



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



**HERMAN POTOČNIK-NOORDUNG AWARD for donations within the
framework of RTD collaboration with Western Balkan Countries**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

With this letter you are kindly invited to support our efforts for the benefit of the scientific community of the Balkan region.

There are many differences among Western Balkan Countries regarding research systems, human resources, legislation, etc. However, there is one common issue: Means for the modernisation of research infrastructure (research facilities and equipment, laboratories, libraries, computerisation and Internet infrastructure) are limited in most Western Balkan Countries due to the unfavourable financial situation of research institutions. Funding from the private sector has also remained low and is unlikely to increase substantially over the coming years. **Therefore science and research institutions in the region of the Western Balkan Countries still need international support regarding research infrastructure development.**

In order to raise awareness of this problem in the general public and among relevant stakeholders (like science policy makers, potential donors, etc.), the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia and the SEE-ERA.NET project consortium have launched the **HERMAN POTOČNIK-NOORDUNG AWARD for donations within the framework of RTD collaboration with Western Balkan Countries.**

The essence of this initiative is to **invite potential donors** (research and technology organisations, universities, philanthropic organisations, development assistance organisations and private companies) from EU and other European countries to join our activities and donate for the development of infrastructure and research equipment in Western Balkans Countries.

SEE-ERA.NET project partners, Ministries of Science and Research from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have collected a **list of most urgent infrastructure needs** in their countries which has already been published on the internet under www.investsciencesee.info/infrastructure.html

The donors positively responding to the "Herman Potočnik – Noordung Award" initiative and their partners will be presented in the frame of a **special EU Presidency event in Ljubljana, Slovenia in June 2008**, and a special **award** will be given to the most generous donors, selected by an evaluation committee on the basis of well defined selection criteria (value of donation, partnership approach, impact of the donation).

All relevant information as well as **online application tool** for the award, you may find on: <http://www.investsciencesee.info/infrastructureneeds.html> and in the **Herman Potočnik - Noordung Award Office**, Dunajska 104, Ljubljana, Slovenia, phone: +386 1 5684 168; e-mail: office@investsciencesee.info, operated by ASO Ljubljana. **The call for applications will be open till April 30, 2008.**

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,



Mojca Kucler Dolinar
Minister