

International Conference

Meeting the Challenge: Perspectives of Project Financed Research and Project Oriented Research Institutions in South-Eastern Europe

Science, Research and Innovation are the engines of growth, employment and welfare. To mobilise all available resources and to create an environment that strengthens the knowledge based economy, institutional changes are indispensable. Fostering R&D activities in South-Eastern Europe and the integration in the European Research Area is accompanied with competitive research funding. Manifold opportunities have been opened for researchers and the various types of research organisations in South-Eastern Europe. Successful improvement of the competitive position of research organisations in new and rapidly changing knowledge markets is only possible if the internal structures adapt without delay flexibly to the new situation, it is questionable whether this ongoing process have a positive impact for all fields of research.

23.-24. November 2006

Venue

**Czech Centre
ul. Rakovski 100
Sofia**

Working Language: English

Organisers

Austrian Science and Research Liaison Offices Ljubljana and Sofia
ZSI - Centre for Social Innovation, Austria
Centre for Science Studies & History of Science (CSSHS), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences



Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Rationale of the Initiative

Organisations as universities, national academies´ of sciences and NGOs are the main producers of qualified knowledge workers as well as of new knowledge and influencing innovation. The changed approach towards competitive research funding has a manifold impact on public financed institutions and private research organisations.

Research priorities set are in line e.g. with the Lisbon Strategy, but not all institutions and disciplines see themselves as “winners” in the ongoing dynamic process.

The event in Sofia aims at reflecting the nowadays usual practise of project oriented research funding and the impact and influence of funding opportunities on research organisations and individual scientists. The conference will pose the question for the perspectives of research organisations in South-Eastern Europe.

Theoretical inputs analyzing the changed role of research institutions and several case study examples from SEE and Austria will be presented.

There are several key-questions forming the core of a critical discussion on competitive research funding especially in South-Eastern Europe. The following topics will be covered during the conference in November 2006:

- Opportunities and threats of the integration process of South-East Europe in the European Research Area (ERA); the impact of competitive research funding on the integration process and on national funding priorities
- Models and effectiveness of networks providing information about funding opportunities and procedures, their ability to meet the demands e.g. information units and project offices at institutions, national information systems and networks
- Demand for knowledge and the usability of research results in SEE
- New logical framework for individual researchers and research organisations
- Challenges for the institutions and the staff, especially in public financed institutions
- Competition with non-governmental research organisations and private research institutions, new opportunities through partnership of organisations
- Success stories and good practise on national and institutional level

The event will attract researchers working on the topic, research managers and information units or project centres from research organisations.

The 2-days conference is organized jointly by the Centre for Science Studies & History of Science (CSSHS), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Prof.Dr.Sc. Kostadinka Simeonova, Director of the Centre) and the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Sofia (ASO Sofia), Martin Felix Gajdusek

The organisers cover economy class travel expenses and local accomodation in Sofia for a limited number of participants from Southeastern Europe.

bm:bwk

The conference is supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in the framework of its SEE science cooperation initiative.