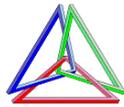


1. Executive summary

Synergy is a term that describes a condition in which a whole gets something better and more meaningful by integration of its subsystems. Education, research and innovation are the vertices of a knowledge triangle around which the subsystems that are the basis of the progress of modern society are organized. The process of circling of knowledge triangle assumes developing mutual interaction of these subsystems, which leads to mutual reinforcement of each of the subsystems, and the integration into a single system with a new added value. The central theme of the Lisbon strategy is the integration of education, research and innovation as key drivers of the knowledge economy, in order to achieve sustainable growth and to strengthen the EU's position in the world market. Most of European countries have documents that consider their own capabilities, set goals and propose measures to circle knowledge triangle and achieve coherence in research, innovation and educational policy. The Republic of Serbia has Education Development Strategy (2020) and Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development (2015). Strategies deal with important issues for development of education and research, but do not supplement each other enough and only partially touch the area of innovation. The aim of the Platform for synergy of education, research and innovation is to look for opportunities to encourage positive interaction between these fields, and to initiate a series of public meetings to raise awareness of the importance of the knowledge triangle in the academic community, as well as to encourage the creation of strategic documents at national level. This document is created within the frame of the project Tempus JP HES 158 881 RS - KNOWTS *National Platform for Knowledge Triangle in Serbia*, as one of the key outcomes of the project.

In the second chapter of the document, there are two sections, one related to the internal structure and the other that examines the influence of external factors. The internal structure subsection provides general remarks about the Republic of Serbia. The analysis of the state includes Global Competitiveness Index, the review of the population structure and list of applicable documents and laws governing technological development, scientific research and innovation activities. In the subsection Education, national education system in Serbia is described and information about higher education institutions, their study programmes, number of students, teaching staff and quality assurance mechanisms are provided. This section also analyzes situation of research and development activities in the Republic of Serbia and explains current innovation system. At the end of the section, business environment is discussed. The second section, within the second chapter, External factors, involves the influence of globalization, new technologies and the formation of the knowledge economy, as the most important external factors that affect Serbian society.

The third chapter sets strategic objectives related to the sustainable development, fostering university business cooperation and recognizing central position for education, research and innovation in Serbian society. The chapter contains the section devoted to harmonization of Serbian national strategic goals with EU strategic goals and regional strategies. To achieve the set goals, the fourth chapter presents how the measures are divided into six groups and covers developing more coherence between policies in education, research and innovation,



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accelerating the pedagogical reforms, partnership between universities and business, the development of innovation culture, creating a portable and applicable knowledge in the universities, and the development of new criteria for quality assurance in institutions that take into account the research, education and innovation aspects.

The last chapter promotes best practice examples from Serbia where synergy between education, research and innovation is successfully exploited. There is a brief presentation of: Business Technology Incubator of Technical Faculties Belgrade, Best Technology Innovation Competition, UNESCO Chair for Entrepreneurial Studies, Technology incorporation at the University of Novi Sad, Cluster of Advanced Technologies - NiCAT from Niš, knowledge triangle integration from the University of Kragujevac, and CAPINFOOD project at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade.

The preparation of this document draws on numerous reports and analysis conducted in the fields of education, research and innovation, the existing strategies in the Republic of Serbia and Serbian legislative, as well as strategies of several European countries that discuss issues of the knowledge triangle. The aim of this paper is to demonstrate development opportunities that rely on education, research and innovation, to academic community, business and government authorities in the Republic of Serbia.