



**The Assistant Director-General for
Communication and Information**

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
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la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

H.E. Mr. Adil Osmanović,
Minister
Ministry of Civil Affairs
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- Ref. : CI/KSD/ICT/BN/336 23 June 2016
- **Subject: Request for support for further development of project COBISS.Net**

Your Excellency, Minister Adil Osmanović,

The shape of the modern world has been credited to the advancements in knowledge transaction processes in many ways. Advancements in contemporary information and communication technologies (ICTs) have facilitated at an enormous rate the generation, preservation, dissemination, exchange and utilization of global knowledge resources.

In emerging knowledge societies, the spirit of knowledge creation must go hand-in-hand with other values such as openness, inclusiveness and spirit of integration. This will ensure re-establishment of security and peace through gradual transition of societies to knowledge-based economies.

We are extremely pleased to learn that you will be hosting the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training, which will be organized in Sarajevo from 27 to 28 June 2016.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that UNESCO has taken an initiative to support further development of the COBISS.Net project. The overarching aim of this project will be to enable countries in the Western Balkans to establish national library information systems through enhanced automation and integration of libraries. The project will also aim to foster knowledge exchange processes as a tool for reconciliation and reparation in the region.

The project will create necessary conditions to (i) Enhance the automation and inclusion of libraries of the so far participating countries in the national library information systems and in the COBISS.Net network; (ii) Harmonize cataloguing rules with international recommendations and standards; (iii) set up compatible research information systems (E-CRIS) in the participating countries to improve good governance; (iv) enhance capacities for knowledge integration and digitalization; (v) create a condition for mutual learning and collaboration; and (vi) stimulate innovation processes and economic and social development in the region.

We have taken preliminary steps and submitted a project proposal to the European Commission (DG EAC and DG NEAR) to finance the project entitled "Supporting the development of national library information systems in the countries of the Western Balkans and their integration into a common educational, research and cultural area of the EU" (a summary of the proposal is enclosed).

We would be grateful to receive your support in our efforts to foster conditions for the integration of knowledge pools and libraries in the Western Balkans and for your support to raise the necessary financing for this project.

Sincerely,



Guy Berger
ADG a.i.