advanced manufacturing. This phase will consist in initiating thematic partnerships that closely involve public authorities, businesses and researchers from different regions.

**Towards tailor-made smart specialization strategies**

Unlike EU member states, associate or candidate countries for EU membership are not obliged to adopt the smart specialization strategy as a formal policy document for economic development. Nevertheless, the EU regulation establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance mentions S3 as a thematic priority for assistance to enlargement countries. Thus, although ‘not obligatory’, having a smart specialization strategy has become a prerequisite for EU accession.

All five countries have, thus, decided to invest in their own smart specialization strategy, with support from the centre in Seville. Serbia was the first to begin its mapping exercise in 2017, followed by Montenegro a year later. In June 2019, Montenegro became the first non-EU country to complete both the mapping phase and entrepreneurial discovery process, at about the time Bosnia and Herzegovina launched the process.

Montenegro’s smart specialization strategy for 2019–2024 will serve as the basis for priority investment in research and innovation of about €174 million. Of this, the government is expected to provide €116.4 million, the private sector €21.7 million, the EU €33.5 million and other international sources about €2.5 million.

Figure 10.4: Number of IP5 patents granted to inventors from Southeast Europe, 2015–2019


Source: PATSTAT; data treatment by Science-Metrix

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