



BULGARIA - NEW FACE IN EUROPE

BULGARIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE

With the support of the European Union Bulgarian scientists have carried out outstanding research in various fields, e.g. LASER sounding of the atmosphere for the European Lidar Network, Space research, dosimetry in space and on aircraft, radiation environment dosimeter; Metal matrix composite materials for local reinforcement of aluminum parts; Possibilities for the application of Black sea deep-water organogenic mineral sediments in organic farming; Method for torsional impact on working environments.

The creation of the Bulgarian National Research Mobility Portal enables Bulgarian scientific circles to make part of the pan-European Researcher's Mobility Portal.

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – the face of Bulgarian science

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences has strengthened its authority as a national scientific research centre in the fields of the natural, engineering, social, medical and agro-biological sciences and the humanities and social sciences.

During the last 5 years the share of the additionally financed projects compared to the total number of the projects developed by Bulgarian Academy of Sciences has increased. For the year 2001 it is 54% and for 2005 – 64%. During 2005 the Independent Scientific Departments of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences have worked over 3304 scientific and scientific-applied projects. Of these projects 2141 received additional financing from the National Science Fund, Ministries, national and international organizations and companies. The scientific achievements are in the field of: physics and astronomy, chemistry, information technologies, biology and medicine, ecology and environment, engineering, etc. Some of the projects are: new-developed antivirus programs, programs for multi-criteria analysis, laser systems for medical treatment, methods and equipment for biogas production by anaerobic digestion of organic waste, new standards for wireless communication and their implementation in medicine, new space experiments, catalyst for reduction of the harmful emissions from vehicles, modern techniques for specialized education and training and many others.

Bulgarian science and the European Union

Bulgaria was involved in Community programmes already at the time when the Fourth Framework Programme for research and development was operative. A total of 129 projects under the Fourth FP included at least one Bulgarian participant. Fourteen of the projects were coordinated by Bulgarian-based organizations. A great stride was made in the Fifth FP, in which the participation of Bulgarian partnering organizations more than doubled reaching 271 projects and the number of projects coordinated by Bulgarian-based organizations tripled to 42. Most of the projects with Bulgarian participation were in the field of Energy, environment and sustainable development (EESD) and User-friendly information society (IST). Since February 2003, Bulgaria has been fully associated with the Sixth Framework Programme for research and technological development and with the Sixth Euratom Framework Programme. Until September 2006 130 projects with Bulgarian participation were registered on the Cordis web site.



An innovation strategy aimed at increasing the competitiveness of Bulgarian industry and stimulating research and technological development in enterprises was adopted in 2004.

Bulgarian students...

At the 46th International High-school Mathematics Olympiad which took place in Mexico, the Bulgarian team won two gold, three silver and one bronze medals; Rossen Kralev won the maximum 42 scores which placed him among the best 15 out of 550 participants from 93 countries.

Our team won four silver and two bronze medals at the Balkan Mathematics Olympiad in Romania.

At the International Informatics Olympiad in Poland Bulgaria won three silver and one bronze medals, and eighth place among over 100 countries. Thus, Bulgaria obtained the right to be the host country of the Informatics Olympiad in 2009. For the last 17 years we have 59 medals altogether, won by the Bulgarian national high-school informatics team!

At the Balkan Informatics Olympiad which took place in September in Athens, our team won one silver and two bronze medals.

Chemistry, Biology, Physics...

At the International Chemistry Olympiad in Taipeh, Taiwan, the Bulgarian team won three silver medals, and at the Chemistry Balkaniad in Bucharest we beat the competition by two gold and two silver medals. It is worth mention the achievements of the Bulgarian representative students at the International High-school Biology Olympiad in Peking, China, where we won one gold and two bronze medals, as well as one silver and two bronze medals at the International Physics and Astronomy Olympiad in the city of Salamanka, Spain. At the International Tournament for young physicists in Switzerland, our representatives took third place in the team classification.

The government encourages the young

Since 1999, the Ministry of Education and Science every year organizes the "Young Talents" Contest - now with its seventh edition. For yet another year one particular approach of identifying students with pronounced skills in the area of mathematics and computer science, such as the Students Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science, proved viable and much needed. Authors of scientific and innovative projects in the areas of natural sciences, communication and information technologies, and social sciences participated in the Contest. Participation terms and conditions were in compliance with the requirements of the European Contest for Young Talents within the Sixth Framework Program of the EU to support scientific research, technological development, and demonstration activities.

Following the present programme, the record-breaking number of 72 projects were ranked in 2005. Approved contracts were in the following areas: engineering sciences – 2; chemistry – 6; medicine – 19; physics – 11; biology – 19; earth sciences – 8; agricultural sciences - 7.

The approving of this contest, the strict criteria of its hold and the more and more solid preparation of the participants are a real proof of the fact that there is science in Bulgaria and that young people are interested in it, which makes them noticeable in Europe as well.



Some facts instead of conclusions ...

1. Bulgarian secondary education is among the best in the world - ranked 5th in the world in sciences and 11th in mathematics
(Source: World Bank and The Economist rankings)
2. Strong technical education - 41 universities, 45 colleges, 3600 schools
3. Bulgarians rank second in international IQ tests
(Source: MENSA International)
4. Bulgarians are among the top university students world-wide - 2nd in the world in SAT scores
5. More than 5,000 students graduating in computer science, more than 5,000 graduating in engineering sciences, more than 20,000 IT professionals employed in the IT sector

Sources:

Ministry of Education and Science

"Evrika" Foundation

Bulgarian Academy of Science

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Additional information on all aspects related to the accession process of Bulgaria to the EU can be found on the following internet sites:

www.evroportal.bg and www.mfa.government.bg



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