

## **Expert Meeting and SEE Ministerial Round Table**

*22-23 November 2012 – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

### ***Introductory Note***

The expert meeting and SEE Ministerial Round Table, organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy), in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will discuss the preparation a coherent roadmap of science priorities at both national and regional levels.

The “*Venice Process*” launched ten years ago during the Conference of Experts on Rebuilding Scientific Cooperation in Southeastern Europe (Venice, 24–27 March 2001), has been continuously contributing to the strengthening of the scientific and technological system of the SEE countries, promoting the cooperation within the sub-region and with the rest of Europe, also in order to facilitate the integration of those countries into the European Research Area.

During this decade, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe has been active in providing financial support and elaborating initiatives to generate regional networking as a means of mobilizing the sciences, technology and innovation (STI) for peace and sustainable development. An integrated regional science-policy-society approach has been promoted.

Acting as a neutral platform for dialogue and co-operation for policy-makers and academia of the South Eastern Europe, the Venice Office organized several events which were considered pioneering initiatives in the sub-region, among them the international Conference and High-Level Round Table ‘*Why Invest in Science in South Eastern Europe?*’ (Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 2006), the Conference of the Academies of Sciences from Eastern and SEE countries: ‘*Global Science and National Policies. The Role of Academies*’ (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 4-5 May 2007), the Science Policy Forum ‘*Science for the Future, Science for Society. The Parliamentary Perspective*’ (Romania, June 2007), the *Science, Higher Education and Innovation Policy Forum*, Budva, Montenegro, 2-4 July 2008. The conclusions and recommendations adopted on that occasions made a clear case for UNESCO to continue to act as a catalyst and neutral broker in the sub-region with a view of supporting SEE countries in the development and implementation of quality science, higher education policies. As well, the Venice Office has contributed to the elaboration of the national STI strategies of many SEE countries.

## **Previous Ministerial Round Tables**

Since 2001, the following ministerial round tables on science and research in Southeastern Europe have been held:

**2010** [High-level Round Table and Expert Meeting on Strengthening Research and Higher Education in South Eastern Europe: From Bilateral to Pan-European Cooperation \(Tirana, Albania\)](#)

**2008** [High-level Round Table at the Science, Higher Education and Innovation Policy Forum \(Budva, Montenegro\)](#)

**2006** [High-level Round Table and International Conference on Why Invest in Science in South Eastern Europe? \(Ljubljana, Slovenia\)](#)

**2001** [Round Table of Ministers of Science \(UNESCO, Paris\)](#)

## **Participants**

Ministers and high level officials, experts of science, higher education and research from South Eastern European countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey).

Representatives from other European countries, European and international organizations, in particular the European Commission, the Regional Cooperation Council for South Eastern Europe will be invited to participate in the event.

## **Venue**

Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

## **Organizers**

Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) and UNESCO Antenna Office in Sarajevo

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