

## SCIENCE AND INNOVATION



EU in Serbia promotes the quality of science, through the implementation of numerous researches, innovation and networking activities in the fields of science, education and the economy, thereby increasing the competitiveness of the Serbian economy. As part of the joint research area, Serbian scientists have been provided with mobility and training across the EU, where they are able to use new technologies and modern laboratories. On the other hand, the Serbian scientific area, as part of the European Research Area, is becoming more interesting to the European and world scientific and research staff.

### Assistance figures

The support from the EU to innovations and competitiveness in Serbia has amounted to more than EUR 250 million from 2001 up to now. The assets intended for this sector are used for encouraging the increase in the quality of science, innovation and the connection to the European and international scientists and entrepreneurs, by which the competitiveness of the Serbian economy is increased.

### Key projects

- ▶ **Direct Grants** aimed to increase innovation capacity and technological readiness of SMEs provide funds for the continuation of Mini, Matching and Collaborative Grant Scheme Programme. EU support with **EUR 47 million is dedicated for innovation, research and development and acceleration** through the Innovation Fund.
- ▶ Accelerator **Katapult** is the first Serbian program that **targets early-stage growth-oriented innovative companies and gives them the support and funds needed to scale their businesses**. EU supported this program with additional **EUR 10 million**.
- ▶ With **EUR 31.5 million**, the EU is also the first donor providing support to the Serbian Science Fund. The support is provided through IPA 2019 **Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship project (SAIGE)** that will focus on capacity building of the Fund, provide grants for the most successful researchers and contribute to the reform of the public sector R&D institutes. The focus of this intervention is to support the excellence and relevance of the science and research for the national economy.
- ▶ Serbia was very successful in the EU **Horizon 2020 programme**, receiving EUR 135 million for 414 grants and with participation of 596 organisation from Serbia
- ▶ **BioSens Institute** leaves an indelible mark in the international scientific community. This is confirmed by around 50 international awards (most of which are from the European Union program for research and innovation – Horizon 2020), as well as numerous national and international awards for the Institute's researchers. The most prominent project, **ANTARES (H2020)**, supported by the European Commission and the Republic of Serbia, will turn BioSens into a leading Center of Excellence for Sustainable Agriculture. This project is supported by the EU with **EUR 28 million**.

### Priorities for Serbia

Serbia has significant scientific and research potential, including more than 12.000 scientists and researchers and 70 institutes. This potential should be further developed if country aims to achieve the knowledge-based economy. In the area of science and research Serbia is at a good level of preparation and further progress is made with the adoption of the Strategy for development of start-up ecosystem for the period 2021-2025 and the new Law on innovation activity. Serbia also scores high in the European Innovation Scoreboard. However, the national level of investment in research remains low, especially part coming from the private business sector. More efforts are needed on the public side to support cooperation between businesses and academia.