

ICT R&D Challenges for the Western Balkans

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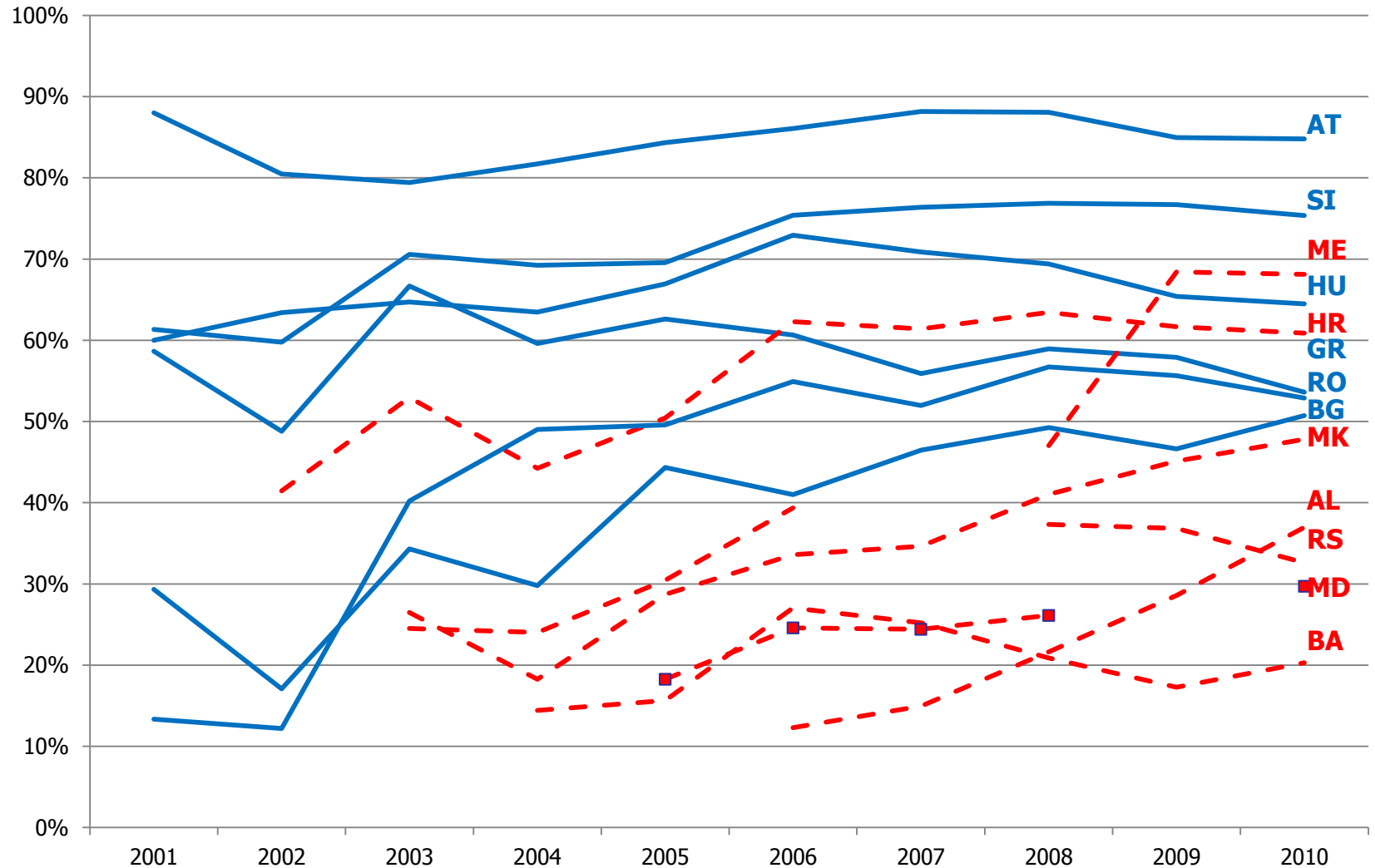
- eSEE Initiative - Regional cooperation on Information society development since 2000
- eSEE Agenda Plus
- Network readiness
- ICT research in SEE: research output, challenges and priorities
- Regional competitiveness
- Conclusions

- eSEE Initiative: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, UNMIK Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia
- 2002 Stability Pact
- 2008 Regional Cooperation Council
- UNDP Sarajevo – eSEE Initiative Secretariat
- CeGD – PPP to provide sustainable support (eSEE Initiative, Stability Pact / RCC, Republic of Slovenia, UNDP, INA Academy, European Foundation, Microsoft, Siement, SRC.SI)

- 2002 eSEE Agenda
- 2005 Broadband MoU (signed also by Greece)
- 2007 eSEE Agenda Plus

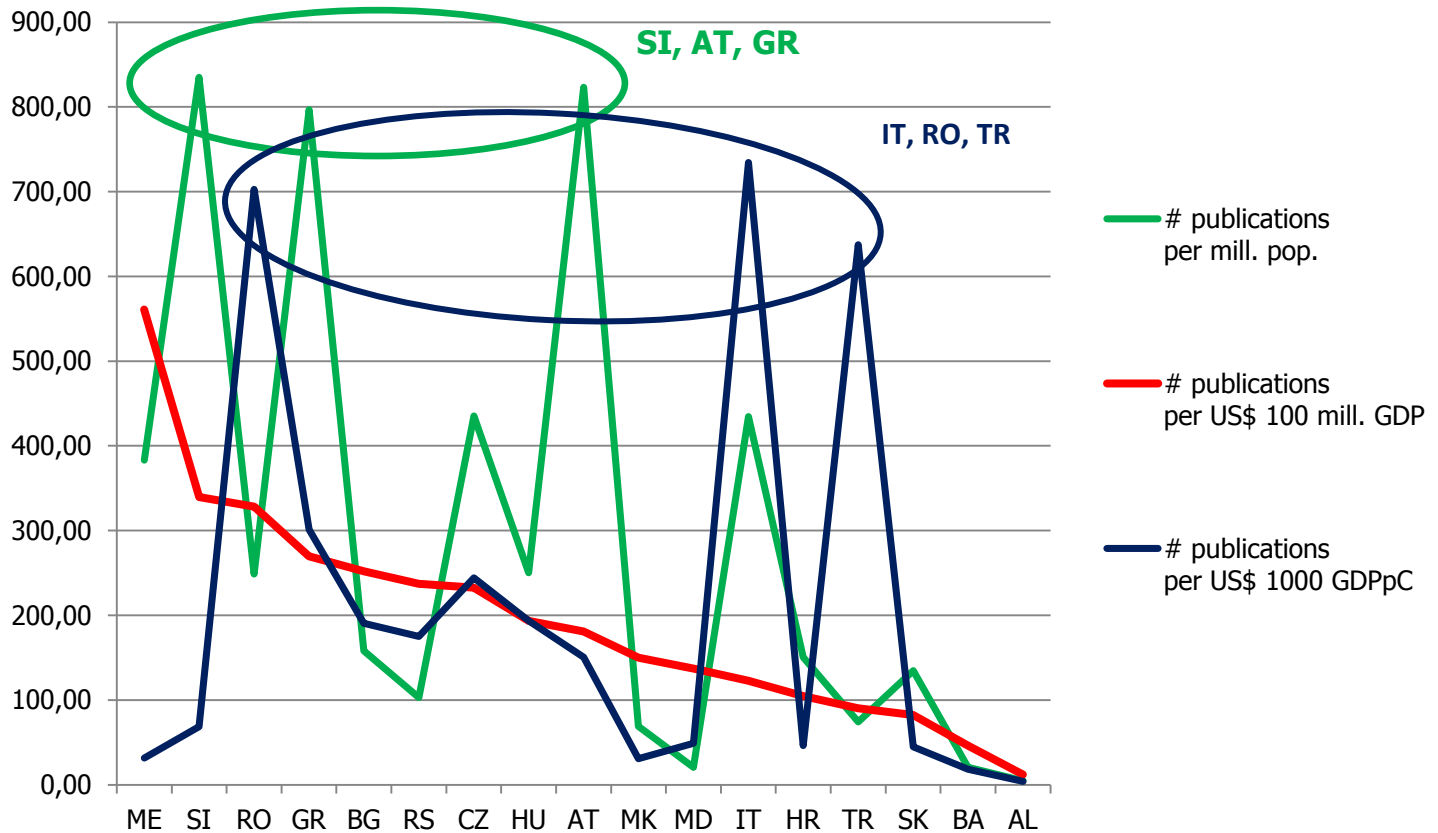
- Internet penetration in households from 31% (BA) to 55% (HR).
- Broadband penetration from 6.8% (XK) to 40% (ME)
- Basic eGov services benchmarking - all eSEE members
- Elementary and high schools connected to the internet and equipped with computer labs with pupils/PC ration from 32 (AL) to 1.5 (MK)
- No academic and research network in AL, BA and XK
- No tracking of ICT research funding, research professionals or intellectual capacity in IT industry
- Favorable tax schemes for IT sector (MD, RO)
- Reduced tax rates for computer equipment (MK, ME, RS)
- Activities for stimulating business incubators, techno-parks and business start-up centers

Regional Network Readiness (WEF NRI 2002-2011)



ICT Research - Relative Output

ACM Digital Library 2000-2011



- **IDEAL-IST** 15 years (<http://www.ideal-ist.net>)
 - ICT researchers networking, project ideas database
- **SCORE** 2007-2008 (<http://www.score-project.eu/>)
 - ICT R&D Priorities for the WB countries 2008 – 2013
 - Shaping EU-Western Balkan co-operation in the field of ICT Research and Development in the period 2008 –2013: Priorities and Recommendations
- **WBC-INCO.NET** 2008-2013 (<http://www.wbc-inco.net>)
 - Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan countries
- **ICT-WEB-PROMS** 2009-2010 (<http://www.ict-web-proms.eu>)
 - Increasing WBC capacity to participate in EU ICT research
- **wins-ict.eu** 2009-2010 (<http://wins-ict.eu>)
 - Strengthen S&T cooperation between EU and WBC
 - Promote participation of WB ICT researchers in FP7

Barriers for participation of WB researchers in EU ICT research*



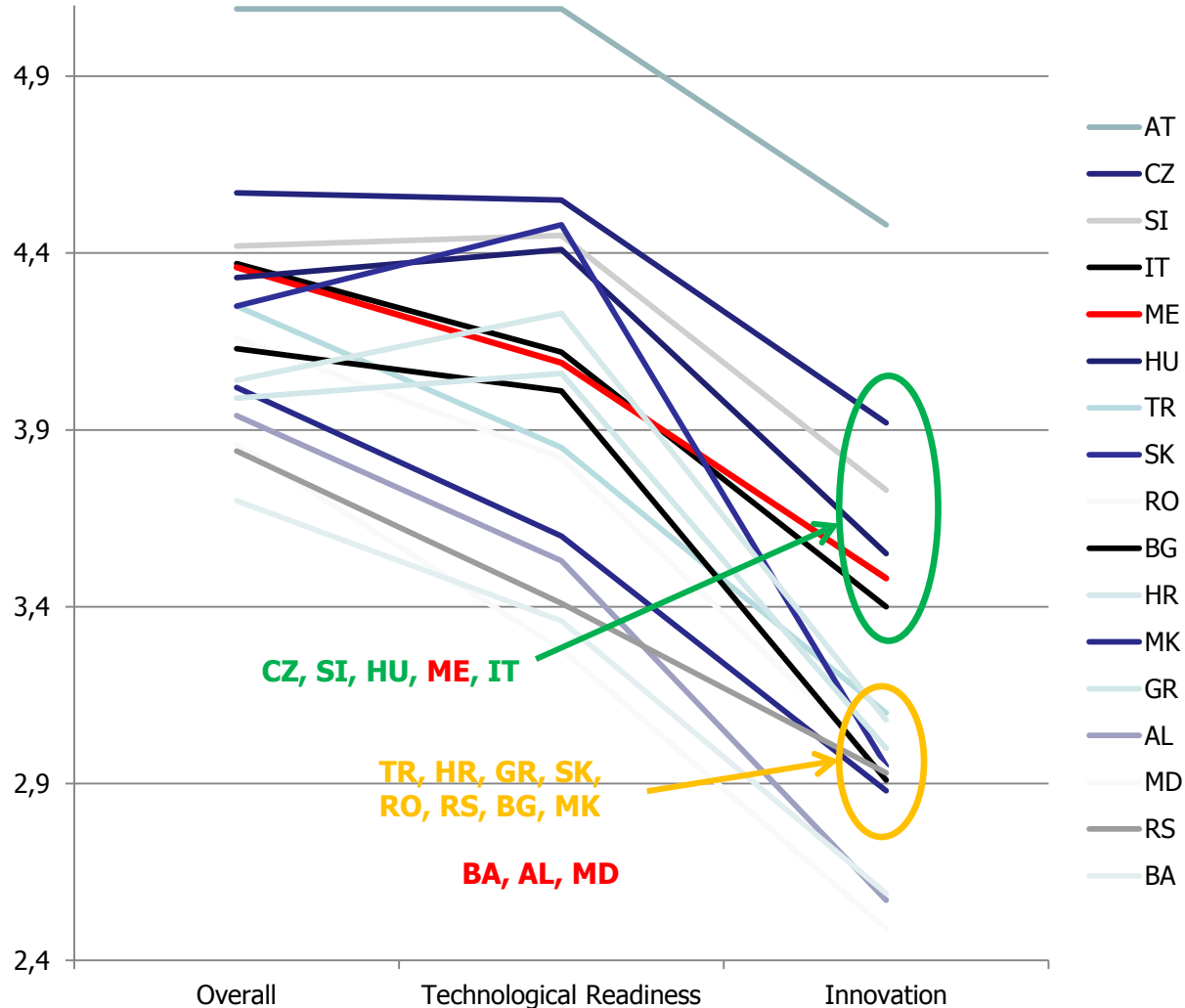
- Complex rules and mechanisms of FP7
- Difficult and cumbersome process of proposal writing
- Heavy bureaucracy and difficult project administration
- Lack of capacity for implementing precise working and project management rules
- Inability to match the co-funding requirements
- Lack of English proficiency
- Lack of institutional strategy to foster research and innovation
- Lack of specific priorities for national funding leading to spreading of the scarce resources
- Weak research orientation in the IT industry
- Lack of cooperation between industry and academia

* source ICT WEB-PROMS final report

- ICTs for Enterprises and e-Business
- ICTs for Learning and e-Learning
- ICTs for Government and e-Government
- Software Engineering
- Knowledge Technologies
- Digital Content and Digital Libraries

* source ICT WEB-PROMS final report

WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2011



- Status
 - There is progress
 - Montenegro!
 - Macedonia and Albania - steady trend
- Need for
 - Simplification of rules and procedures
 - Capacity building in project management
 - Increase national (co-)funding
 - Foster networking (also with private sector)
- EU perspective and regional cooperation
 - Significant contribution to the processes
 - Important driving force of change

Thank you!
Questions?