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***Recent Evolution in the Academies of Sciences
of the Post-Soviet Countries****

Abstract

In the Western world the Academies of Sciences are usually the learnt societies with an honorary membership having mainly an advisory and moral role in the society. On the other hand in the Eastern Europe the Academies of sciences were the powerful operators of the basic research, built up according to the Soviet model. The major geopolitical changes during the last twenty years have affected profoundly the Academies of Sciences, nevertheless to different degrees, depending on the scientific policies of the individual countries in the post-soviet world. In general, the Academies have to face appearance of the governmental agencies and foundations supporting research on the project bases, often with important funds. The contribution will focus on commenting and comparing the latest development in the operation of the Academies of sciences in the post-soviet countries.

* The paper is a Power point presentation delivered at the Conference.

What is CNRS ?

Governmental organization under the administrative authority of the France's Ministry of Research

- Largest fundamental research organization in E.U.
- Pivotal role in the French scientific community
- Overall budget: 2.8 billion € (80 % Gov. Subsidies)
- Permanent staff: 25 000 (45 % researchers)
- Research units: 1200 (90 % joint labor. with universities)
- Overall personnel: 77000 (57000 permanent, Univ. + CNRS)
- Worldwide reach: supports collaboration and networking throughout the world



Academy of sciences – dual nature of the term

1. «Western Academies» - *learned societies*

- advisory body without executive duties
- elected and honorary membership
- fostering of science in the Society
- highly limited funding

2. «Eastern Academies» - *research performers*

- major organisations in charge of fundamental research
- high degree of independence (self-government)
- operating research institutes
- pay and manage personnel
- important governmental budget



Evolution of research performing Academies of Sciences in the Eastern Europe after 1990

Main challenges:

- Major political changes (EU + Russia & CIS)
- Redefining role of the Academies of sciences
- Governance and independence in question
- Academy versus University
- Transition to market economy
- Agencies & foundations (project oriented support)
- Emergence of the European research space



Academies of sciences in Russia & CIS after 1990

«Difficult nineties» - political and economic turmoil

- Brain drain
- Help from the West – keep researchers at home
 - bilateral (Western Europe, USA)
 - European Union (INTAS)
 - multilateral (Int.Sci.Tech.C., Sci.Tech.C.Ukr.)

«Promising after-2005» - differentiation of situations Ru&CIS

- self-sustained financing in Russia
- partnership East-West wanted
 - bilateral relations
 - European research space



Academies of sciences in Russia & CIS after 1990

Triangle: Academies – Ministry – Foundations

Conflicts of interests are possible



- Exemple Russia:**
- Rosnauka: inside Min.educ.sci., oriented res., large proj.
Budget 2008: 530 M€ (incr. +10 %)
 - Russ.Found.Basic Res. fundamental res., small proj.
Budget 2008: 195 M€ (incr. +25 %)



Academies of sciences in Russia & CIS after 1990

Concrete examples

Russia – RAS: getting better since 2005

- self-governed body (but RAS Pres. appr. by the Pres. Russ. Fed.)
- 100 000 staff (50% researchers), 430 Units (350 Instit.)
- budget 1.45 bill.€ (2006), increasing by 20-25% / year
- outside funding (Rosnauka , RFBR, other) 35 %

Ukraine – NASU: resisting chaotic democracy in the country

- self-governed body
- 40 000 staff (40 % researchers), 173 Institutes
- budget 0,21 bill.€ (2006)
- outside funding (UFBR, other) 20 %



Academies of sciences in Russia & CIS after 1990 *Concrete examples - Transcaucasian countries*

Armenia – NAS-AR: a limited independence

- State Committee for Science (established in 2007)
- 3 700 (60% researchers), 33 Institutes
- budget 10 M€ (2008) + funds from abroad
- planning to set up a foundation (help of diaspora)

Georgia – GAS: a learned society since 2005

- discussion club without any real power
- 50 Institutes, Ministry support (~80 k€ per year per Inst)
- GNSF (2005), support by projects

Azerbaijan - NASAz: a conservative approach

- self-governed body
- 7000 staff, 33 Institutes, budget over 30 M€
- ANSF (2002) close ties with Civ. Res. Dev. Fund (USA)



Academies of sciences in Russia & CIS

What is different compared to the Western research performing organizations

- system of academicians and corresponding members
- high degree of self governance
- salaries of the research personnel low
- difficulty to attract young people
- relatively low mobility (inside country, outside country)
- leaders - long terms of « staying in power »
- low engagement of universities in research activities



