

## POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN POLISH AND BELARUSIAN RESEARCH TEAMS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE PROGRAM WITH BELARUS

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В соответствии с Договором между Правительством Республики Беларусь и Правительством Республики Польша о сотрудничестве в области науки и технологий от 18 ноября 1992 года Государственный комитет по науке и технологиям Республики Беларусь и Министерство науки и высшего образования Республики Польша осуществляют возможность реализации совместных научно-технических проектов. В рамках программы белорусско-польского научно-технического сотрудничества на 2011-2012 годы в настоящее время реализуется 13 совместных проектов".

### Introduction

Owing to the agreement concluded between the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the State Committee of Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus (GKNT) there is the possibility of joint research projects under the Executive Program of Belarus. The previous program covered years 2011-2012. The present Executive Program covers the period of 2011-2012. Executive Program with Belarus includes research projects, as agreed between the Polish and Belarusian research teams, which can pertain to any area of science [3,5]. In the edition of the program for 2011-2012 period there are 13 joint research projects [2]

### Terms of Program Operation

The Executive Program with Belarus is financially supported by the Polish and Belarusian sides, in accordance with financial regulations in force in each country, which are based on the decisions taken by the Joint Commission on the basis of projects evaluation.

The funds allocated for research projects under the Executive Program are intended to cover travel and visits to Poland and Belarus during the financial year, with the exception of funding the research. The funds for research can be applied for , which are at the disposal of the National Science Center (not co-financed international projects).

The Polish side covers travel costs of Polish scientists in Belarus and Belarusian scientists cost of staying in Poland. The Belarusian side covers travel costs of Belarusian scientists and Polish scientists stays in Belarus [3].

The research project may be presented in any field of science by any scientific body. The cooperation agreed between the research teams may be financed by the parties for up to two years.

Each project should be agreed by both teams , consider the predicted period of cooperation and define its purpose. In all cases, even if the project involves more than one research team on either side, one project coordinator must be designated on the Polish side and one on the Belarusian side. If on the Polish side scientists participating in the project come from different academic units, the project should be submitted by each unit separately.

Research projects are evaluated independently in Poland and Belarus, according to the procedure of each Party. Final selection of projects for financing in the next two years will be made at a meeting of the Joint Commission. Only projects submitted simultaneously in Poland and Belarus shall be considered. Projects that do not meet this requirement will not be considered at the meeting of the Joint Committee [3].

### Funding for research projects from the National Science Center

National Science Center funds the implementation of international non co-financed research projects. A non co-financed project is a project, which involves the implementation of an international group of researchers, where the task group of researchers from the Polish research units (or other entities entitled to apply for funds under competitions announced by NCN) receive no support in the form of a grant financing from abroad (from the EU funds, funds set up by the European Economic Area countries or other sources) [1].

Application for funding the tasks for which in the international project the Polish team is responsible, is reported to the NCN by the Polish unit. Group of researchers from other countries that are involved in the

project raise funds for their actions regardless of the Polish partners, applying for funds from the organization (agency or foundation) involved in basic research funding in their country of residence, or from other sources. The condition for applying for the Polish team for funding a non co-financed international project is an agreement between the parties on cooperation in the project (Letter of Intent) or signing an international agreement under which the project will be implemented [1].

Assessment of applications for funding research projects flowing to the NCN is performed in two stages. The first stage involves only national experts creating teams of experts appointed in each edition. During the meeting a panel of experts from the field (panel) makes the initial assessment of each application and decide whether to reject or qualify it to the second stage, benefiting from the opinion previously developed by two members of the team.

Applications that receive positive opinions from teams of experts at the first stage of evaluation, are reviewed in the second phase by external experts, including specialists from abroad. On the basis of expert review teams shall take final decisions on the eligibility of specific projects for funding.

In the second stage of the assessment most of the applications will be directed to the experts from abroad. Foreign specialists are recommended by members of the Team of Experts. Their participation in the appraisal process is particularly important, as it allows to determine the place of Polish science in an international context and look at the assessed proposals in a broader perspective.

Currently the evaluation of annual reports of international non co-financed projects acquired by NCN from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education has ended. National Science Centre will provide further tranches of funding after receiving the funds for this purpose from the Ministry [1].

### **Research problems in agricultural production and management of joint research proposals**

One of the research questions dealt with by the authors of this paper is the right choice of tractors and agricultural equipment for farms in terms of minimizing production costs. Although in the available literature there is a lot of publications on the selection of agricultural technology for farms, there are no new methods taking into account the degree of technical sophistication of tractors and agricultural machinery and production losses due to delays in the work of cultivation because of their failure. This is an important issue because in Polish conditions, mechanization costs represent about 40% of direct costs of production [4]. Moreover, the Polish and Belarusian market offers high-tech tractors and machines for high prices. The economic effects of their use on farms have not yet been investigated. In the opinion of the authors the above research problem can be solved within the framework of joint research projects.

Another research issue in which joint research projects can be carried out is the energy use of agricultural and forest biomass. Issues concerning the biomass are very important because of the increasing demand for it arising from legal regulations dictated by the environmental protection aspects. Potential projects could involve searching for new sources of biomass, to assess its resources and cost of obtaining in Poland and the Republic of Belarus.

The subject of the research carried out under the Executive Programme for 2011-2012 is the second-generation biofuels from biomass pyrolysis process. This project is being implemented in cooperation between the Polish Oil and Gas Institute and the Belarusian Institute of the Energy BAN [2].

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