

Mr. Slavoljub STIJEPOVIĆ
Minister of Education and Science of Montenegro

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear Minister Roćen, dear President Djurović, Rector Miranović, dear participants of the Conference,

Dear Ladies and Academicians,

I have the honor and the pleasure to wish you a warm welcome to Montenegro and to greet you at the opening of the International Scientific Conference „Research and Development as the Basis for Innovation in Creating the Competitive Region”, organized by the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts together with the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in the framework of the Central European Initiative.

The exchange of opinions and experiences about the significance of research, collaboration in this area, possibilities accessible through structural funds, European developings in the field of science, research and technological development, the role that science and technology have in the increase of the competitiveness of the economy and the society in general, models of development of the national innovation systems, the synergy of education, science and innovation – are only some of the questions which occupy the attention in all the countries of the Central Europe.

Therefore, it rejoices the fact that during these two days the participants of this meeting will have the opportunity to be introduced with the motions and experiences taking place in the different countries, strengthening in such way the collaboration established so far and creating the basis for its continuation.

Montenegro continuously strives to improve the state of science and research, following the experiences at the international scene and fulfilling its obligations on the path of approaching the European Union.

We are absolutely aware of the fact that the development of the society in the 21st Century, loaded with its global and local challenges, is unimaginable without science and research and that we have to do everything that is in our power to secure the preconditions to accelerate the development of these parts of the society.

In this view, the Government of Montenegro has adopted the Strategy of scientific-research activity in Montenegro, which points out general directives of further development of science and research of our state.

We are actively involved in the realization of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union for science, research and technological development – FP 7 – in the framework of which the projects that include partners from Montenegro are beginning to show their first results.

We are referring here to the projects in the area of information-communication technologies, biotechnologies and the protection of living environment.

Although we have attained certain improvement in approaching the European space of research in the past period, there are still many tasks awaiting us.

As you may be aware, yesterday the European Commission has publicized its' opinion on the access of Montenegro to the European Union and made available for the public the report about our advancement.

It gives us the pleasure that the opinion is positive, that referring to the area of science it is recognized and appraised our commitment to the integration of the Montenegrin research potential into the European research are, and that our strategic documents are in compliance with the relevant documents of the EU.

The tasks we received, referring to further construction of human resources and infrastructure, we have recognized earlier before. We are actively engaged in the direction of dynamic increasing of our scientific resources, by trying to provide a special status for the successful groups, with incessant stimulation of all the others so as to perform better and with high-quality.

This is underpinned by the fact that a good share of new legal regulations is treating actually this issue. Of course, events alike this one serve to present the new ideas for making strategic decisions in this area.

For that reason, I am pleased with the fact that the Montenegrin scientific public will be in position to exchange, in the course of these two days, the experiences with the colleagues from abroad, as well as to open further possibilities for future cooperation, without which the overall development can not be imagined, not only of particular countries, but of the whole region as well.

In that scope, I wish once again to greet you all, to wish you successful work and pleasant stay in Montenegro.

Thank you.