

Research project: “Analyzing opportunities and developing measures and instruments for expanding international science, technology and innovation cooperation with researchers – expatriates”

Press-release

Following the request of the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus, a research project “Analyzing opportunities and developing measures and instruments for expanding international science, technology and innovation cooperation with researchers – expatriates” (2011-2012) has started in Belarus. It’s carried out by the Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere, <http://belisa.org.by> (BellSA). Besides BellSA staff, the research team includes experts of the Center for monitoring the migration of research and pedagogical staff, Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, <http://socio.bas-net.by>.

Nowadays, many countries, including Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, as well as European states and European Union as a whole put efforts in establishing connections between researchers – compatriots. However, the same move in Belarus is not an attempt to follow the fashion. According to the Center for monitoring the migration of research and pedagogical staff, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the total number of researchers and university lecturers emigrated from Belarus within 1996-2009 is 900 persons. In average, it makes 60-65 persons annually, including 3-4 doctors of sciences and 20-25 candidates of sciences. During the last years this index is constantly decreasing with only 44 persons left in 2009. The figure mentioned above is “full” emigrates, other words, people who have lost Belarusian citizenship. The number of those who have been working abroad for a long time without abandonment of citizenship could be defined just approximately. By experts’ opinion, it’s something around 4-5 thous. Thus, Belarusian scientific diaspora is a substantial intellectual resource for Belarus. Its representatives have got a significant creative potential and are capable to influence the development of the science and economy not only in a state of the current residence but also in the country of origin. However, this potential hasn’t been fully used so far.

The aim of the Project is to develop measures and instruments for attracting and including researchers – expatriates in international cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI) with Belarus.

The main tasks of the Project in 2011 are the following:

- Examining the foreign experience on how a country of origin communicates with researchers-compatriots living abroad. It’s foreseen to investigate communication with different categories of compatriots engaged in research and development – relatively recent expatriates who preserve the citizenship of a country of their origin, research diaspora and networks of research diaspora. While examining these relations, the focus will be made on mechanisms of international collaboration in STI and specific actions used for increasing communication between a country of origin and compatriots working abroad;
- Studying the experience of national R&D organizations, scientific schools, research groups and individual researchers on collaboration with their past and active colleagues who carry out their research activities outside Belarus, as well defining their demand and interest in such a cooperation;
- Developing of a data base on researchers – expatriates;

- Internet-questioning of Belarusian researchers working abroad about their readiness for cooperation and preferences in terms of the forms of collaboration;
- Developing recommendations on measures and instruments for expanding Belarus cooperation in STI with participation of researchers-compatriots working abroad;
- Developing of an electronic platform which should be a virtual meeting place for researchers – compatriots and provide both parties, in and outside Belarus, with information about possible mechanisms of cooperation. The e-platform will be situated on Belarus National Science Portal, www.scienceportal.org.by.

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