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Participating Organization: UL, FERIT, UBL, UNSA, UNTZ, UB, UNI, UNS, ENT, BICOM, BIT, CISCO, NiCAT, RT-RK

Editors: A. Tonello

Contributors: N. Suljanovic, V. Delic, M. Koprivica, M. Zajc, S. Rimac-Drlje, E. Schneider

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1. Introduction

One of the objectives of the capacity building project BENEFIT is to create networking opportunities and better knowledge of capacities of the involved partners so that further collaboration and project initiatives could be implemented.

2. Objectives of the Deliverable

This deliverable summarizes some relevant initiatives in the domain of partnerships for follow-up projects and H2020 funding for research projects on telecommunication engineering involving industry. They include:

- Bilateral agreements for cooperation in teaching and research
- Partnerships made for the submission of research project proposals
- Participation to conference program committees
- Established research cooperations involving young scientists and scientists visits, publication of research papers.

3. Summary of created partnerships

3.1 Bilateral agreements for cooperation in teaching and research

Some **bilateral agreements** have been made to stipulate and discipline cooperation in both the field of teaching and research:

- Bilateral agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the University of Tuzla (B&H), dated 8.8.2019
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the University of Sarajevo (B&H), dated 21.5.2019
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the University of Belgrade (Serbia), dated 11.12.2019
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the University of Novi Sad (Serbia), dated 27.11.2019
- Bilateral agreement between the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology (Osijek) and University of Novi Sad (Serbia), Faculty of Technical Sciences, dated dated 19.07.2017
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Electrical Engineering (Slovenia) and the University of Tuzla, Faculty of Electrical Engineering (Bosnia and Herzegovina), dated 12.10.2020
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Osijek (Croatia) and the University of Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina), dated 1.6.2017

3.2 Partnerships made for the submission of other project proposals in research and non

Building upon the network of partners and colleagues created within project BENEFIT a number of research and non **project proposals** have been made. We list some below:

- EU 2020 Innovative training network involving among the partners the University of Novi Sad and the University of Klagenfurt, call H2020-MSCA-ITN-2019.
- EU 2020 Innovative training network involving among the partners the University of Novi Sad and the University of Klagenfurt, call H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018.
- OEAD project proposal involving the University of Banja Luka and the University of Klagenfurt, call BIH 2019_20.

- HORIZON 2020 Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) involving among the partners the Rt-RK doo and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek, call H2020-EIC-FTI-2018-2020 (Safety in AUTomotive by Design -SAUDE)
- 2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 involving among the partners the Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek (Knowledge hub for IT in Smart Energy Applications)
- 2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 involving among the partners the Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek (Medio-Tech network cooperation for public health advancements related to card-vascular issues (METROCAV)
- 2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 involving among the partners the Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek (Leveraging geolocation for boosting solar photovoltaic power plants and sustainable use of energy in Croatia - Serbia corss-brder region- Akronim: Geo4Sun)
- 2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 involving among the partners the Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek (Solar Power for Production of Safe Drinking Water-SolWat)
- 2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 involving among the partners the Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek (Renewable Energy Sources for Smart Sustainable Health Centers, University Education and other public buildings-RESCUE)
- INTERREG V-B Adriatic-Ionian ADRION Programme 2014-2020 involving among the partners the Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad, the Faculty of electrical Engineering University of Sarajevo and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek (Applying a RES and Energy Efficiency Sustainable Development Model in the Peri - Adriatic Touristic Sector – RETOUS)

Despite the fact that some have not been selected for funding, they allowed to build solid relationships for future cooperations and conceivements of follow up research projects at European level.

3.3 Participation to conference program committees

Partners have been very active in the organization of scientific conferences. Several project participants have been part of the organizing committee of these conferences either as steering committee members, board member or technical program committee member. Below we list these conferences:

- INTSIKT 2017-2020, Tuzla (B&H)
- ERK 2019-2020, Portoroz (Slovenia)
- SST 2018-2020, Osijek (Croatia)
- ZINC 2019, Novi Sad (Serbia)
- BALCANCOM 2021, Novi Sad (Serbia)
- TELFOR 2017-2020 Belgrade (Serbia)

3.4 Established research cooperations involving young scientists and scientists visits, publication of papers

During the project duration, several visits by scientists have been made from one partner university to another one. The goal has been to establish research cooperations and identify relevant topics. They have been fostered by the network created by BENEFIT. Some of these cooperations have already led to the publication of joint scientific papers.

3.5 Possible future scientific collaboration generated through joint industry-academia laboratories and cooperation agreements with industry established in the framework of BENEFIT

Six novel thematic joint industry-academia laboratories have been established by BENEFIT (see D3.2 for more details) which increase the cooperation through trainings and internships such as project work, development challenges, hackatons and team competitions specifically designed for the laboratory theme. These laboratories have been established during the BENEFIT lifespan, however one of their objectives is to guarantee cooperation and activities in a sustainable way, therefore also beyond the end of BENEFIT. The connections established hereby will also foster future scientific collaboration between industries and HEIs involved.

Furthermore, the cooperation between industry and academia in the framework of WP4 has given birth to agreements for student training such as the following:

- Memorandum of understanding between Ericsson Nikola Tesla d.d. and the academic partners of the BENEFIT project with the purpose to promote cooperation in academic education and research as well as prepare students for their first jobs in industry through joint research activity, participation of students in workshops organised by ENT and student visits at ENT.

This Memorandum of understanding has been signed and has validity throughout the project duration, however the established connections and network will simplify and foster future collaborations and exchanges even beyond the project lifespan.

4. Conclusions

The project BENEFIT has allowed to create a solid network of contacts in the involved countries. Through the many meetings and discussions a good mapping of competences and scientific interests has been created. Several cooperations have been already established in the domain of research. They have been evidenced by the development of bilateral agreements, partnerships in project proposals, joint organization of scientific conferences, young scientists visits and joint publications. In summary, BENEFIT has set the foundations for a long term cooperation not only in educational activities but also in research oriented activities.

6. References

D3.2. [Creation of six joint university-company labs ruled by an agreement](#). Erasmus+ KA2 BENEFIT Project Deliverable, 2020