

## EURODOC 2005 QUESTIONNAIRE\_ REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

### QUESTIONS

#### PART ONE

##### General questions and Discussion

1. The situation of PhD candidates has improved in the Republic of Moldova compared to the last year. Hence the major changes regard the material situation. The scholarship has increased and also the salary for young researchers.

The actual government has increased the stipend of PhD candidates from 270 MDL (17 Euros) to 450 MDL (28 Euros). Around 80 percents of PhD candidates receive stipend and 20 percents of PhD candidates pay their studies.

The average salary for young researchers (from 2005) would be 1095MDL (average 69 Euros). This salary includes 200 MDL (12,5 Euros) for the academic title (Doctor of Science).

A major change that would affect the situation of all scientific community in the Republic of Moldova is the implementation of the “Code of Science and Innovations in the Republic of Moldova” that was adopted by Parliament in 15 July 2004. The Code of Science and Innovations include all laws that concern science and innovation. The new code has empower more the Academy of Sciences, thus it stipulate a direct bilateral agreement between the Government and the Academy of Sciences. The Academy of Sciences represents hence the most important scientific centre in the Republic of Moldova and is the major national public institution that would coordinate plenipotentiary activities of sciences and innovations. The Academy of Sciences of Moldova receives the government abilities in science and innovations area. The most important changes that would improve the situation of ESRs in near future are: new budgetary funds for infrastructure, for research equipment, for scientific libraries and the establishment of National Fund to support Science.

One of valuable initiative of the Academia of Sciences is the creation the National Fund to support Science that has the aim to support gutful young researchers and doctor of sciences by different fellowships and awards.

The Academia of Sciences of Moldova has contributed in 2004 to the foundation of the Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” and has supported association activities in organising national conferences and information days.

2. The Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” would like to improve the information management regard programs for graduate students and ESRs. Thus we intend to propose a national project to establish Information centres for graduate students and ESRs.

We would like to foster the process of dissemination of information that is addressed to ESRs. The access to more relevant information that inform on different opportunities would support ESRs to continue their scientific career. This task also would solve also the problem regard the lack access to scientific information (up to date) and to online scientific publications.

3. Most hottest topics in Higher Education and Research & Development that are in discussion are: brain drain, lack of research environment and infrastructure, lack of foreigner partners.

Another problem concerns the mass migration of the population to more developed countries, including youth in search of a job.

The grounds of these hottest topics come from the insurmountable problem regard inadequate budgetary resources. Hence the low GDP per capita means that the local economy is unable to absorb the results of scientific research and private expenditure on science is low, which results in an exodus of the most gifted and a weakening of the national development potential. The budget allocations for science are modest enough. During the last years the science was financed by only

0,21% from the gross internal product. For 2005 the budget allocations for science would constitute 0,35% that we consider a general national improvement.

The financial deficit makes the science an unattractive domain and the number of those acting in the named field is reduced. Thus in 2001, for one thousand persons employed in the Moldovan national economy there were 2 scientific researchers, while in Great Britain there are 10 researchers and in France 12.

The government doesn't provide sufficient programs to support the employment of young researches in the private sector. The reason of this situation is that at the present moment in Moldova, the link between the system of research, higher education and development, on the one hand, and industry and the national economy, on the other hand, seems to have weakened. The research results and innovative technologies offered by research institutions and higher education are not in demand in industry or in private small- or medium sized enterprises. (UNESCO-CEPES, Bucharest 2003)

The Republic of Moldova should increase funds for education and to develop a Knowledge Based Economy. We hope that by implementation of the Code of Science and Innovations the situation of ESRs would be improved progressively.

Another major problem is the fact the scientific potential is getting older. Over 60% of doctor's with scientific degrees are over 45 years old.

During the last decade the staff of the research institutions decreased three times. The results of a related study show that during that period of time the number of people that have abandoned the scientific activity exceeds considerably the number of those employed. Most of the people leaving the science entered other structures, but almost 10% emigrated abroad.

Owing to the low salaries, the size of the research institutional staff has shrunk dramatically and the brain drain among young researchers has increased.

According to the forecast of the Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development, the situation could have serious social and political consequences leading to damage to the national Research and Development system, a decrease in the quality of higher education, an increase in the rate of emigration of young researchers abroad. (UNESCO-CEPES, Bucharest 2003)

After finishing graduate studies and getting a scientific degree the candidates prefer to work in universities than in researches institutions. This situation is due to the fact that they are advanced and for example in universities from a young lecturer he/she may become the head/chief of the department.

The reasons for which graduates fail to accept their job and continue a scientific career are the low salaries and the lack of housing facilities.

One of imperative measures that should be implemented to attract graduates in scientific careers would be to provide access to aid systems, through financial credits, social housing facilities, awards, excellence fellowships, research grants.

The current government has managed to create some excellence fellowships, as for example:

- Excellence Scholarships for PhD students offered by the Government of the Republic of Moldova (75Euros/month for one year- total 900 Euros)
- National Awards for Youth in the field of Sciences and Technical areas (around 300 Euros),
- National Scholarships Programme for Moldova (organised by World Federation of Scientists)
- Scholarships for ESRs offered by the National Bank (from 2005)
- National Fund to support Science (from 2004)
- Union Fenosa (private company) fellowships.

One of valuable initiative of the Academia of Sciences is the creation the National Fund to Support Science that has the aim to support giftful young researchers and doctor of sciences by different fellowships and awards.

4. The Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” has been registered in 29 July 2004. The Academia of Sciences of Moldova has contributed to the foundation of the Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” and has supported our activities in organising national conferences and information days.

The Association was founded at the initiative of PhD students and young researchers from the Republic of Moldova. The main goal of the association is to create a national sustainable framework that would support and help graduates to organise their future. The role of the Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” is also to create a discussion platform with purpose to share information about; scholarships, grants, conferences, study abroad opportunities, exchange programs, professional training programs and internships for PhD students and young researchers. This objective is acquired through the Yahoo Group – MOLDOVAdoc: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MOLDOVAdoc> created in 2003.

The Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” organises information days, conferences, trainings and other activities.

Our association organised last year information days with following topics: Participation of Young researchers in FP6, DAAD Fellowships program, “Human resources mobility in the FP6 (Marie – Curie Actions)” and “Programs of Fellowships for PhDs and ESRs for 2005-2006”.

We also organised the “Conference of Young Researchers from the Republic of Moldova” in 11 November 2004. The proceedings of the conference have been published thus contributing to flow of information regard research results of ESRs.

We succeeded to launch our web page: [www.pro-science.asm.md](http://www.pro-science.asm.md). Through our web site we get in contact with our members and potential future members. The web page contributes to offer information on: association activities, research programs and grants available for ESRs and graduate students.

Future activities of the Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” are following; to organise national conference for PhD students and ESRs, to organise information days, to create information centres and to organise summer schools.

The association key objective for next year would be also to represent graduate students and young researchers at a national level towards all political and administrative institutions.

One important project that we would like to implement is to create more information centres in Moldova for graduate students and ESRs. Thus our association hope to contribute to more transparency. Also we intend to attract funds to subscribe to most prestigious scientific publications and to offer free access of ESRs in our information centres.

We would like to develop the infrastructure of our association and intend to attract support that would consist of the provision of information services (including hardware, software, and links to the global network). The objective of information centres would be to create a national widespread network that would contribute to dissemination and intensively exchange of information between ESRs and PhD students. In such cases, knowledge can be easily accumulated and transferred in a multidimensional manner to meeting participant and organisation members.

It would contribute to create a social climate that form attitude of openness to new knowledge and a conviction about its availability. Young researchers and PhD students are open to new knowledge and are able to transform it.

The Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” would organise in 2005 a summer- school for young researchers. The objective of summer school would be to prepare 20 young research leaders from different scientific institutions and universities.

5. The Association was founded at the initiative of PhD students and young researchers from the Republic of Moldova. The main goal of the association is to create a national sustainable framework

that would support and help graduates to organise their future. Our association would make efforts to improve mobility and career development and to attract more young people into scientific careers. The role of the Association of Young Researchers of Moldova "PRO-Science" is also to create a discussion platform with purpose to share information thus to contribute to flow of information and more transparency regard opportunities of ESRs for mobility programs. Our association contributes to publish the scientific results of graduate students and ESRs by organising national conferences and publishing proceedings of conference results.

6. Our association has not yet made a PhD survey. We do not have experience in organising PhD survey and would be eager to get experience from other associations that are member of EURODOC. We would be eager to take part in regional survey (South-Eastern Europe) and also in European survey.

7. Because Moldova is a non-Schengen country and many embassies are located in Bucharest (Romania), Kiev (Ukraine) and Moscow (Russia) ESRs encounter difficulties to participate in mobility actions.

Solution to these impediments could be to institute **scientific visas for young researchers** and to issue **multiple entry visas for frequent travellers**. EURODOC could introduce this topic in discussion to European forums regard scientific visas for ESRs that comes from non-Schengen countries. We would be eager to cooperate with national EURODOC associations in organising common projects and initiatives.

### **Bologna Process and Lisbon Strategy**

8. Even if in Bologna there was elaborated the structure of the university education according to the dimension "3 + 2", at present we can talk about the imminence of reforming the structure of post-university education through the prism of the Bologna Process – "3 + 2 + 3", which means that the duration of the post-university education – the doctorate studies – will constitute 3 years. At present, the duration of the doctorate studies in Moldova is of 4 years, this difference being eliminated through the application of the single European system of post-university studies.

The support and the promotion of students` mobility in the entire European area represent one of the objectives proposed by the countries signing the Bologna Declaration. It is obvious that every associated country member of EU has its own tradition, its history, its educational systems; that is why, probably, for those that are about to create a united Europe, the students` and researchers` mobility is stimulated. In this context, it is an advantage to study in three – four states from the European Union, learning simultaneously their history and tradition. As a result, the students will be considered not citizens of another European country, but citizens of Europe. This would solve a primary weakness of the European education system that is characterised by inadequate mobility of academic lecturers employed by universities, which complicates the creation of correct relationships with the external environment. Often, the entire scientific career occurs in one university, from graduation to professorship.

From 2005 in the Republic of Moldova all the institutions of higher education will obligatorily issue to each graduate the annex of the diploma (Diploma Supplement) in English. Diploma Supplement is a document issued by the national institution together with the university diploma and has the aim to increase the international "transparency" and to facilitate the university and professional acknowledgement of the qualifications. Diploma Supplement doesn't substitute the diploma that is issued once with the taking of the university degree.

The Republic of Moldova announced its intention of association and adherence to the EU. It is a strategic objective that is why the involvement of our country into the Bologna Process, by reforming the national educational system, would facilitate the integration of the country into the EU

structures. Within the Berlin Conference Moldova received the status of an observatory country, becoming candidate, and finally signatory of the Bologna Declaration. At present Moldova task is to elaborate the National Report regarding the intention of adherence to this Process, a fact that has to constitute a proof of the considerable progress obtained at the implementation of the principles of the Bologna Process.

9. Fears are related to the fact that PhD students would not succeed to finalise their research project in three years. Lowering the length of study periods we see as a threat. The study programs into 3 years may be not sufficient in all cases.

Our expectations from Bologna Process are: more transparency, mutual recognition of study periods and diplomas (at home and/or abroad), promotion of student and staff mobility, strengthening the role of higher education institutions in society and linking (European) Higher Education Area and (European) Research Area.

10. The rapid expansion of academic mobility in the last ten years prompted the decision of Moldova to sign the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the Europe Region. The Convention, the so-called Lisbon Convention, was ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on 23 September 1999 and came into force on 1 November 1999.

The body responsible for the recognition of final qualifications in higher education in Moldova is the Ministry of Education. It is authorized to adopt official and mandatory decisions concerning the recognition of qualifications obtained abroad.

Currently, a buffer organization is being set up by the Ministry of Education, the National Center for Information concerning academic mobility and recognition. However, the Center lacks adequate resources to establish the needed contacts with the national information centers in other countries and with the ENIC network. (UNESCO-CEPES, 2003)

### **Labour Conditions**

11. The advantage of PhD candidates enrolled in research institutes is the large time that is offered to make doctoral studies. The disadvantage is regard low remuneration. But this impediment could be resolved by participating at different fellowship programs.

The disadvantage of employee PhD candidates that pursue doctoral studies with special destination is the lack of time that leads to long period of PhD study. Many employee PhD candidates do not defend PhD in the allotted time.

A primary weakness of the many ESRs that are employed in universities is the inadequate mobility, which complicates the creation of correct relationships with the external environment. Often, the entire scientific career occurs in one university, from graduation to professorship.

12. In our opinion the candidates that are enrolled as PhD students full time benefit from many opportunities to succeed to finalise studies in allotted time. The question that arises is more regard poor remuneration during PhD study.

### **Supervision and Training**

13.

14. Doctoral programmes are four years in duration (from 1.01.2005) and aim at training highly qualified specialists and are offered by all the higher education institutions. Following the successful defence of a doctoral thesis, each candidate is granted the title of Doctor of Sciences (*Doctor în științe*).

The defence could be done only after the PhD student has passed all exams (4 exams) and has presented three papers and after that has received the certificate that attests these activities.

During PhD study the candidate for a doctor degree has to pass 4 exams: philosophy/history of research subject, foreign language, informatics and the exam of speciality. During PhD study the candidate for a doctor degree has also the duty to present three papers on the subject of his/her research area of activities.

After finishing the PhD study period the candidate for a doctor degree should present the PhD thesis to the university senate/ scientific council in order to be recommended to public defence. The PhD thesis is considered a scientific manuscript.

Post-doctoral studies require up to two years of study.

A second scientific title that of *Doctor habilitat*, is granted in Moldova following the public defense of a thesis.

The doctoral and the *Doctor habilitat* theses are defended before an expert panel assembled by the High Commission for Attestation. The Commission also approves the award of the two corresponding titles. (UNESCO-CEPES, Bucharest 2003)

15. There are three different routes for doctoral qualification.

First of all usual doctoral studies that could be as full-time courses and extra-mural courses.

There are also two other types of doctoral studies: Doctoral studies with special destination and self-preparation of doctoral thesis.

The doctoral studies with special destination are an efficient method to prepare high-qualified scientific personal for national economic branches. The entry exam is through an open competition between persons that are recommended by institutions of higher education and organizations with research and innovation activities. The doctoral studies with special destination are also addressed to foreign citizens that make doctoral studies within the framework of bilateral, intergovernmental, and interministerial agreements.

Self-preparation of doctoral thesis takes place in framework of institutions and organizations that organize doctoral and postdoctoral studies. The person that pursues this type of doctoral study is called "competitor".

Doctoral studies combine learning and research and conclude with a public thesis defense.

University candidates for a doctor degree have also duties on activities of teaching courses, leading seminars and supervising practical and laboratory work.

16.

The National Council of Attestation and Accreditation, is the institution of central public administration in charge on issues of evaluation and accreditation of scientific and innovation organisations and in attestation of research and teaching-scientific staff.

In framework of National Council of Attestation and Accreditation work two commissions: the commission of accreditation and the commission of attestation.

The commission of accreditation consists of 17 members, from which 6 are named by the president of the Academia of Sciences, 6 are representing Higher Education Institutes, and 4 are representing Government.

The commission of attestation of scientific staff and teaching-scientific staff consists of 17 members, from which 8 are named by the president of the Academia of Sciences and 8 are representing Higher Education Institutes.

The Academia of Sciences is responsible for the institutional internal evaluation and accreditation of research institutions that subordinate to Academia once per four year according to current legislation.

The Academia of Sciences of Moldova together with scientific and technical ministerial councils coordinates and monitors the activity of profile institutions.

The Academia of Sciences determines the state politics in organizing scientific staff and teaching-scientific staff by organising an efficient system of master, PhD and Post-doc studies.

The Academy of Sciences represents hence the most important scientific centre in the Republic of Moldova and is the major national public institution that coordinates plenipotentiary activities of sciences and innovations. The Academy of Sciences of Moldova received the government abilities in science and innovations area.

The Academia of Sciences embodies all researchers that work in universities, research institutes, and private organisations.

The supreme governance body of Academia represent "Asamblea" that comprise members, correspondent members of the Academia of Sciences and 78 doctor habilitates that represent the scientific community. The Asamblea elects members of the National Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development that represent the executive body of Asamblea.

National Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development decides on organisation of master, PhD and Post-doc studies and withdraw privileges to organise studies to organisation that do not reflect minimal standards.

Regard foreign agencies that will audit institutions on their performance, it should be mentioned that in 2005 the local scientific committees of INTAS and NATO programs would be opened and would monitor programs that they assist.

The scientific activity of a university teaching staff member is evaluated according to the following criteria:

- the number of published books (monographs, university textbooks, thesauri, laboratory manuals) and courses taught;
- the number of research contracts and grants obtained;
- the number of papers presented at conferences and at symposia;
- the number of papers presented at meetings and at seminars;
- the number of papers published at home and abroad, in speciality reviews, annals, scientific bulletins, and conference proceedings;
- the number of articles prepared for the person's institution, faculty, etc.

### **International mobility**

17. At present, exchanges of students, teaching, and research staff take place both within the framework of bilateral, intergovernmental, and interministerial agreements (which may be labeled as *organized mobility*), as well as at individual level (so-called *spontaneous mobility*).

Young researchers from Moldova have following opportunities to participate in mobility programs:

- Moldavian Research and Development Association (MRDA) provide research grants for ESRs. This program is sponsored by the US government.
- INTAS fellowships (Independent International Association formed by the European Community, European Union's Member States and like minded countries acting to preserve and promote the valuable scientific potential of the NIS partner countries through East-West Scientific co-operation.)
- Marie Curie Actions,
- TEMPUS-TACIS projects
- DAAD fellowships (German Academic Exchange Service),
- Fellowships of French Alliance,
- Network Scholarship Programs of the Open Society Institute-Budapest,
- Summer university courses organized by Central European University (Budapest)
- Global Supplementary Grant Program (Open Society Institute – SOROS Foundation)

- . China post-university scholarships (doctorate).

During the academic year 2004, 29 citizens of our country were enlisted for post-university studies in institutions from Romania, Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Turkey and Cyprus. At the same time, citizens of these countries joined the post-university studies from Moldova.

At present, tens of Chinese young people make their studies in Chisinau (Moldova) and tens of Moldovan young people study in China on the basis of bilateral agreement.

According to the department of the Ministry of Education, Moldova concluded 33 protocols and international agreements in the field of education.

Participation of young researchers at different international mobility programs is poor owing to: shortage of finances, communication barrier, visas impediments, lack of research environment and infrastructure, lack of information, transparency and of partners.

The origins of poor participation could be explained that Moldova is a francophone country, that Moldova is a non-Schengen country and many embassies are located in Bucharest (Romania), Kiev (Ukraine) and Moscow (Russia).

Solution to these impediments could be to institute scientific visas for young researchers and to issue multiple entry visas for frequent travellers.

18. The role of the Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” is also to create a discussion platform with purpose to share information on mobility topics such as; scholarships, grants, conferences, study abroad opportunities, exchange programs, professional training programs and internships for PhD students and young researchers. This objective is acquired through the Yahoo Group – MOLDOVAdoc: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MOLDOVAdoc> created in 2003.

The Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” organises information days in collaboration with representatives from funding organisations that offer mobility programs. Hence we organised already information day “Programs of Fellowships for PhDs and ESRs for 2005-2006” and we invited representatives from funding organisations that offer different mobility programs. We would organise special information days on European programs such as: Marie–Curie Actions, INTAS fellowships, DAAD fellowships and Fellowships offered by Agence universitaire de la Francophonie.

Our association organised last year information days with following topics: Participation of Young researchers in FP6, DAAD Fellowships program, “Human resources mobility in the FP6 (Marie – Curie Actions)” and “Programs of Fellowships for PhDs and ESRs for 2005-2006”.

The Association of Young Researchers of Moldova “PRO-Science” would like to improve access of young researchers to possibilities of the various exchange programmes by creating three information centres in Moldova for ESRs. Thus our association hope to contribute to more transparency. Also we intend to attract funds to subscribe information centres to most prestigious scientific publications and to offer free access of young researchers.

19. TEMPUS-TACIS projects projects

- . Fellowships of French Alliance,
- . Moldavian Research and Development Association (MRDA) provide research grants for ESRs,
- . INTAS fellowships (Independent International Association formed by the European Community, European Union's Member States and like minded countries acting to preserve and promote the valuable scientific potential of the NIS partner countries through East-West Scientific co-operation.)
- . Global Supplementary Grant Program (Open Society Institute)
- . DAAD fellowships (German Academic Exchange Service),
- . Marie Curie Actions,

- Network Scholarship Programs of the Open Society Institute-Budapest,
- Summer university courses organized by Central European University (Budapest)
- China post-university scholarships (doctorate).

A report of the Ministry of Education shows that the Tempus projects represent the most important part of the total flow of the academic mobility enjoyed by the students from the Republic of Moldova.

At present, 9 of those 16 state institutions of higher education are included into the Tempus program. Within the given program the professors and the students from our country have made so far over 300 visits to different foreign institutions of higher education.

20. Foreign citizens and stateless persons may be admitted to higher education in certain circumstances:

- according to the terms of international conventions to which the Republic of Moldova is a signatory;
- according to intergovernmental and interministerial agreements and protocols;
- as per agreements among authorized education institutions as provided by the legislation in force;
- as per individual contracts with educational institutions.

Based on their admission results, admitted candidates are enrolled in the first study year, by order of the Rector (director) of the given higher education institution, into the places designed for each profile, specialization, form of education, and language of instruction.

During the academic year 2004, 29 citizens of our country were enlisted for post-university studies in institutions from Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Turkey and Cyprus. At the same time, 6 citizens of these countries joined the post-university studies from Moldova.

Given the growing intensity of student mobility, the issues concerning the mutual recognition of studies, study periods, and qualifications among universities and other higher education institutions in the Republic of Moldova and the European Union countries have acquired a special significance, for recognition ultimately means a reduced risk that such qualifications will be under-evaluated.

The issue of the recognition of higher education qualifications arises, first of all, because of essential differences existing between the general philosophy of education in Moldova and that of various European countries.

The differences in question are particularly felt with regard to exchange processes and concern both the content of higher education (for example, the ratio of general instruction to speciality instruction), and the procedures for admission to higher education.

Second, considerable differences remain between the structure of the national system of higher education in Moldova and the structure of the education systems in the countries of Western Europe that have been greatly modified through the diversification of their higher education systems.

In addition, as educational reform in Moldova, particularly the reform of the higher education system, began in the aftermath of the political, ideological, and economic changes of 1989-1991, diploma equivalence between Moldova and other European countries has become difficult.

At present, higher education in Moldova has achieved an improved level of co-operation with the world community. International co-operation is being expanded by means of various international programmes in which the Republic of Moldova is taking part. These include TEMPUS, COPERNICUS, and others. They are contributing to the expansion of collaboration and cooperation and to the development of the exchange of values in the scientific, cultural, and spiritual domains.

21. Some 149 doctoral students are enrolled at Technical University of Moldova. A novelty of the system is the joint supervision of doctoral projects by professors from abroad and the defense of doctoral theses abroad. This form of activity, that is already in practice and involves the

participation of professors from Romania and France, is to be legalized by the Higher Attestation Commission. (UNESCO-CEPES, 2003)

### **Professional Future**

22. The researchers' charter is intended to give guarantees to researchers within the EU and make research careers more attractive. Because Moldova is not part yet of the EU we would not benefit from European Researchers Charter that we consider an important step ahead in promoting scientific careers. We would be eager to advise to national bodies some aims of EU researchers code, for example to improve more financial support for training, mobility and career development and to attract more young people into scientific careers.

23.

24.

### **Gender Equality**

25. Opportunities of research and career growth, occupation of posts in scientific and educational sector are equal for both men and women. There are no special initiatives that would make a special gender balances. There is no gender discrimination during PhD studies. The participation of women in higher education exceeded 50 percent of the total and, ranging from 52 percent to 56 percent. (UNESCO-CEPES, 2003) The proportion of women between PhD candidates constitutes 59% in 2003. (Statistica, 2003)

26. The gender distribution between comparable positions is different in accordance of position. The higher positions (rector, director of institutes) are predominantly occupied by men.

## **PART TWO : FIGURES**

*Please try and provide these data, if available in your country (if not, please say so). All data may not be available for each year, provide the last ones (with references). Sources expected are institutions that monitor higher education and publish stats (specify their names, websites, and weblinks to published documents). In case statistics aren't available, you might provide estimates (if available) with any appropriate sources (such as newspaper articles or magazine features). Whenever asked for a number/proportion of phd candidates, please specify the ratio per gender (male/female) or discipline, if known.*

1. In the Republic of Moldova 51 institutions offer PhD degrees for 371 specialities.

There are different types:

Research institutions: 34 (66,6%)

Research centres: 3 (5,88%)

Academies: 4 (7,8%)

Universities: 10 (19,6%)

2. The approximate total number of PhD candidates in the Republic of Moldova is 1613. (Statistica, 2003) Over the past five years the total number of PhD candidates that have been enrolled at graduates and post-graduates studies has increased. In the same time the number of students that abandon their studies or have been expelled has dramatically increased during the last ten years. The number of theses that are finalized in term has continuously decreased.

These trends of increasing the number of students that abandon their studies and the decreasing of proportion of thesis finalized in term are consequences of economical and social impediments that students are confronted.

3. The average age of PhD students is 23-24 years (56%). The entry qualifications for getting into a PhD programmes is Bachelor degree and Master degree.

The Republic of Moldova announced its intention of association and adherence to the EU. It is a strategic objective that is why the involvement of our country into the Bologna Process, by reforming the national educational system, would facilitate the integration of the country into the EU structures. Thus the Prime Minister of Moldova announced to launch from September 2006 the structure of the university education according to the dimension "3 + 2".

At present Moldova task is to elaborate the National Report regarding the intention of adherence to this Process, a fact that has to constitute a proof of the considerable progress obtained at the implementation of the principles of the Bologna Process.

4. Thus the number of theses that have been defended in 2003 constituted 15% of total number of PhD candidates that finalised PhD study within the allotted time. (Statistica, 2003) The general trend in past five years regard the number of theses that are defended in term has continuously decreased.

5. At present, the duration of the doctorate studies in Moldova is of 4 years. There are full-time and extra-mural PhD programme. The average time spent from start to finish (public defend) is 5-6 years. But PhD program could be finished even in 10 years because the exams that PhD candidates have passed are valid 10 years.

6. Last data on PhD candidates that complete PhD in due term constitute 11,4% (2003).

Regards statistic data from the Academy of Sciences that comprise 25 research institutions, the number of theses that are finalized in term has continuously decreased. Hence if in 1998, the percentage of theses finalized in term constituted 53% then in 2002-2003 the proportion decreased to 21.6%.

7. Last data show that the percentage of PhD candidates that withdraw PhD study constitute 8% (2003).

There is a positive trend actually because number of student that withdraw is decreasing. This transformation is due to the current situation of PhD candidates that has improved compared to the last two years.

Those PhD candidates that passed exams but did not present their PhD thesis receive a certificate that attest finishing of PhD studies.

8. The PhD candidates are registered at the institutions or organisations where they perform their PhD studies.

9. PhD candidates are considered students and most of them (80%) receive stipend and 20 % make PhD study based on contract agreement. The fees for PhD candidates that make PhD study based on contract agreement vary. Hence if the PhD tutor is an Academician then the PhD candidate has to pay 5500 MDL (343 Euros) per year. If the PhD tutor has scientific title of doctor habilitation then PhD candidate pay 4500 MDL (281 Euros) per year. Foreign citizens pay different fees.

10. There is no specific data on proportion of PhD candidates that get funding for their research activity. Most of PhD candidates get funds from the institute where they are carrying out their PhD. Many PhD candidates that are working also in frame of research projects receive support for their PhD research activity. All PhD candidates have the authorization to use lab equipment, libraries of institutes or organisations that provide PhD studies.

Other opportunities to fund PhD research activity constitutes different fellowship programs, travelling grants programs and other programs.

11. The actual average stipend of the PhD candidates (from 01.01.2005) is 450 MDL (28 Euros) represents only 42% of the average wage per economy. Average monthly wage for PhD candidate in 2004 was 270 Lei (17 Euros), represents only 25% of the average wage per economy. The actual government has increased the stipend of PhD candidates from 270 MDL (17 Euros) to 450 MDL (28 Euros). Around 80 percents of PhD candidates receive stipend and 20 percents of PhD candidates pay their studies.

Average monthly wage for a teacher in 2004 year was 660 Lei, represents only 61% of the average wage per economy. Average wage of a professor, 880 Lei, represents 81.5% of the average wage per economy (1080 MDL –67,5 Euros). (Statistica, 2004)

The average salary for young researchers (from 2005) would be 1095MDL (average 69 Euros). This salary includes 200 MDL (12,5 Euros) for the academic title.

12. PhD candidates that work in unfavourable conditions receive compensation according to authoritative acts. PhD candidates that pursue full-time courses receive one-month holiday per year. PhD candidates that receive stipend are allowed to work part time in projects (half of full-time program). The years spent in PhD full-time studies are included in the length of service. For extramural PhD candidates the period of PhD studies is included in the length of service only if PhD candidate defend thesis after finalising PhD courses.

PhD candidates could receive scientific missions of 30 days per year, which are paid by the institute or organisation that organise PhD studies.

13. The persons that use to practice teaching receive half of normal salary around 500 MDL (31 Euros) and receive also the scholarship that is around 450 MDL (30 Euros).

14. PhD candidates that perform full-time studies can practice teaching but are allowed to work part time (half of full-time program).

15.

16. During the academic year 2004, 29 citizens of our country were enlisted for post-university studies in institutions from Romania, Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Turkey and Cyprus. At the same time, citizens of these countries joined the post-university studies from Moldova.

17. After finishing graduate studies and getting a scientific degree the candidates prefer to work in universities than in researches institutions. This situation is due to the fact that they are advanced and for example in universities from a young lecturer he/she may become the head/chief of the department.

Due to positive changes that occur in 2004 we hope that more young researchers would remain working in academia.

18.

19. The average salary for young researchers (from 2005) would be 1095MDL (average 69 Euros). This salary includes 200 MDL (12,5 Euros) for the academic title.

20. National organisation has 67 members and they represent 16 research institutes that award PhD. Most of our members are from research institutes that belong to the Academy of Sciences of Moldova.

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