

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
***“Contemporary Tendencies in Transference of Centers of Science & Technology Activity on
the European Area and Cross-Country Mobility of Scientists and Specialists”***
October 19-23, 2011, Kiev, Ukraine

VI International Symposium, initiated by the International Association of Academies of Sciences (IAAS), was held on 19-23 October, 2001, in Kiev, Ukraine. Such international forums have been arranged once in two years since 2001, and devoted to important issues of science & technology development and its social implications. Organizational and methodological supervision of these actions (in keeping with the Resolution of the Presidium of the NAS of Ukraine) have been accorded to G.M.Dobrov Center for Science and Technology Potential and Science History Studies of the NAS of Ukraine. In this year, the Symposium had the title “Contemporary Tendencies in Transference of Centers of Science & Technology Activity on the European Area and Cross-Country Mobility of Scientists and Specialists”.

The reason behind the thematic choice for the Symposium is that the change in science & technology systems of European countries, being accompanied by the transference of science & technology activity centers, has effects on intellectual mobility tendencies. Although the ultimate vector of mobility of intellectual resources is streamlined from the East to the West of Europe, each European country has own specific. Yet, the overall tendency of science & technology systems in European countries is the historically preset transition for predominantly stationary type of the organization of science to the dynamic type associated with the accelerating cross-country mobility of researchers and specialists. Factors that had strong effects on science & technology activity across the European area are collapse of the socialist system and subsequent reintegration of Germany, disintegration of Yugoslavia, the USSR, Czechoslovakia and formation of new independent countries, transformation processes on the post-soviet area, and enlargement of the EU.

Mobility of researchers and specialists has been studied in a series of projects, in particular with sponsorship by the UNESCO or its regional divisions, in light of the “brain drain” problem. However, the situation has changed and required a new approach to this problem, which has to consider changes on the European area, especially intensive integration processes, and the need to combine market competition and mutually beneficial cooperation in Europe.

In view of the Symposium conception, the participants focused on the following issues:

- ❖ Up-to-date approaches to studying problems of mobility of researchers and specialists;

- ❖ Socio-economic factors of the transference of science & technology and innovation activity centers across the European area;
- ❖ Reasons and implications of change in the mobility paradigm: from “brain drain” to “brain circulation”;
- ❖ Bologna process as a factor intensifying cross-country mobility of intellectual resources: advantages and disadvantages for countries with varying levels of science & technology activity and economic development;
- ❖ The role of government and non-government (including international) organizations in expanding cross-country mobility of researchers and specialists;
- ❖ Mobility and international cooperation of researchers and specialists in the context of advanced information & communication technologies.

Traditionally, the scientific supervisor of such symposia has been academician Boris Ye.Paton, President of the International Association of Academies of Sciences (IAAS), President of the NAS of Ukraine. Organizers of the symposium in this year included: the IAAS, the European Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, the Eurasian Association of Universities, Project 7RP EU “Expansion of Bilateral Science & Technology Cooperation with Ukraine”, Project 7RP EU “Joint Office for Support of Integration of Ukraine in the European Research Area”, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Ukraine, the National Commission of Ukraine on UNESCO Affairs, G.M.Dobrov Center for Science and Technology Potential and Science History Studies of the NAS of Ukraine.

Sponsorship for the Symposium is provided by the NAS of Ukraine, the UNESCO, Project 7RP EU “Expansion of Bilateral Science & Technology Cooperation with Ukraine”, and Project 7RP EU “Joint Office for Support of Integration of Ukraine in the European Research Area”.

The Symposium was attended by more than 150 researchers and specialists, of which 100 were invited participants. Participants and guests of the Symposium represented 14 countries: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine.

Symposium participants were president (Jean-Patrick CONNERADE) and vice-president (Georges SERRATRICE) of the European Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, General Secretary of Euroscience (Raymond SELTZ), foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Henryk RATAJCZAK), experts from the European Commission, Directorate for Researcher (Jean-Emmanuel FORE), space pilot, Hero of Russia (Yury BATURIN), councilor of the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) on international issues (Mikhail UGRYUMOV), chairman of the Scientific Board of the Belorussian Republican Foundation for Basic Research (Valentin ORLOVICH), head of the

Chief Department on Training of Personnel at the National Council on Accreditation and Evaluation of Personnel of the Republic of Moldova (Ion CHOLBAN) and others.

52 reports were delivered at plenary and sections meetings, elucidating essential themes of the Symposium. The section devoted to problems of researchers' migration and its consequences for science systems focused on analyzing reasons and motives for migration, and scientific results produced in emigration. Scientists who took part in the section "Bologna Process as a Factor of the International Mobility of Intellectual Resources" focused the discussion on the opportunities opened up by the Bologna process for Ukraine and other post-soviet countries in enhancing their systems for training of research and research & teaching personnel.

2 seminars on line of the projects 7RP EU "The Ukrainian S&T Infrastructure: Development and Prospects for Ukraine-EU Cooperation" and "Role of RP7 in Enhancing International Mobility of Researchers in Social Sciences and Humanities" were held in time of the Symposium, which discussed mechanisms for expanding science & technology cooperation between Ukraine and the EU.

Discussions at the round tables "Mobility of Scientists and Its Effects on Innovation" and "Approaches to Measurement and Monitoring of the Mobility of Scientists" concerned issues related with enhancing the mechanisms for cooperation and financing of researchers from post-soviet countries and Central and Western Europe and methodologies for measuring tendencies, scales and dynamics of mobility of researchers and specialists.

The meeting of Boris Paton, President of the NAS of Ukraine, with administration of the Euroscience and the European Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters had the essential importance for elevating the scientific status of the Symposium. According to Jean-Patrick Connerade, issues discussed at the meeting allowed them to have a better understanding of the science performance in Ukraine and the role of the NAS of Ukraine within the national science system.

Also, a meeting of the Scientific Council on Science of Science at the IAAS was held in the Symposium's framework, which discussed the working plan of the Council for the next year.

The International Symposium "Contemporary Tendencies in Transference of Centers of Science & Technology Activity on the European Area and Cross-Country Mobility of Scientists and Specialists" had positive reactions from international and foreign organizations. Letters of acknowledgement came on the address of Symposium organizers from the the European Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, the Euroscience, the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Institute for Science and Technology History of the RAS, the Presidium of Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova.

Arrangement of such scientific forums, launched on the IAAS initiative in 2001, has been welcomed by scientific communities inside Ukraine and beyond. The Symposium participants emphasized the need for further organization of international actions like this, which offer a platform for discussing a wide range of important issues on the current performance of science, elucidating national experiences in search for solutions on the way to the knowledge-based society, elaborating recommendations on enhancing the efficiency and societal role of the science sector.