

BALCON



Mission Statement

From components and devices to entire systems, intelligent functions embedded at all levels are a key driver for both product and service innovation and creativity. The challenge is to develop safer, more cost efficient, energy aware, stable and reliable systems that **monitor** their 'environment' **and control** (adjust) their operation in order to increase productivity and efficiency. Today's engineers are trying to solve complex problems such as the design and operation of intelligent:

- ✓ **Energy management systems** that exploit all available energy sources and monitor energy demand at real time so as to adjust the use of each energy source, thus maximising the entire grid efficiency and limiting energy losses.
- ✓ **Urban traffic management systems** that enable civil servants to better respond to emergency situations (natural disasters, fires, accidents, etc), or simply offer a safe, fast and convenient system for citizens' everyday (urban) activities.
- ✓ **Transportation systems** at regional, national or international level that monitor weather, road and traffic conditions, local emergencies (accidents, natural disasters), etc. and adjust transportation plans so that the products reach their destination on-time at the lowest possible cost.
- ✓ **Industrial production systems** that enable production with an optimal consumption of resources (human, energy, infrastructure, etc) and minimal Green House Gas emissions, while adapting production processes to customer requirements and market needs (customised products).

Meanwhile, all Western Balkan Countries (WBC) retain a number of highly qualified research teams active in the design, development and implementation of systems and applications applied in Monitoring and Control (M&C). Strengthening the scientific and technological collaboration between WBC and EU research teams in the respective field will consequently favour the production, sharing and exploitation of knowledge.

By bringing researchers from the two regions into direct contact and promoting the benefits of collaboration, **BALCON aims to facilitate and enable the preparation of joint research activities in the field of Monitoring and Control**. The ultimate goal is to reinforce the EU-WBC research collaboration in the field of M&C and, therefore, support productivity and economic growth in both regions, helping them to address common challenges and creating mutual socio-economic benefits.

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288076

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Project website
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**Community contribution
to the project**
467.000 Euro

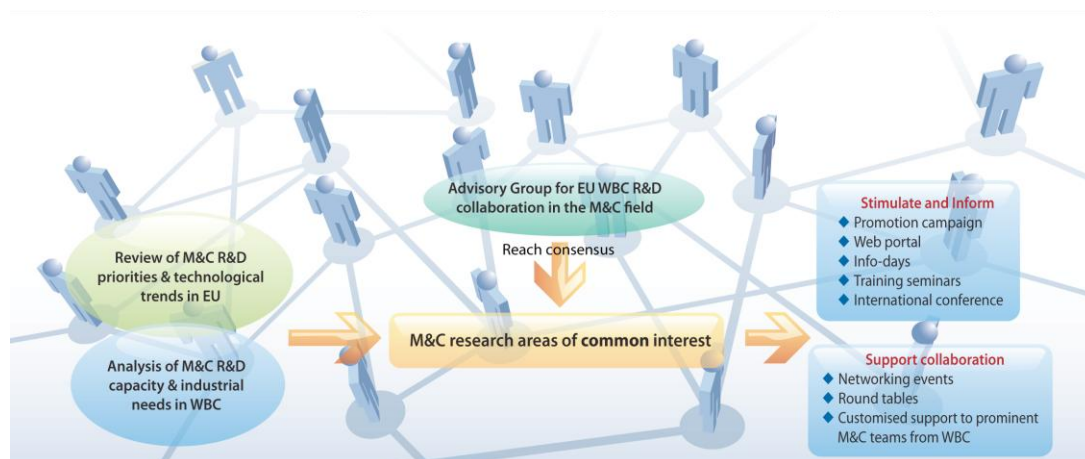
Project start date
01 09 2011

Duration
24 months

Technical Approach

To achieve its objectives, the BALCON consortium will:

- ✓ Review R&D priorities and capacity in developing M&C systems and applications in both regions in order to **assess the collaboration potential among the research and industrial communities**, aiming at identifying and highlighting the “**EU-WBC research areas of common interest in the field of M&C**” which may result in substantial benefits for both regions if R&D collaboration is reinforced.
- ✓ **Create a community of experts from both regions in the field of Monitoring and Control (“Advisory Group”)** to support the early validation of the main project outcomes, increase their credibility and facilitate their wider possible diffusion. This interaction will bring key European and WBC researchers into direct contact, facilitating the exchange of ideas in order to reach consensus in the research areas with a high EU-WBC collaboration potential in the M&C field, as well as on the actions required towards strengthening this collaboration.
- ✓ **Organise a variety of networking, training and awareness raising** activities to bring research & industrial actors of the two regions closer, thus preparing the ground for concrete EU-WBC R&D activities in the M&C area.



Scientific, Economic and Societal Impact

BALCON is expected to boost the preparation of joint R&D initiatives in the Monitoring and Control area by research and industrial communities from the EU and WBC, bringing substantial socio-economic benefits and having a positive impact in both regions. More specifically, the BALCON proposed activities will strengthen Europe's scientific and technological base, ensure its global leadership in the domain and, eventually, improve the competitiveness of the European industry to ensure that the demands of its society and economy are met.

Key features

- ✓ A “Pool” of at least 20 WBC competent M&C research teams to be promoted and supported in their involvement at EU-funded collaborative research activities
- ✓ “Advisory Group for EU-WBC research collaboration” consisting of M&C experts from both regions
- ✓ “EU-WBC research areas of common interest in the field of M&C”.

Project partners	Country
Q-PLAN North Greece	EL
Inno TSD SA	FR
European Embedded Control Institute	FR
University of Belgrade	RS
Croatian Institute of Technology	HR
Ministry of Science of Montenegro	ME
Agency for Electronic Communications of FYROM	MK
Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Sarajevo	BiH