

## ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF ALBANIA

### Report on the reform and on activities of ASA in 2008/09

(received spring 2009)

#### ASA reform project

The Academy of Sciences of Albania has completed in the period from 2008 to early February 2009, as part of the reform of the ASA, the restructuring its organic in line with the new "Law for the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Albania" adopted by the Parliament of Albania. In this context, the 14 institutes and research centers were transferred to this new status, taking the organization in the country's universities, as institutions within a national research center, as faculties or departments.

The new structure was completed and began reforming its organic and employing new staff in accordance with its new law. Following the Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for reform a team of experts was selected, composed of four academicians from Albania and five from abroad, all from different fields ranging from the social sciences to natural-technical engineering sciences. They drafted and implemented the entire process, and the selection of academic members in accordance with the new Law. Within a period of three months, 20 regular academicians were selected based on an individual competition.

The new Assembly drafted and approved the new Statute of the Academy, selected two permanent academicians and 11 associate academicians who, together with the previous seven regular academicians, complete the Assembly Academy of Sciences with 40 members. In addition, the unification of titles "Foreign Academician" and "Academician honoris" was decided. Two additional academicians were selected as honor academicians to complete the number of 28 honor academicians. The reform process of the human resources was long, but needed to be conducted correctly and successfully.

This activity was carried out with government support for the reform of the Academy, but also with the support of the Inter Academy Panel, within the project "Empowering and Strengthening of Academy of Sciences of Albania" that will come to an end in 2010. The process of drafting the new Law of ASA and its entities has been launched; it involved the establishment of an ad-hoc committee consisting of sections on priority areas. A short-term program about activities and planning of the financial resources required for this purpose by the Government has been completed. The drafting of a series of cooperation agreements on scientific research institutions, between the academies, as well as educational and production of local and foreign institutions etc., has been achieved.

In view of reaching the required standards for the structures of the Academy and the successful implementation of its activities, ASA's structures should be reinforced. A focus has to be placed on the science sections, unit of RTD & I, Foreign Relations Office of the Scientific Library, in order to increase efficiency in the dissemination of the scientific production and scientific information to the Central Government, to local governments, state and private universities, institutes and centers, civil society, foreign and Albanian businesses etc.

#### Activities: Conferences

For this purpose several activities were undertaken in order to strengthen capacity, for example the updating of facilities such as the large conference room, the library etc. At the same time, the restructuring of the editorial offices of two major journals are under way (*Studia Albanica* and *Albanian Journal of Natural and Technical Sciences*, which are published in foreign languages, respectively, in French and English). After making an assessment, these journals have already their ISSN and now we are in the process of seeking to obtain listing of the journals in the relevant citation database, so as to establish their impact factor.

Even during the reforms, ASA continued its activities. Among the most important activities to be mentioned was the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Prizren, celebrated in Pristina and Prizren in Tirana by ASA and ASAK (Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo), in cooperation with other scientific institutions of higher education. Also to be mentioned is the International Scientific Conference on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Academician prof. Eqrem Çabejt, where besides the keynote addresses, 26 papers were given, and the conference organized by the University of Southeastern Europe for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Academician prof. Eqrem Çabejt. ASA and the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo (ASAK), in collaboration with other scientific institutions, held in Tirana, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congress of Manastir, a scientific conference. Next to the keynote addresses, 24 papers were given; in this context several other conferences were held in many universities in Albania, in Bitola, Tetovo, Skopje (FYROM) as well.

## **Publications and awards**

During this period, the periodical publication of the journals *Albanian Journal Natural and Technical Sciences (AJNTS)* and *Studia Albanica* was completed, as well as several monographs, among which we mention: *History of Albania and the Albanian Civilization; Declaration of Independence of Albania; Eqrem Çabej - a life dedicated to science; Postfixes articles in the Balkan languages; Post-theoretical aesthetic arts; Aesthetic art and society; Population of Kosovo from 1831 up to 1912, The Congress of Manastir; Bibliography for the history of the alphabet of the Albanian language 1844-2008; Path of the Albanian font; Coins of ancient Apollonia and Dyrrahium; Overview on the use of geophysical methods to search for source of copper and chromium in Albania*. Recently has been published *Dialectology Atlas of the Albanian language* in two volumes, the most important work of the Albanian linguistics, invaluable for the history of Albanian language and its dialects, contemporary Albanian and comparative linguistics. January 2009 saw the promotion of several works of the Academy and its academics: *The Atlas of the Dialectology* was inaugurated and received high praise from the scientific community. Also unveiled was the monograph "*Insights on the use of geophysical methods to search for source of copper and chromium in Albania*" and the novel "*Bolero in the villa of the elders*". Several scientific works have been submitted for publication, including parts of its projects such as *Encyclopedic Dictionary in the Albanian language*. Also the *Encyclopedia of Arts in Albania* (an 8.000 pages publication) has been prepared as well as *Albania's water assets* and *The lexical of the political and social in Albanian language*.

It is to be emphasized that among eight national awards for literature, three were given to the members of the Academy of Sciences: "The price of" in literature was awarded for work *Wrong Dinner*, the price "Gjergj Fishta" was granted for the work *Goats' horns* and the price "Faik Konica" gave to *The completed works of Çajupi*.

## **Main international and national projects**

The Academy of Sciences of Albania has played an important role in various international scientific activities such as ALLEA, IAP etc.

In the field of natural and technical sciences, several projects in various international programs were carried out, such as:

Project "International Center of Marine Sciences (CISM), involving a cooperation of universities, institutions, CONISMA and Italian National Research Council (CNR) with the Albanian institutions, the Academy of Sciences, Faculty of Nature Sciences, University of Tirana and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration. In this context, many studies were undertaken as well as data

processing and joint naval expeditions to the Italian-Albanian population in a pilot area in the Bay of Vlora. Based on international standards, a project draft for the Center proposed to be established in Albania was prepared, aimed at strengthening marine sciences, the recognition of its best use, all in line with the Government priorities for the economy.

Project "Outlying areas to the water-system: Shkodra Lake Region" project " (WetSys 'B') Program INTERREG III-(2006-2008) was developed together with the Municipality of Ugento, Italy, in collaboration with the Albanian Academy of Sciences, Shkodra Municipality, County of Shkodra, Shkodra Prefecture, Foundation for Local Economic Development TEULEDA in Shkodra; Agricultural University of Tirana, the representative office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection and Regional Environmental Office, Shkoder. In this project, the Academy of Sciences together with a group of experts of different fields, has undertaken activities in the field of biology, environment, climate and hydrology, both studies as well as monitoring of training activities for the wider local community living around the area where the Project takes place.

Project "TRAINASA" (6<sup>th</sup> Framework Program of the EU): the Academy of Sciences of Albania, in cooperation with GEONARDO, Hungary, has developed the third training course under FP7, which was intended to enable and improve knowledge for the creation, project preparation, project management, financial reporting, and the dissemination of results under Framework Program FP7. Albania has been accepted in 2008 to FP7 activities with the status "of associated country". The project trained 75 young researchers and possible applicants, some of whom had experiences in different disciplines. The objective was to assist them in the preparation and implementation of successful applications which are expected to have positive impacts on nationwide research, state and private universities, institutions and research centers.

The Academy of Sciences of Albania and the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Montenegro, have developed the joint project "Regulation of water regimes: Drini-Shkodra Lake and Buna", which is implemented by specialized institutions of the two countries, respectively, from the Institute of Energy , Water and Environment of the Polytechnic University of Tirana, and the Institute of Hydrology ; this project as a joint priority for the transnational water ecosystem of this region, supported and funded under the auspices of the Prime Ministers of the two governments.

During the reporting period the memorandum of cooperation with the Scientific Foundation of Civil Research and Development U.S.A (CRDF), and the Academy of Sciences of Albania was signed. A bilateral meeting on the development of the promotional program of the Western Balkan Regional Research, led by Swiss partners, was convened.

## Appendix: Books and periodicals published in 2008

### I – Books:

1. “Albanian Encyclopedic Dictionary”, Volume. I, volume. II
2. Kristo Frashëri – “History of Albanian civilization”
3. Kristo Frashëri – “The proclamation of the independence of Albania”
4. Alfred Uçi – “Post-theoretical aesthetic arts”, volume. I
5. Alfred Uçi – “The classics and non-classics”, volume. II
6. Miço Samara – “Political and social lexic in the Albanian Language”
7. Besim Bokshi – “Postfixes articles in the Balkan languages”
8. Shaban Demiraj - “Eqrem Çabej” (A life dedicated to science)”
9. Alfred Frashëri, Gudar Beqiraj, Neki Frashëri – “Overview on the use of geophysical methods to search for source of copper and chromium in Albania”
10. Tomor Osmani, Palok Daka, Maks Gjinaj – “Bibliography of the articles and studies on the Congress of Manastiri”
11. Hasan Ceka – “Coins of ancient Apolonia and Dyrrah”
12. Andromaqi Gjergji – “Costums in Tirana region”
13. Niko Pano – “Pasuritë ujore të Shqipërisë”
14. Shaban Demiraj, Kristaq Prifti – “Congress of Manastir”
15. Tomor Osmani – “The path of the Albanian letters”
16. Ludmila Buxheli – “The formation of verbs in the modern Albanian Language”

### II – Periodicals

1. “Albanian Journal Natural and technical Sciences”, (AJNTS) 23/2008
2. “Albanian Journal Natural and technical Sciences”, (AJNTS) 24/2008
3. “Studia Albanica”, 1/2008
4. “Studia Albanica”, 2/2008
5. “Our Language”, 1-4/2006
6. “Our Language”, 1-4/2007