

# Newsletter No 1



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



**Overall objective:** Strengthening the institutional capacities of National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation on implementing its mandate in line with requirements of the acquis on science and research

**Duration:** 10 months

**Budget:** 250 000 EUR

**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)



**Component 1:** Legal framework and secondary legislation in the field of scientific research improved Component 1 aims at providing guidance and recommendations to reform and implement the new law on scientific research and innovation in line with EU regulations and instructions through gap analysis and identifications of shortcomings. As there is no need to transpose EU law in Chapter 25 of the EU acquis, we have built our work mainly upon the existing body of law in Austria, Slovenia, and Latvia as good practice.

In a first step a functional gap analysis has been conducted in order to identify those legal aspects related to research and innovation in Albania that are currently not covered or properly developed. The gap analysis build thereby upon the good practice cases from Austria, Slovenia and Latvia. This analysis has been footed on the results of document analysis and at least 10-12 stakeholder interviews conducted in Albania. In addition the gap analysis has also looked into existing institutional shortcomings of the Albanian national science and innovation system. The results of the gap analysis will be then presented and discussed with NASRI and other relevant stakeholders in workshops. As main result a guidance document with recommendations to improve the draft law on science but also science policy intelligence has been prepared and shared with NASRI.



**Component 2:** Institutional and administrative capacities of the National Agency for Scientific research and innovation (NASRI), enhanced

- *How to enhance NASRI capacity and support in management of funding schemes?*
- *How to facilitate science and business collaboration?*
- *How to increase Albanian participation rate in Horizon Europe together?*

The activities performed during this project aim at improving the specialists skills and working capacity of NASRI as the main research funding agency (e.g. trainings, workshops, study visit, framework for funding processes, advisory board). Potentials at increasing the cooperation of the Albanian innovators in academia and business were assessed. Furthermore, the specialisation needs of the National Contact Points (NCPs) and of the NASRI staff were assessed to better promote

the future participation of Albanian researchers in the European Framework Programme Horizon Europe. Horizon Europe Proposal Writing Camp and individual consultations by EU NCPs were offered to all stakeholders.



**Component 3:** A road map for the strategic development of NASRI prepared

What will a future research and innovation ecosystem in Albania look like and what role will NASRI play in it?

How can NASRI position itself in this dynamic environment?

What concrete steps are needed to achieve NASRI's goals and objectives?

Over the course of the project, project experts, the innovation agency's staff and stakeholders from the research and innovation ecosystem co-created a roadmap outlining future steps for strategic reorientation. Specifically, the roadmap identifies concrete actions, milestones and partners to implement the recommendations formulated in the Twinning Light project. The most urgent recommendations are broken down into intermediate actions to guide the reform of the Innovation Agency. However, some steps cannot be implemented by NASRI alone. Therefore, the roadmap identifies partners from the research and innovation ecosystem in Albania who could support the implementation of the recommendations. The roadmap aims to contribute to shaping the future direction of NASRI's role in the Albanian research and innovation ecosystem.

**Upcoming: International Stakeholder Event on 24th April 2024 in Tirana**

The stakeholder event provides you with the unique opportunity to get insights into the main results of the project and to reflect with other stakeholders of the Albanian research and innovation ecosystem upon possible next steps.

**About the instrument**

Twinning is a European Union instrument for institutional cooperation between Public Administrations of EU Member States and of beneficiary or partner countries as Georgia. Twinning projects bring together public sector expertise from EU Member States and beneficiary countries with the aim of achieving concrete mandatory operational results through peer to peer activities.

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