



ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI



WESTERN BALKANS PROCESS
JOINT SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Western Balkans Process / Berlin Process

4TH JOINT SCIENCE CONFERENCE

THE PATH IS THE GOAL:
CONVERGENCE, COHESION AND COOPERATION
IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

30 MAY – 1 JUNE 2018 · ROME, ITALY

IN COOPERATION WITH



Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften



Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

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Speaker of the Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process

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EDITING

Content

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
Italian National Research Council
German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Design

unicom Werbeagentur GmbH | Berlin, Germany

Abbreviations:

WBP – Western Balkans Process / Berlin Process
JSC – Joint Science Conference
SEE – South East Europe
WB – Western Balkans
EU – European Union

15 May 2018

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INTRODUCTION



Photo: Accademia dei Lincei

Distinguished participants,

On behalf of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, I am very pleased to welcome you to the 4th Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process / Berlin Process.

This strategic “platform”, since its launch in 2015 by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, has successfully brought together key stakeholders from the European science and education system, with the aim to contribute to the implementation of the goals and priorities established within the EU and the Western Balkans countries.

Indeed, it is now almost four years since the Berlin Process started and since then progress has been made towards the ambitious goal of establishing a long term, sustainable framework for cooperation with the Western Balkan countries, recognising the strategic and crucial importance of education and research, synchronised with the policy dimension, to promote economic growth, regional integration and jobs creation in South East Europe.

Economic growth and regional integration in the Western Balkans region are indicated, *inter alia*, as strategic challenges within the New Global Strategy for the European Union Foreign and Security Policy launched in June 2016 by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, towards the shared mid- and long-term project of gradual inclusion of the Western Balkans into the European Union.

This 4th Joint Science Conference entitled *The Path is the Goal: Convergence, Cohesion and Cooperation in South East Europe* will focus on the elaboration of a *Western Balkans Action Plan for Smart Growth*, and on developing mechanisms to support cohesion and sustainable cooperation between countries and societies in South East Europe, and with the European Union. The title of the Conference has a multidisciplinary scope, which implies science and technology, institutions and society, politics and economics.

The project to establish a Western Balkans Research Foundation – proposed during the 3rd Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process held in Paris and endorsed by the Western Balkans Summit in Trieste on 12 July 2017 – may certainly be considered among the high, concrete results of

our cooperation for the implementation of mechanisms that integrate and interlink Western Balkans and EU education and research. Furthermore, the Foundation will be a means to support the creation of partnerships among universities, national and international research entities, local bodies and the private sector, as well as to promote the transfer and application of results.

As it is well known, throughout the centuries Italy has maintained strong historical connections with the Western Balkans region, with the Adriatic Sea acting as a facilitator for the interrelations with our neighbours.

The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the oldest scientific academy in the world, remains committed to promoting sciences and their applications for the well-being of populations. Hence, we are very pleased to cooperate with the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), and with the other national and international stakeholders involved in this project to countervail together science divide in Europe, and to promote brain circulation, scientific excellence and mobility of young scientists, being inspired by the successful model and the highest standards of the European Research Council.

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Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the Leopoldina for its continuous and substantial efforts to foster cooperation in education, research and innovation between the European Union and the Western Balkan countries, and I am especially thankful for the excellent collaboration between our two Academies and with the CNR in the organisation of this event.

Again, I welcome you to Rome and wish you a successful conference. I am confident that the fruitful exchange of ideas and expertise will lead to further productive developments in the future.



Alberto Quadrio-Curzio
President, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei



Photo: Italian National Research Council

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Dear colleagues, distinguished institutional representatives and scientists,

It is a pleasure and an honour, personally and for the Italian National Research Council that I proudly lead, to be involved in the 4th Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process (Berlin Process), and to welcome you in Rome in the historic premises of Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei.

In these days, we are called to deliver – in line with the recommendations of the 3rd Joint Science Conference held in Paris, which was endorsed by the Trieste Western Balkans Summit of last year – on a joint Action Plan for Smart Growth in the Western Balkans, as well as on the ambitious themes of Convergence, Cohesion and Intersocietal Cooperation in South East Europe. Needless to remember that these are key issues, when science interfaces with policy, diplomacy and international cooperation.

We have a new European framework to refer to, outlined by the recent Strategy for the Western Balkans adopted by the European Commission in February 2018. It shows the integration path of the Western Balkans into the European Union and the actions envisaged by the Commission. Among these I would mention some: support to private sector development, start-ups and smart specialization, increased connectivity through energy security, efficiency and improved use of renewables, development of the transport sector as well as other key societal challenges like climate change, and the implementation of a Digital Agenda for South East Europe – are all priorities identified in the above mentioned strategy on which we can work constructively together, share expertise and know how. In doing so, we also need to maximise joint participation in the European Union research framework programmes like Horizon 2020 and the upcoming Horizon Europe (FP9). Our potential collaboration is already facilitated by the participation of all Western Balkan Countries in Horizon 2020, which provides open participation conditions.

The contributions of high-level speakers and the intensive exchange of ideas that will take place in Rome will converge into independent advice and recommendations for the Western Balkans Summit of Heads of State and Government in London, in July this year. Nevertheless, this advice can also provide a useful ground for the implementation of the structural reform agenda that Western Balkan countries are called to complete. In these reforms, the enhancement of research and innovation capacity is explicitly indicated as a priority and a powerful tool to facilitate regional integration, sustainable growth and jobs creation. At the same time, according to the new United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for growth to be effectively sustainable, it must spread globally. Therefore, I appreciate the idea that through the research and innovation cooperation within the Berlin Process our action will intrinsically contribute also to the advancement of 2030 Agenda, pushing not only for regional but also global growth and integration.

Let me particularly mention the project of the creation of the Western Balkans Research Foundation. We are pleased to cooperate for the highest achievement of this initiative with the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and with the other national and international authorities and institutions involved. I strongly believe in the quality and value of this project inspired by the principles of scientific excellence, openness, responsiveness and ethical awareness. Accordingly, we are willing to support the circulation of junior scientists, researchers and ideas, and share our knowledge, our laboratories and research infrastructures to jointly promote excellent and curiosity-driven research, as well as the creation of new strategic, long-term partnerships with the different stakeholders from the research, university and innovation system. These stakeholders represent key allies for CNR, which constantly encourages cross-fertilisation in research and between its own research centres, the universities and territorial enterprises to accelerate innovation and invest in human capital, for instance with bringing doctoral students into private industry companies.

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In conclusion, I am greatly confident in the unique power of research to be inclusive and to make change happen. I trust in our synergies to create a supportive environment for innovation to flourish, compounded with our enthusiasm, capabilities and goal-oriented cooperation in shaping the future in the Western Balkan region and, consequently, in shaping our *Union*.

I wish us all a successful meeting!



Massimo Inguscio
President, Italian National Research Council



Photo: Ausserhofer for the Leopoldina

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are meeting for the fourth time since 2015, these days, this time in Rome. I warmly welcome all of you on behalf of the Leopoldina. This event would not have been possible without the generous support of our friends from Italy, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the Italian National Research Council and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Also essential is the excellent cooperation with our friends from the United Kingdom, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Royal Society. Our joint efforts work hand in hand with the political umbrella of the Western Balkans Process / Berlin Process and the European Commission's DGs. I extend my sincere gratitude to all those, who support our activities.

After four years of engagement for the Western Balkans, we can state that our science diplomacy platform has proven to be the right format, at the right time. The Berlin Process managed to trigger a new momentum for the EU enlargement. The eyes are now set on enlargement, on the Western Balkans. The future is always open. Yet today we have not just a window of opportunity, but at the same time open doors and great expectations from South Eastern Europe (SEE).

The proposal to create the Western Balkans Research Foundation, made last year at the Paris meeting, was the right advice at the right time, addressing the most pressing challenges, primarily the complex issue of brain drain / gain / circulation. We agreed in Paris on the scientific concept and communicated our intention clearly: this is a bottom-up proposal from the scientific community, which provides concrete answers on how to reverse brain drain and secure *longue durée* investment in the young generation. They will lead SEE research and innovation into the EU – this is our claim. At the Trieste Western Balkans Summit, the Heads of State and Government accepted our proposal and decided to start the process of creating the foundation. Negotiations have started and plenty of work lies ahead. I am confident that – with the support of the political umbrella of the Berlin Process – we will be able to agree with the European Commission and the participating countries on a stable financing mechanism. I am pledging four your support in this endeavour.

On 6 February 2018, the European Commission has adopted its new strategy for the Western Balkans, entitled *A Credible Enlargement Perspective for and Enhanced EU Engagement with the Western Balkans*. Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker summed up the main political message as follows: "accession to the EU is not a dream, but reality, reform progress comes before deadlines". This is an important signal that the enlargement process now moves on to a new stage, that of convergence of the Western Balkans with the EU. And that keeping the EU path is essential.

Considering the past year's developments and the outlook, our Rome conference is entitled *The Path is the Goal: Convergence, Cohesion and Cooperation in SEE*. It will focus on two topics:

1. Smart Growth in the Western Balkans

We aim to elaborate a *Western Balkans Action Plan for Smart Growth*. In doing so, we shall build on the results from the 2017 Paris conference, where we already identified some areas of action. Other issues, such as smart specialisation (an official approach of the European Commission) shall also be discussed. We wish to define the *desideratum of smart growth*, and formulate concrete actions, addressed to different stakeholder groups.

2. Convergence, Cohesion and Cooperation in SEE

Here, the aim is to formulate recommendations on how to achieve convergence between SEE and the EU. Convergence shall not be understood only as an economic reform process. It also has other facets, such as social, legal and institutional convergence. The ultimate goal is to enhance prosperity and strengthen key pillars of sustainable development, such as the free market, the constitutional rule of law, and a free and engaged civil society. In order to support catching-up development in SEE and reduce disparities between regions and places, special mechanisms to support (economic, social and territorial) cohesion shall be recommended.

For SEE it is obvious that prosperity goes hand in hand with the improvement of inter-societal (and inter-state) relations. Here, we are called upon to formulate recommendations on how to achieve *rapprochement* after the difficult recent past. Proposals for education- and science-based mechanisms of cooperation in the spirit of peace, reconciliation, mutual respect and dialogue are needed.

The results of our discussion will be fed into the preparations of the 5th Western Balkans Summit of Heads of State and Government, taking place in London on 10 July 2018. I am confident that the London Summit will echo our recommendations and thus, reinforce and enrich the European path of the Western Balkans. Therefore, let us use all channels of leverage in order to place our topics on the political, public and economic agenda. This will not be effective without *true ownership*. Thus, I encourage you to promote our joint recommendations in your organisations and countries. It is obvious that our topics cannot be decoupled from the EU path of the Western Balkans and that science and politics need to work together for these paramount goals.

Sincerely yours,



Jörg Hacker
President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 30 May 2018

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei – Palazzo Corsini
Via della Lungara 10, 00165 Rome

17:00 – 17:30 Registration and welcome refreshments

17:30 – 18:15 OFFICIAL OPENING

Alberto Quadrio Curzio

President, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei

Massimo Inguscio

*President, Italian National Research Council &
Member Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*

Jörg Hacker

President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Andrew Page

*Ambassador, Coordinator of the 2018 London Western Balkans Summit of
Heads of State and Government, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

Susanne Marianne Wasum-Rainer

German Ambassador to Italy and San Marino

Fabrizio Nicoletti

*Minister Plenipotentiary, Principal Director for Innovation and Research,
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

Jean-Eric Paquet

*Director-General, Directorate-General Research and Innovation,
European Commission*

Vladimír Šucha

*Director-General, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre,
European Commission*

Moderation:

Alberto Quadrio Curzio, *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*

18:15 – 19:00 KEYNOTE SPEECH

Federica Mogherini

*High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission*

Moderation:

Luciano Maiani, *Sapienza University of Rome & Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*

19:00 – 19:20 State of affairs regarding the implementation of the Western Balkans Research Foundation

Donald Bruce Dingwell, *Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich &
Lucian Brujan, Leopoldina*

19:20 – 19:30 Group photo

- 19:30 – 20:15 **Transfer by bus**
Villa Wolkonsky | Residence of the British Ambassador to Italy and San Marino
 Via Ludovico di Savoia 11, 00185 Rome
-
- 20:30 – 22:15 **OFFICIAL DINNER RECEPTION BY THE INCUMBENT UK PRESIDENCY OF THE BERLIN PROCESS**
 Greetings by Ken O’Flaherty, *Deputy Head of Mission, UK Embassy to Italy and San Marino*
- 22:15 **Transfer by bus to the hotels**

Thursday, 31 May 2018

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei – Palazzo Corsini
 Via della Lungara 10, 00165 Rome

- Until 10:00 **Arrival of participants**
- 10:00 – 10:15 **Information on the work of the conference**
 Mario Stefanini, *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*
-
- 10:15 – 12:15 **SESSION 1:**
Towards a Western Balkans Action Plan for Smart Growth
(follow-up to the 2017 Paris Joint Science Conference and Trieste Western Balkans Summit)
 Expert panel and plenary discussion; preliminary agreement on the first deliverable for the London Western Balkans Summit of Heads of State and Government, 10 July 2018
Inputs:
 Slavo Radošević, *University College London*
 Ivan Svetlik, *University of Ljubljana*
 Milica Uvalić, *University of Perugia*
 Gordana Danilović Grković, *Science and Technology Park Belgrade*
Moderation:
 Sébastien Candel, *Académie des sciences*
- 12:15 – 13:15 **Buffet lunch**
-
- 13:15 – 14:45 **SESSION 2**
Convergence and Cohesion in South East Europe
 Expert panel and plenary discussion; developing convergence mechanisms and cohesion instruments for South East Europe; pre-formulating the second deliverable for the London Summit
Inputs:
 Marzena Kisiłewska, *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*
 Stefano Fantoni, *Trieste International Foundation*
 Vladimir Crnojević, *BioSense Institute Novi Sad & University of Novi Sad*
 Cesare Montecucco, *University of Padova & Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*
Moderation:
 Taki Fiti, *Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts*

14:45 – 15:15 **Break**

15:15 – 16:45 **SESSION 3**

Cooperation in South East Europe in the Short and Long Run

Expert panel and plenary discussion; developing mechanisms and instruments for sustainable cooperation and rapprochement between societies and countries in South East Europe; pre-formulating the third deliverable for the London Summit

Inputs:

Snježana Prijić-Samaržija, *University of Rijeka*

Aleksandar Pavlović, *University of Belgrade*

Arjan Gjonça, *London School of Economics and Political Science*

Moderation:

Enzo Moavero Milanesi, *LUISS – Free International University for Social Studies “Guido Carli” & College of Europe, Bruges*

16:45 – 17:15 **Break**

17:15 – 18:00 **SESSION 4**

Plenary reports and consultations on the results of the conference

Reports from the sessions by the moderators

Moderation:

Mario Stefanini, *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*

18:00 – 19:30 **Guided visit of Villa Farnesina (vis-à-vis Palazzo Corsini)**

19:30 – 21:30 **Dinner reception at Palazzo Corsini**

Friday, 1 June 2018

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei – Palazzo Corsini

Via della Lungara 10, 00165 Rome

Until 9:30 **Arrival of participants**

9:30 – 11:00 **SESSION 5:**

Next steps of the Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process

Moderation:

Marina Koch-Krumrei, *Leopoldina*

Julie Maxton, *The Royal Society*

11:00 – 11:45 **Transfer by bus**

Villa Almone | Residence of the German Ambassador to Italy and San Marino

Via Cristoforo Colombo 1, 00154 Rome

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|---------------|---|
| 12:00 – 12:30 | <hr/> POLITICAL OUTREACH AND BRIEFING OF THE EMBASSIES Greetings by Susanne Marianne Wasum-Rainer, German Ambassador to Italy and non-resident Ambassador to San Marino Summary of the results of the conference: Alberto Quadrio Curzio, <i>Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei</i> Massimo Inguscio, <i>Italian National Research Council</i> Julie Maxton, <i>The Royal Society</i> <i>With the participation of ambassadors and other officials of the countries involved in the Berlin Process</i> |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | FAREWELL COCKTAIL |
| 14:15 – 14:45 | Transfer by bus |
| 15:00 – 18:00 | Guided visit of the Domus Augusti and the Domus Liviae, Palatine Hill |
| 18:00 – 18:45 | Transfer by bus to the hotels |
| Afterwards | Departure of participants |

As of 15 May 2018. Subject to change.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES (AND ARTS)

in alphabetical order by country

| | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Academy of Sciences of Albania | Salvator Bushati | Academy Member |
| Austrian Academy of Sciences | Anton Zeilinger | President |
| Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina | Miloš Trifković | President |
| German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina | Jörg Hacker | President |
| | Marina Koch-Krumrei | Director of International Relations |
| French Académie des sciences | Sébastien Candel | President |
| Italian Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei | Alberto Quadrio Curzio | President |
| | Maurizio Brunori | Vice-President |
| | Mario Stefanini | Academy Member |
| Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo | Nexhat Daci | President |
| Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts | Taki Fiti | President |
| Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts | Dragan K. Vukčević | President |
| Polish Academy of Sciences | Piotr Salwa | Academy Member |
| Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts | Ljubomir Maksimović | Vice-President |
| Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts | Tadej Bajd | President |
| The Royal Society | Richard A. Catlow | Foreign Secretary |
| | Julie Maxton | Executive Director |

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: NATIONAL RECTORS' CONFERENCES AND UNIVERSITIES

in alphabetical order by country

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Rectors' Conference of the Republic of Albania (Current chair: Rector of the University of Tirana) | Mynyr Koni |
| University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Rector) | Rifat Škrijelj |
| University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Vice-Rector) | Biljana Antunović |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Rectors' Conference of the Republic of Croatia (Representative: Rector of the University of Rijeka) | Snježana Prijić-Samaržija |
| Conference of University Presidents of France (Current chair: President of the University of Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée) | Gilles Roussel |
| Conference of Italian University Rectors (Current chair: Rector of the University of Naples Federico II) | Gaetano Manfredi |
| Conference of Rectors of Public Universities of Kosovo* (Current chair: President of the Hasan-Prishtina-University of Pristina) | Marjan Dema |
| Saints-Cyril-and-Methodius-University of Skopje, FYRo Macedonia (Rector) | Nikola Jankulovski |
| South East European University of Tetovo, FYRo Macedonia (Rector) | Zamir Dika |
| University of Montenegro (Rector) | Daniilo Nikolić |
| Conference of Serbia's Universities (Current chair: Rector of the University of Belgrade) | Vladimir Bumbaširević |
| University of Novi Sad, Serbia (Rector; President of the Serbian State Universities Alliance) | Dušan Nikolić |

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS AND SCIENCE MANAGERS *AD PERSONAM*

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| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Boban Arsenijević | Linguist, Karl-Franzens-University of Graz (Austria) |
| Vladimir Crnojević | Computer Scientist, BioSense Institute & University of Novi Sad (Serbia) |
| Donald B. Dingwell | Geoscientist, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich & German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina |
| Dhimitër Doka | Geographer, University of Tirana (Albania) |
| Adnan Efendić | Economist, University of Sarajevo & Centre for Interdisciplinary Social Applied Research Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) |
| Arjan Gjonça | Demographer, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) |
| Zoran Hadži-Velkov | Telecommunication Engineer, Saints-Cyril-and-Methodius-University of Skopje (FYRo Macedonia) |
| Marija Janković | Industrial Engineer, CentraleSupélec, University of Paris-Saclay (France) |
| Erna Karalija | Biologist, University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) |
| Besnik A. Krasniqi | Economist, Hasan-Prishtina-University of Pristina (Kosovo*) |
| Almir Maljević | Jurist, University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) |
| Aleksandar Pavlović | South East European Studies, University of Belgrade (Serbia) |
| Fetah Podvorica | Chemist, Hasan-Prishtina-University of Pristina (Kosovo*) |
| Slavo Radošević | Economist, University College London (UK) |
| Oliver J. Schmitt | Historian, University of Vienna & Austrian Academy of Sciences (Austria) |
| Ivan Svetlik | Sociologist, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) |
| Milica Uvalić | Economist, University of Perugia (Italy) |
| Melita Vidaković | Biologist, University of Belgrade (Serbia) |

DISTINGUISHED EXPERTS AND MODERATORS

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Claudio Cozza | Economist, Ca' Foscari University of Venice & AREA Science Park Trieste (Italy) |
| Gordana Danilović Grković | General Manager, Science and Technology Park Belgrade (Serbia) |
| Stefano Fantoni | President, Trieste International Foundation (Italy) |
| Marzena Kisielewska | Head of the Global Relations South East Europe Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Paris (France) |
| Luciano Maiani | Sapienza University of Rome & Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Italy) |
| Reiner Martin | European Central Bank Frankfurt & Wiesbaden Institute for Law and Economics (Germany) |
| Enzo Moavero Milanesi | Jurist, LUISS – Free International University for Social Studies “Guido Carli” Rome (Italy) & College of Europe, Bruges (Belgium) |
| Cesare Montecucco | Pathologist, University of Padova & Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Italy) |

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Massimo Inguscio | President of the Italian National Research Council & Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Italy) |
| Federica Mogherini | High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission |
| Jill Morris CMG | Her Majesty's Ambassador to Italy and San Marino |
| Fabrizio Nicoletti | Principal Director for Innovation and Research, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation |
| Andrew Page | Ambassador, Coordinator of the 2018 London Western Balkans Summit of Heads of State and Government, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office |
| Jean-Eric Paquet | Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General Research and Innovation |
| Vladimír Šucha | Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General Joint Research Centre |
| Susanne Marianne Wasum-Rainer | German Ambassador to Italy and San Marino |

INVITED OBSERVERS

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Clément Brenot | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) |
| Giancarlo Caratti | European Commission, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre |
| Nenad Čelarević | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Project PERFORM (Performing and Responsive Social Sciences) |
| Michele Giacomelli | Coordinator of the 2017 Trieste Western Balkans Summit of Heads of State and Government, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation |
| Isabelle Marsh | UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office |
| Virginia Coda Nunziante | Italian National Research Council |
| Bernhard Fabianek | European Commission, Directorate-General Research and Innovation |
| Alberto Silvani | Research Director, Italian National Research Council & University of Milano (Italy) |
| Miroslav Vesković | European Commission, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre |

As of 15 May 2018. Subject to change.

JOINT STATEMENT

TURN IDEAS INTO ACTION: INVEST IN JUNIOR SCIENTISTS AND JOBS FOR GROWTH

3RD JOINT SCIENCE CONFERENCE

WESTERN BALKANS PROCESS / BERLIN PROCESS

Paris · France · 14 – 16 June 2017

The 3rd Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process / Berlin Process (JSC-WBP) convened at the French Académie des sciences – Institut de France in Paris to take further the process started in Germany in July 2015 and continued in Austria in May 2016. The outcomes of both the 1st and the 2nd JSC-WBP were summarised in Joint Statements, which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at the Western Balkans Summits in Vienna (2015) and Paris (2016)¹.

The 3rd JSC-WBP focused on two major topics:

1. **Investing in Junior Scientists and**
2. **Education and Innovation for Jobs and Growth.**

The parties welcome the announcement made by Italy's Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei to hold the next Joint Science Conference of the Western Balkans Process in 2018.

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Key Recommendations

1. Establish the **Western Balkans Research Foundation** as a self-governing international organisation, which awards *ad personam* grants to junior scientists to build up excellent research labs and teams in the Balkans, and which supports mobility and interlinking with European counterparts.
2. Develop a **Western Balkans Action Plan for Smart Growth** containing recommendations to optimise the link between education, research and innovation, and the labour market and economic development.

Western Balkans Research Foundation

At the Paris Western Balkans Summit of 4 July 2016, the Heads of State and Government formulated the following request to the JSC-WBP: “[...] to propose [by summer 2017] funding mechanisms for excellent young researchers from the Balkans, allowing them to gain experience abroad and to create their own laboratories of excellence.”

Subsequently, an international Expert Group has been appointed, which through an intensive process has developed a comprehensive blueprint for a new **Western Balkans Research Foundation** (hereafter called Foundation).

The blueprint was consensually adopted at the 3rd JSC-WBP.

Mission and Instruments

The Foundation is designed to enable **outstanding junior scientists from the Balkans and from Europe¹ to build up excellent research labs and teams in the Balkan countries² within a period of five years through *ad personam* grants**, enjoying grant portability. The grants will allow a preceding one to two year training period in top research organisations in Europe, thus enhancing scientific links between the WB and the EU.

¹ See www.leopoldina.org/en/jsc.

¹ If meaningful, applicants from other countries with ties to the Balkans may be accepted.

² Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYRo Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia. (*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSC 1244 resolution and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.)

Grant agreements between the Foundation, the grantee and the host institutions (in the WB and the EU) will safeguard autonomy of operations. These grants are a central measure of **brain gain** aimed at the Balkans.

As further instruments for **brain circulation and transfer of excellence**, three optional add-on actions will support:

- the establishment of research networks within the Balkans,
- the outreach of scientific findings in society and
- innovation and technology transfer into economy and society.

Agents of Change

Through the Foundation's grants, a critical mass of excellent researcher teams in the Balkans will be shaped progressively. **These teams will form a driving force of change:** by participating in these "hives" of excellence, the national education and science systems will profit from sustainable improvement, hence aiding their efforts to keep on the European track or setting the course for it. Science today knows no national divisions and requires cross-border networking.

In the global competition for the greatest minds, the Foundation should **attract the best of the best**, paying particular attention to junior scientists from the Balkans. Participation is open to all scientific fields. Criteria are clearly defined: junior scientists (max. 45 years of age), PhD certificate in hand and publicised PhD thesis. The quality of applicants and research projects are evaluated in a two-stage process with a final interview.

Governance

The Foundation will be set-up as a self-governing international institution. Italy is willing to host the Foundation in Trieste. The Foundation should be carried by the countries involved in the Western Balkans Process; at a later stage, other interested countries such as Switzerland or Norway and others could join. A financial contribution from the European Commission and a cooperation agreement with the European Research Council as well as further collaboration with public and private donors are highly desirable and expected.

The management of the Foundation and its operational routines will **strictly follow international standards** in order to safeguard credibility and reputation. The administration will be as lean and efficient as possible. The recruitment of the Scientific Council and the administrative staff needs to take place exclusively according to quality criteria and must be publicised internationally. The grantees and the research performance will be at the core of the Foundation's work.

ANNOTATIONS

SEE = South-East Europe

HE = Higher education

EC = European Commission

SME = Small and medium-sized enterprises

STEM = Science, technology, engineering and mathematics

The term "science" (and related expressions) refers to the entire spectrum of scientific branches: natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, formal sciences, life sciences, applied sciences etc.

Education and Innovation for Jobs and Growth

The previous Joint Statements of the JSC-WBP and the Final Declarations of the Western Balkans Summits in Paris (2016) and Vienna (2015) highlighted the **pivotal role of education, research and knowledge transfer for the creation of jobs as well as socioeconomic and territorial cohesion.**

Several problems affect the WB, such as poverty, (youth) unemployment, low labour productivity, underused innovation potential, and brain drain and emigration. These demand an integrated approach on different levels: European Union, macro-regional, national and local. Thus, the JSC-WBP will establish an:

Expert Group for the elaboration of a "Western Balkans Action Plan for Smart Growth"

The Action Plan is intended to provide **recommendations to interlink education, research and innovation with the labour market and economic development.** Relevant actors from academia, business and civil society as well as international financial institutions and development organisations are encouraged to engage in this undertaking. It will comprise three stages:

- assessment of existing strategies and initiatives,
- identification of problematic areas, and
- elaboration of recommendations to be implemented until 2020 – 2030.

The Expert Group will deal with the following thematic modules, expanding on the concepts presented hereafter and analysing their feasibility for the Balkans:

1. University-Business Cooperation

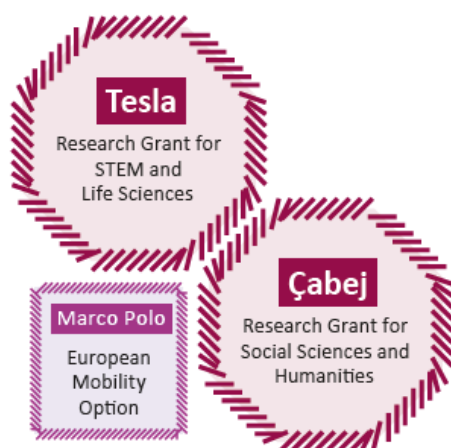
University-business platforms bring together HE institutions and the economic system, with participation of local and national authorities. Considering the size of WB economies and the need to achieve scale effects, the concentration on singular national platforms and a regional one is advisable. Such platforms should convene once a year, having strong public outreach.

The relevance of study programmes should be improved through greater cooperation between HE institutions and employers in the design and modernisation of curricula (including blended learning), in the improvement of teaching methods, and by negotiating work experience opportunities and internships in state and private companies (including SMEs). In this process, **the universities' autonomy should be safeguarded.**

2. Innovation Ecosystems

Support programmes, possibly pivoting around Science, Business and Technology Parks, can lead to thriving innovation ecosystems, thus enhancing innovation performance. Alongside with **supporting the connectivity of best practitioners / best**

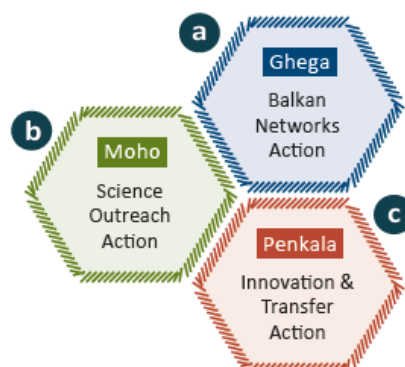
WESTERN BALKANS RESEARCH FOUNDATION



1 Grants

- ↳ Establishment of own excellence team or lab, as a principal investigator (ad personam grant)
- ↳ **5 years** investigation-driven research
- ↳ **1-2 years** optional preceding training in the EU
- ↳ Grant amount = 750,000 EUR

FUNDING INSTRUMENTS



2 Add-ons

- ↳ 3 optional actions as add-ons to the Tesla and Çabej Grants
- ↳ Amount per grant ≥ 12,500 EUR

ORGANISATION

- ↳ Status of a self-governing international organisation
- ↳ Carried by the 13 countries of the Western Balkans Process with the support of the European Union
- ↳ Located potentially in Trieste, Italy

Steering Council

Scientific Council + State envoys (1/state & EC) + Other donors or trustees (optional) + College of Auditors
Scientific council has >50% seats Convenes at least once a year

Co-Chair: Foundation President + 1 state envoy

Board: Foundation President + Vice-President + Director-General + 1 state envoy Convenes regularly

Scientific Council

Evaluators / Panel (≥19) 3-4 Subpanels according to major disciplines

Evaluates the applications (2 stage-process with final interview) Convenes as often as necessary

Chair: Foundation President + Vice-President (at least one woman)

Executive Agency

Grantees

Grant Agreement between foundation, grantee and host institution (tailored approach)

Grant Assistance Scheme (individual, flexible)

Grant evaluation & monitoring (ongoing)

performers, this can be a motor of convergence. Already existing instruments can be emulated to fit the WB conditions, e.g.:

- A Regional Community of Innovators in the WB;
- Smart Specialisation strategy with support of the EC²;
- National Innovation and Start-Up Competitions²;
- Strategic use of Science and Technology Parks and of R&D public-private-partnerships.

3. Strategic Partnerships

For managing the “big” structural reforms – such as new models of performance-based funding or the restructuring of universities – **modernisation partnerships between ministries from WB and EU countries** could be pursued. These would focus on the joint design of reforms and strategies as well as on their implementation.

Mirroring the ministerial partnerships, universities and rectors’ conferences could collaborate with their EU peers in the process of institutional transition, quality assurance, full introduction of the Bologna system etc. **Using pilot projects** in this area of action would be a suitable approach.

4. Joint Degrees and Mobility

In order to maximise the opportunities of the Bologna Process, universities could engage in **joint degree programmes with partner universities³ and industry / business**, and thus make academic mobility instrumental for performance enhancement. Additionally, alumni-associations and professional organisations are useful for strategic networking. Following formats should be developed:

- Both classical and innovative joint degrees between universities in the WB, in SEE and the EU;
- Joint degrees between university and industry, with additional training for interactive skills and entrepreneurial learning;
- Erasmus+ type of mobility schemes within the WB, guaranteeing the full transferability of credit points;
- Formation of “elite” cohorts of graduates in selected strategic fields – e.g. civil servants, engineers, science managers, journalists etc. – through joint degrees with renowned EU universities.

5. Accreditation and Quality Assurance

Where not already established, the accreditation of universities and study programmes should be carried out, and **rigorous quality assurance measures** should be applied to raise the quality of HE services. External evaluation of HE institutions needs to be carried out in compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance.

1 See s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu.

2 Similar to the French program “Investissements d’avenir” or the German programme “Deutschland – Land der Ideen”.

3 The inter-university Regional Platform for Benchmarking and Cooperation in Higher Education and Research in the WB – established by the major regional universities and ministries – is a suitable framework.

6. Better Employability of Graduates

Universities and public employment services should provide **improved support and advisory services to job-seeking graduates** to ensure that more graduates find well-matched jobs. This is required to reduce informal networks and nepotism in the labour market. Local / national **occupational orientation programmes**, which would encompass dual professional education, vocational training, continuous education and re-qualification, should also be considered.

Universities should provide more information to potential applicants in secondary schools about labour market demand. Governments should also use scholarships and budget quotas (if relevant) to **raise attractiveness of priority subjects such as STEM and fast growing sectors** (e.g. ICT).

PARTICIPATING PARTIES

NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Academy of Sciences of Albania (Muzafer Korkuti) | Austrian Academy of Sciences (Anton Zeilinger) | Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Miloš Trifković) | French Académie des sciences (Sébastien Candel) | German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina (Jörg Hacker) | Italian Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Mario Stefanini) | Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo (Nexhat Daci) | Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Taki Fiti) | Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (Dragan K. Vukčević) | Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Ljubomir Maksimović) | Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Tadej Bajd) | The Royal Society (James Jackson)

NATIONAL RECTORS’ CONFERENCES AND UNIVERSITIES

Rectors’ Conference of the Republic of Albania (Valentina Duka) | Austrian University Conference uniko (Elisabeth Freismuth) | University of Sarajevo (Rifat Škrijelj) | University of Banja Luka (Milan Mataruga) | Rectors’ Conference of the Republic of Croatia (Marin Milković) | Conference of Deans of French Schools of Engineering (Pierre Koch) | Conference of University Presidents of France (Jacques Comby) | German Rectors’ Conference (Horst Hippler) | Hasan-Prishtina-University of Pristina (Marjan Dema) | Saints-Cyril-and-Methodius-University of Skopje (Nikola Jankulovski) | South East European University of Tetovo (Zamir Dika) | University of Montenegro (Radmila Vojvodić) | Conference of Serbia’s Universities (Vladimir Bumbaširević) | University of Novi Sad (Dušan Nikolić) | Rectors’ Conference of the Republic of Slovenia (Boris Kavur)

DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS AND EXPERTS *AD PERSONAM*

Boban Arsenijević (University of Niš) | Blerjana Bino (European University of Tirana and Uppsala University) | Donald Bruce Dingwell (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich) | Dhimitër Doka (University of Tirana) | Arjan Gjonça (London School of Economics and Political Science) | Zoran Hadzi-Velkov (Saints-Cyril-and-Methodius-University of Skopje) | Armanda K. Hysa (Centre of Albanological Studies Tirana) | Marija Janković (CentraleSupélec, University of Paris-Saclay) | Stipan Jonjić (University of Rijeka) | Erna Karalija (University of Sarajevo) | Almir Maljević (University of Sarajevo) | Fetah Podvorica (Hasan-Prishtina-University of Pristina) | Miroslav Radman (Mediterranean Institute for Life Sciences Split and Paris Descartes University) | Oliver Jens Schmitt (University of Vienna) | Sofija Stefanović (University of Belgrade and BioSense Institute, University of Novi Sad)

INVITED SPEAKERS

William Bartlett (London School of Economics and Political Science) | Jean-Paul Chabard (Électricité de France EDF) | Martin Dietz (Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, PERFORM) | Adnan Ibrahimbegović (Compiègne University of Technology) | Didier Roux (Saint-Gobain S.A. and Académie des sciences) | Ivan Svetlik (University of Ljubljana)

5 JULY 2017

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE 3RD JOINT SCIENCE CONFERENCE OF THE WESTERN BALKANS PROCESS / BERLIN PROCESS

HOST



ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI

The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei was founded in 1603 by Prince Federico Cesi and three other scholars: Johannes Eck, Francesco Stelluti and Count Anastasio De Filiis. Their dedication to the study of natural sciences and their approach to science based on the new experimental methods made the Accademia dei Lincei the first scientific academy in the world. The academy was named after the lynx (in Italian "lince"), an animal whose sharp vision symbolises the observational prowess that science requires. The seat of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei is Palazzo Corsini, a late-baroque palace in Rome, which belonged to the Corsini family in the eighteenth century. One of the first illustrious members of the Lincei was Galileo Galilei, who joined the Academy in 1609.

According to its statutes, the scope of the Academy is to "promote, coordinate, integrate and spread scientific knowledge in its highest expression, in the unity and universality of culture (...)". It organises congresses, conferences, national and international symposia, participates through its fellows in Italian and international meetings and events.

The Academy also confers each year numerous prizes and scholarships. The awards are differentiated by typology and the criteria for which they are conferred. While prizes are granted to reward careers dedicated to innovative research and discoveries, grants and scholarships are awarded to encourage young researchers to continue their work and to allow them to enhance their scientific preparation. The Academy issues numerous publications, including conference proceedings and scientific reports.

The Academy's rich and prestigious Library is composed of three main sections: *Sezione Corsiniana*, comprised of a collection donated by the Corsini family; the *Sezione Accademica*, which contains books from the original Library of Federico Cesi, along with the Historical Archive of the Accademia and volumes received by legacy, donation or purchase; and the *Sezione Orientale*, donated by Prince Leone Caetani, which includes Arabian-Islamic collections.

Regarded as the highest Italian scientific-cultural institution, since 1992 the Accademia dei Lincei acts as scientific consultant to the President of the Italian Republic and has recently been granted with his High Permanent Patronage.



ITALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

The CNR was founded on 18 November 1923 as a body with legal personality by the Royal Decree 2440 / 1923. Originally, it became member of the International Research Council, with offices in Brussels. The mission of CNR has been defined in its first statute from 1924: to coordinate and stimulate research activity at a national level in the different areas of science, to keep in contact with various stakeholders on scientific matters and to establish national scientific laboratories. In January 1924, the mathematician and physicist Vito Volterra was elected as the first CNR president. Initially, the headquarters were based at the Accademia dei Lincei and in 1936 were moved to the current location at Piazzale Aldo Moro in Rome. At the end of the World War II, favoured by the subsequent economic recovery, CNR became a public body supervised by the Italian Government, with duties of technical and scientific consultancy and coordination.

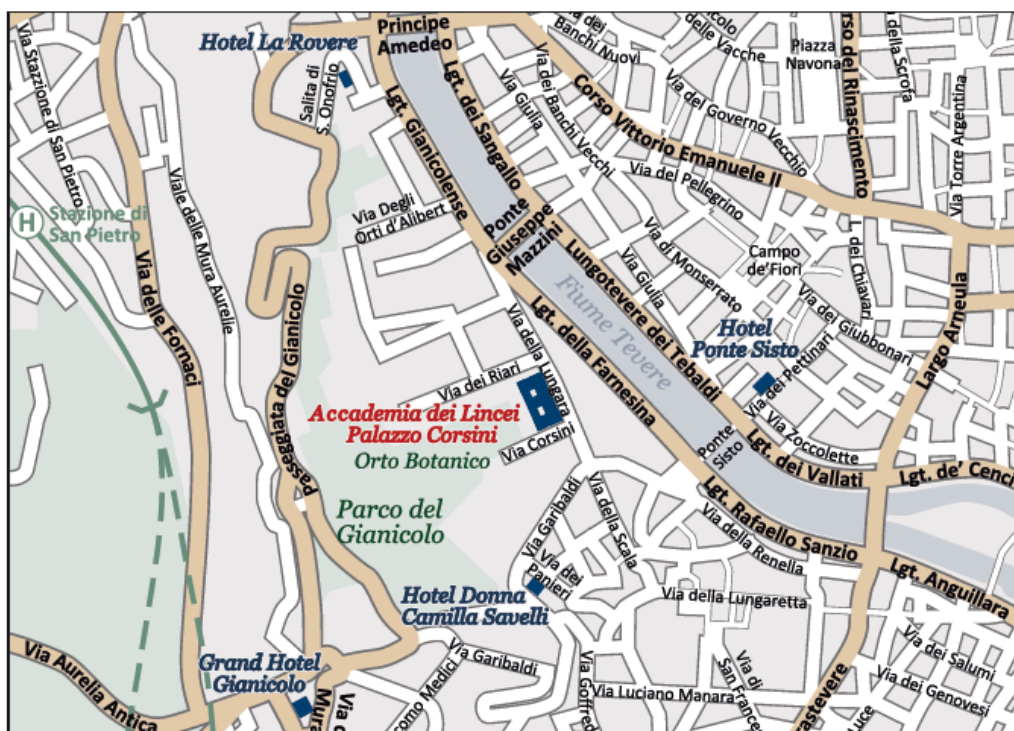
During the post-war years CNR scientists have been involved in the promotion of European collaborations (with, among other, CERN — the European Organization for Nuclear Research and ESRO, which later turned into the European Space Agency and the European Southern Observatory), activating connections with organisations based in the United States and starting projects of technological cooperation. A significant change occurred with the creation of "Independent Institutes" and "Areas of Research", which gather institutes at regional level and strengthen partnerships for international projects and objectives. During the years, CNR has changed its internal structure several times through various reforms.

CNR TODAY

- CNR staff counts more than 8,400 researchers, technicians, support staff and administrators;
- Its structure includes seven Scientific Departments and 102 institutes with leading expertise in technology and science sectors, more than 330 secondary sites and laboratories in Italy and abroad, including the scientific bases in the Arctic and Antarctic. The departments are: Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry and Materials Technology, Earth and Environment, Engineering, ICT Energy and Transportation, Physics and Materials, Humanities and Cultural Heritage, Bio- and Agro-Food;
- According to the latest assessment by the Italian National Agency for Evaluation of the University and Research System (ANVUR), CNR was ranked first in terms of spin-off and multidisciplinary research, with over 350 patent families;
- In 2017, on the anniversary of 60 years of European research and the 10 years of the European Research Council (ERC), CNR has obtained the first rank among research and university institutions in Italy thanks to the 44 ERC grants awarded either to individual CNR researchers or to research partnerships with renowned institutions and universities from abroad;
- In 2016, CNR recruited 82 researchers for activities in 20 areas of expertise, also granting over 150 research scholarships, with more than 5,000 research and scientific collaborative actions with prestigious universities and research institutes from Italy and abroad.
- The estimate is that for each euro invested in the CNR, the CNR attracts about one euro and sixty cents. The average budget of the CNR amounts to 900 million euros per year, about 40% of which comes from external funds represented by contracts with private entities (companies, provision of services, agreements etc.) and other institutions. The contribution that CNR receives from the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research is about 550 million euros.

LOGISTICS

ORIENTATION MAP ROME



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Via della Lungara 10
00165 Rome

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T: +39 06 58 88 61

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Vicolo di Sant'Onofrio 4
00165 Rome
T: +39 06 68 80 67 39

Hotel Ponte Sisto
Via dei Pettinari 64
00186 Rome
T: +39 06 68 63 100

Grand Hotel Gianicolo
Via delle Mura Gianicolensi 107
00152 Rome
T: +39 06 58 33 34 05

Wireless Internet Access at Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei

Name of network: Wifi-ospiti
Password: Fcesi1603

NOTES

