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Newsletter No 3

Project results and recommendations:

“AMAZING WORK DONE BY NASRI TEAM FOR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH IN ALBANIA!”

EU Twinning Light “Strengthening the science and research ecosystem in Albania”

General Information:

The EU-funded Twinning Light project during last 10 months focused on strengthening the institutional capacities of National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI) on implementing its mandate in line with requirements of the *acquis* on science and research. The project team carried out over dozen events for NASRI and stakeholders. It also developed several strategic and guidance documents to support NASRI’s development.

Twinning team speaks about project implementation and achieved results:



Mirela Muça, Director NASRI, *“Strengthening the Science and Research Ecosystem in Albania is going to make better knowledge, better choices and better policies for the future of our citizens.”*

Wolfgang Polt, Project Leader, Joanneum Research, Austria: *“NASRI can play an important part in the future development of the Albanian Research and Innovation system if it’s capacities are strengthened and it is scaled up to the task. We hope to have provided a good guidance for that through our in-depth recommendations.”*



Lidjana Shahinaj, Component 1 Leader counterpart, NASRI: *“Align of research and innovation legal framework with the EU regulation will forward the Albanian scientific research closer to the European Research Area.”*

Christian Hartmann, Component 1 Leader, Joanneum Research, Austria: *“To provide essential science and research policy intelligence a new legal framework for the collection of statistical data on R&D investments in line with EU regulations is urgently needed. This should be complemented with new regulations to allow high return rates of questionnaires.”*



Marsela Robo, Component 2 Leader counterpart, NASRI: *“Capability building empowers individuals and organizations to perform tasks effectively, achieve objectives, adapt to changing circumstances, and ultimately, reach their full potential. It focuses on developing specific competencies but also on building a broader capacity for growth, innovation, and resilience. Together with our European partners in this project, we laid down the tracks, so that the modern NASRI train could start its safe journey. It depends on us now to put this train on the tracks and to start the journey towards the NASRI of the future.”*

Emmanuel Glenck, Component 2 Leader, Austrian Research Promotion Agency: *“The excellent services delivered by all NASRI staff lays the foundation for the next development steps of the agency within the Albanian science, research and innovation ecosystem. The recommendations jointly formulated aim to increase the impact of public investments for science, research and innovation. Also, performed activities strengthen the successful participation at European Research initiatives.”*



Robert Dumi, Component 3 Leader counterpart, NASRI: *“IPA Twinning Project was a great opportunity for NASRI to strengthen the human capacities”*

Birgit Ditgens, Component 3 Leader, DLR Project management Agency, Germany: *“The inclusive and co-creative process in itself is a valuable exercise as it created ownership among NASRI’s member of staff at all levels. Co-creating a Roadmap together with an Action Plan, however, is only the beginning of a process. Now, it is up to NASRI together with its wide network of stakeholders, to make a change and use the aspects of the Roadmap that you consider most pressing and start implementing them.”*

First matchmaking for science and business collaboration in Albania:

On 24 April during the international stakeholder event took place a first matchmaking session for science and business collaboration in Albania.

Project team is thankful to all stakeholders who participated in this event and pitched their ideas to businesses and funding agencies.

The project more than 40 recommendations cover main five areas:

- Position NASRI as a key-actor promoting Science, Research and Innovation ecosystem development in Albania
- Ensure cooperation between funding agencies and stakeholders in Albania
- Embed Albanian Science, Research and Innovation into the European developments in Science, Research and Innovation
- Ensure the success of initiatives fostering science-business collaboration in Albania
- Foster communication and science & innovation popularisation in Albania

The recommendations were presented and discussed during the international stakeholder event with more than 70 participants from different sectors and were highly welcomed.

The implementation of these recommendations concerns different organisations: some of them can only be enacted by the Ministry of Education and Sports, some fall into the competences of NASRI, others are joint actions between several stakeholders.

Project partners:

MS body responsible for implementation:

Joanneum Research (JR), Austria

in cooperation with

Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Austria

Austria Research Promotion Agency (FFG), Austria

DLR Project Management Agency (DLR), Germany

Daugavpils University (DU), Latvia

Beneficiary Administration:

National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI)

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