorities and prepare for an ERA Roadmap.

The active role in the regional initiatives will be continued.

III.2. EU Framework Programmes

Horizon 2020

In line with the programme of international cooperation, the promotion campaigns and support to the researchers and other participants on participation in Horizon 2020 will be continued. The network of National Contact Points will be strengthened through additional training, acquiring skills and professionalization with the aim to form a special unit for the support of participation in the Horizon 2020 programme.

The Republic of Serbia will also continue the cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia and the Ministry of Economy through the Enterprise Europe Network – EEN. EEN offers support to the beneficiaries of Horizon 2020 SME Instrument which include top business and innovation experts to provide Key Account Management (KAM) services to SMEs engaging in research and innovation.

EURATOM

Based on the presentation of possibilities and a future fact finding mission and subject to the research and financial resources, the possibility of Serbian association to the Horizon 2020 Euratom programme (2014-2018), will be considered. To start with, an information session on H2020 Euratom programme will be organised.

Joint Research Centres (JRC)

The cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), which is already very closely developed, will be formalised through the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding. Apart from that, the cooperation with the Joint Research Centre will be expanded, particularly related to the development of a Smart Specialisation Strategy, data exchange, data base use, and the support through the programme for enlargement countries.

In early November 2015, Republic of Serbia joined the JRC Smart Specialisation Platform.

Rules of Ethics

It has been planned that the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development adopts the Code of Conduct for Scientific Research which should define the integrity principles in the scientific research with the aim to preserve the dignity of the profession, develop and improve moral and ethical values, protect the values of knowledge and respect and raise the awareness of the responsibility of researchers in the scientific research, respecting the principles of academic reputation. In order to monitor and implement the norms of the Code, the Ministry will establish the Science Ethics Committee, which will be composed of leading researchers and academicians. It has been planned that these activities should be completed by the end of 2017. In addition to that, the respect of the ethical norms will be an eliminatory criterion for the project evaluation at national level in the upcoming project cycle.

III.3. Innovation Union including European Research Area

Investment in research, development and innovations

In order to encourage the scientific and technological cooperation and motivate innovation activity, the Republic of Serbia plans to increase its capacity building and institutional, administrative and financial capacities in the period 2016-2020 as established in the new Strategy. This will be achieved through the further financing of the research projects and technological development projects, through cooperation with the European Union Member States and international partners, in particular through Horizon 2020 as well as through the use of IPA II (the Instrument of Pre-Accession Instrument 2014-2020) and cooperation with other international and European financial organisations.

In line with the new Strategy, there are plans for the reform of the scientific research funding system in order to improve it, to ensure stable financing and use the budget funds in the most efficient and optimal manner. The change of the funding system will be realised in two phases: (1) improving of existing model and (2) developing new models.

- (1) The first phase will include the improvement of the existing model of project financing - implementation in 2017.

By this improvement the funds allocated for direct material costs will be increased. Out of the total funds, 20% will be allocated for covering the direct material costs of research, which will provide more comprehensive way leading to better scientific results.

In addition to that the current model of project financing will be improved by the increased competition and introduction of additional criteria that will evaluate: the scope and quality of

research, scientific and interdisciplinary cooperation, cooperation with the industry and social activities. The selection of projects for financing and their monitoring during the realisation will be performed transparently, and the result of the research will be available to the domestic and international public. Duration of the project, evaluation criteria and selection procedures will be defined by the law and the relevant bylaws.

- (2) The second phase will start in 2019; will include the development of the combined model of financing “project - institutional model of financing”

This reform in financing of research will be aligned with the reform of the research system. Application of the new model will follow a detailed analysis and the adoption of the relevant amendments to the laws and bylaws defining the structural changes.

Further progress of the research and innovation system, and therefore the economic and overall development of the Republic of Serbia, is not possible without increased investments in science and research. The aim is that by 2020, investment in research will reach 1.5% of Serbia's GDP in 2020. The increase should in particular come from more private sector expenditure in research which should be possible with the many measures and actions envisaged in the new Strategy to stimulate cooperation between Academia and Industry and the further development of the Innovation fund. The new Strategy should also lead to increased funding for research and innovation from Horizon 2020. The public funding will increase from 0.43% in 2014 to 0.60 in 2020.

Mobility of Researchers

Republic of Serbia will increase the number of researchers and quality of scientists through Action Plans implementing the new Strategy. In doing so it will act in line with the EU strategy “*Mobility for Better Learning*” and adopt measures stimulating mobility of foreign and domestic students, teachers and researchers. For the realisation of these objectives it is necessary to eliminate legal obstacles and restrictive practices which prevent open and transparent procedure for recruitment of researchers in the public sector and in research organisations.

Republic of Serbia will align the processes and procedures for recruitment of researchers with the *European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers*. It will facilitate the obtainance of visas for foreign students and scientists and other aspects related to staying in the country, such as health care insurance and accommodation so as to facilitate the mobility of students and scientists.

Research Infrastructures

Republic of Serbia is already member and was co-founder of the European Research Infrastructure consortia (ERICs): Central European Research Infrastructure CERIC-ERIC and Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities DARIAH-ERIC. To facilitate the further integration of Serbian scientists and research institutes, Republic of Serbia will take the necessary measures to become part of other the European Research Infrastructure consortia (ERICs).

Republic of Serbia is also working on its National Research Infrastructure Roadmap with the aim to adopt in 2017. The Roadmap will be in line with the strategic objectives defined by the European Strategic Forum on Infrastructures (ESFRI). Republic of Serbia is committed to open its Research Infrastructures to researchers, scientists and companies from Republic of Serbia as from the EU and the world.

Science in Society

Centre for the Promotion of Science will concentrate efforts on the connection of the civil society and the scientific community and public administrations aiming at a better understanding of the role science has in the society.

Innovation Union

With respect to boosting innovation, the Law on Innovation Activity will be updated and the relevant bylaws adjusted to bring it in line with the new Strategy. Actions will be taken to stimulate cooperation between Academia and Industry and to facilitate access to risk finance.

The MESTD in cooperation with the Innovation Fund will continue to support Innovation projects performed by the most innovative enterprises and continue with the Early development programme (*Mini Grants Program*) and Innovation co-financing programme (*Matching Grants Program*). For this purpose, a loan agreement has been signed with the World Bank for the implementation of the Competitiveness and Jobs Project, components of the Program for Innovation. This program will be further on supported through IPA 2014.

The IPA 2013 Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer Project, which started in January 2016, will also further boost innovation through support for transfer of technology. So far several interesting initiatives are being implemented, notably:

1. Establishment of the central Technology Transfer Facility within the Innovation Fund for providing support to the local technology transfer facilities, scientific research organisations, and other organisations providing support to innovations, with the aim to increase their abilities and efficiency regarding the transaction part of the technology transfer.
2. Design and implementation of the Collaborative Grant Scheme for approving the funds for financing innovation projects of consortiums, in order to encourage the cooperation of the private and public scientific research sector in the field of creation of a new intellectual property having the market value and application - this activity contributes to the realisation of the objective of the Innovation Union covering the connection of all the stakeholders of the innovation cycle, i.e. connection of the business and academic sector. This component is co-financed with €1 million of budgetary funds coming from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.
3. Results of the third component of this project ensure a successful creation and adoption of the Action Plan of the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of Republic of Serbia 2016-2020, and the creation of the Research Infrastructure Roadmap (in line with the recommendations of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures).

Intellectual Property Management in Knowledge Transfer

According to the planned priorities for the period 2014 - 2018, there are plans for a further alignment with the regulations and recommendation of the EU which are a part of the Negotiation Chapter 7 – Intellectual Property.

Bio-economy and agricultural Research

In the new project cycle for financing projects at the national level, the financing of the projects of this field will be continued.

Coal and Steel Research

In the new project cycle for financing projects at the national level, the financing of the projects of this field will be continued.

Article 185 and Article 187 Initiatives

Further development of modalities and opening of the possibility for public-private partnership at the national level will be considered, as well as the possibilities of joining the European initiatives of public-private partnership.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE EU ACQUIS

The Republic of Serbia accepts the acquis of the European Union (EU) covered by the Chapter 25 Science and Research as it stands on 1 January 2016 and it does not expect difficulties in implementing the EU acquis within this Chapter. Republic of Serbia will have implemented any outstanding acquis, namely acquis adopted after 1 January 2016, by the date of accession, subject to the outcome of the negotiations under this chapter.

The Republic of Serbia does not request specific adaptations under this Chapter.