The Academy of Sciences of Moldova

Brief history

The Academy of Sciences of Moldova (A.S.M.) is the highest scientific forum of the state, and represents the only public institution of national interest in science and innovation sphere, it is a plenipotentiary coordinator of scientific and innovation activity. Also, it is a scientific consultant of the public authorities in the Republic of Moldova and has a Statute of Autonomy and acts on the basis of self-administration principles.

The constitution of the scientific academic sector in the Republic of Moldova was initiated immediately after the Second World War (1939-1945). It had a constructive impact over further science evolution in our country, as follows: diversification of investigation fields, fundamental development researches in the contemporary science fields, capitalization of scientific, historic and cultural patrimony, implementation of scientific researches results in the national economy. By the end of 1980’s the Academy of Sciences has become the main scientific center in Moldova. At that time the Academy staff members were more than 5300, a majority of 1312 were scientific researchers, including 125 PhDs and 824 Doctors in Science.

After the proclamation of sovereignty (23rd of June 1990) and independence (27th August 1991), the Republic of Moldova has started a new development period. ASM has become a real scientific framework for research management and an independent research institution.

2004 year is quite important taking a good turn for legal scientific status of Academy of Sciences of Moldova after being ratified the Code on Science and Innovation.

The first president of the Academy of Sciences was Iachim Grosul, academician, PhD in hystorical sciences (1961-1976). The presidents that followed him, were: Alexandru Jucenco, academician, PhD in biological sciences (1977-1989); Andrei Andries, academician, PhD in physics and mathematics (1977-1989) and Gheorghe Duca, academician, PhD chemists, the current president since 2004.

The Academy develops its activity according to a legal framework which includes: the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, Code on Science and Innovation, Partnership Agreement between Moldovan Government and ASM, and other legislative and normative documents.

Starting with 2009 the Republic of Moldova is associated to FP7 program for research and technological development of the European Community, and from 2012 our country has become part of H2020 Programme.

Membership

Our institution consists of 18 subordinated and 30 affiliated research institutions, with over 3312 scientific researchers, including 300 PhDs, 1112 - doctors in science and 92 - academicians and corresponding members. The academic staff brings together 53 Full Members (Academicians), 39 Corresponding Members and 74 Honorary Members. Within the framework of the ASM there are institutions that carry out fundamental, applicative scientific researches, innovation and technologic transfer activities. Their results are materialized in new scientific knowledge, technological and technical elaborations, capitalization of the national heritage, promotion of scientific and cultural values at national and international level, training of scientific personnel of high qualification.

The Academy of Sciences of Moldova has undertaken some measures to attract young scientists in academic field by salaries rising, funding of the institution projects with the young specialists participation in project elaboration and implementation, setting up the laboratories with new modern equipment.

Structure

The Academy of Sciences of Moldova involves 6 Scientific Departments: Natural and Exact Sciences, Engineering and
Technological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Social and Economic Sciences, and Humanitarian Sciences and Arts.

The Academy of Sciences is the leadership body, consisted of Full Members (Academicians), Corresponding Members PhDs, elected for a 4 years term.

The Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development is the executive body of the Assembly constituted from 15 members: President, Prime Vice-President, Vice-Presidents, General Scientific Secretary and Academicians-Coordinators. (appointed from the office) and 9 representatives of the scientific community, including higher education institutes and the State Agency for Intellectual Property, elected by the Assembly for a period of 4 years.

The General Meeting of Titular Members and Corresponding Members represents the highest forum of the academic staff (Titular Members, Corresponding Members and Honorable Members), consisting of the most notorious academic and university representatives.

Funding sources for activities in science and innovations field:
- state budget;
- budgets of administrative-territorial units;
- own resources of the participants in activity of science and innovations;
- providing of organizations interested in scientific activity;
- investments (donations, grants) of physical and legal persons, including foreigners;
- amount from allocations – about 50 percent of supply got from unused property sell;

Activities

The Academy of Sciences:
- elaborates and promotes the strategy for development of science and innovation activity, realizes the state policy and promotes the conceptual activity in science and innovation field;
- identifies strategic directions in science and innovation field;
- distributes budget allocations according to strategic directions in science and innovation field;
- elaborates state programs, international and scientific-technical programs, as well as suitable tools for implementation;
- develops the monitoring and stimulation mechanisms of implementation for state programs results in science and innovations field;
- organizes projects competitions in science and innovations field, funded by state;
- finances scientific magazines and scientific works publication, as well as subordinated scientific libraries;
- promotes the preserving policy, intellectual potential development, property and infrastructure in science and innovations field;
- supports the activity in the field of innovations and transfer of technologies;
- implements the results of scientific researches and advanced technologies;
- promotes national and international values in science and culture domain;
- organizes and accomplish scientific-methodological coordination for both entities activities: who are part of and who are outside Academy;
- offers consultation, legal documents and other regulations expertise, related to science, economic and social, cultural policy;
- provides training courses for scientific staff, graduated and post-graduate education programs;
- collaborates at international level with similar institutions.

ASM awards medals on special occasions:
1. “Dimitrie Cantemir” Medal (from 1996)
2. “60 Years” Medal (on 2006)
3. ASM Diploma (from 2005)
4. Honorable ASM Diploma (from 1992)
5. ASM Academic worth Diploma (from 2009)
6. ASM Gratitude Diploma (from 1992)
**ASM runs the following programs:**
- Projects in the frame of the State Programs
- Institutional Projects
- Projects for Technological Transfer
- Projects for equipment procurement
- Projects for young researchers
- Common International projects

The Academy of Sciences framework is composed of University of ASM, ASM Lyceum, Center of Graduate, Post-Graduate Education and Advanced Training, the Center of International Projects, the Center of Information Resources and Networks, Center of Metrology and Automation of Scientific Researches, Agency for Innovation and Technological Transfer, National Fund for Science Support, Expert Consulting Council, Central Scientific Library, Central Scientific Archive, Publishing-Polygraph Enterprise “Stiinta”, Printing-House, Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, experimental enterprises and other scientific-technological structures.

On an annual basis, ASM awards prizes, as following:
1. Research of the year
2. Young research of the year
3. For outstanding scientific work
4. For outstanding scientific work of young researchers
5. **ASM “Archimedes” Award for Journalists**
6. Grigore Vieru Prize for outstanding achievement in romancing literature
7. Doctor Honorius Causa

**International Activities**

In international affairs, ASM has several essential objectives:
- To integrate into the European Research Area;
- To start and promote cooperation with similar institutions from abroad;
- To assist the access to research infrastructures from other countries;
- To participate in international grant projects and programmes;
- To represent Moldovan scientific community in international scientific organizations;
- To enhance international visibility of Moldovan scientific accomplishments;
- To take over successful practices in the R&D area.

The Academy of Sciences cooperates with:

1) **EECA-countries:**

- Russian Federation (The Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Russian Fund of Fundamental Research, the Russian Fund for Humanitarian Research),
- Belarus (the National Academy of Sciences, the State Committee for Science and Technologies of Belarusian Republic created on the basis of inter-governmental agreement between Republics of Belarus and Moldova regarding the cooperation in science and technology, and the Republican Fund of Fundamental Research),
- Ukraine (on 2nd December 2008, ASM has signed an agreement on scientific cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, which envisages the launch of a bilateral programme of grants in 2009; National Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Agricultural
Sciences – including a collaboration Convention between the Academy of Agricultural Sciences “Gheorghe Ionescu-Şişeşti” from Romania and the Academy of Agricultural Sciences from Ukraine, the Southern Scientific Center of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine),

- Azerbaijan (ASM has signed a scientific cooperation Agreement with the National Academy of Sciences in June 2007).

- On 14-15 October 2013, the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia has celebrated its 70 anniversary. During this event it was signed a scientific cooperation agreement between the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and Academy of Sciences of Armenia, which provides development, joint calls for research projects, internships for young researchers from signatory countries, experts exchange who will evaluate scientific projects and dissemination of their results.

- In 2013 the Government of Republic of Moldova has initiated the negotiation program with the Russian Government in humanitarian field for the years 2014-2016, which involves organizing international scientific conferences, the formation of a joint commission of historians, ethno-linguistic and ethnographic research, involving PhD students and young researchers in research centers in both countries.

2) EU-member states and associated countries:

In the EU/Moldova Action Plan, Chapter 2.6 “Transport, energy, Telecommunications, environment, and Research”, it was mentioned a Scientific cooperation between European Union and Republic of Moldova, during 2005 and 2008.

In March 2008 was signed a Memorandum of Intentions on scientific and technological cooperation between the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, on basis of which was announced an Open Call for collaborative research project proposals for a duration of 12 months, with a budget of up to € 35,000 each, shared between Germany (approximately 25,000€) and Moldova (approximately 10,000€), which will be implemented in 2009. 25 applications where received, out of which 10 were selected for financing.

On 23rd October 2008, between the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research was signed the Programme on bilateral cooperation in the field of scientific research, technological development and innovation, in the framework of which will be financially supported the following collaborative initiatives: projects, scientific seminars and summer schools.

Starting with the 1st of January 2012 Moldova is associated to the 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities. Thereby our country becomes the first country in the Eastern Partnership and the second one included in the European Neighborhood Policy, which has got the status of associated country to FP7. Possessing the status of associated country to FP7 the research groups from Moldova demonstrated a positive trend for participation in that program – from over 300 project proposals submitted, 58 have been supported by the EC in amount of 4.15 million EUR.

On 1st of July, 2014, Moldova signed the association agreement to H2020 research and innovation Programme. It will allow research and innovation entities from all five Western Balkan Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and Moldova to take advantage of the funding opportunities offered under Horizon 2020. Under the partnership agreement signed between the Government and ASM are over 40 scientific and technical cooperation agreements with similar institutions and international organizations.

3) Multilateral Cooperation

Cooperative activities are also carried out in the framework of the following organizations: Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), NATO Science for Peace and Security Committee, All
European Academies (ALLEA), Central European Initiative (CEI), International Union of Academies (UAI-IUA), the International Council for Science (ICSU), Central and Eastern European Networking Association (CEENet), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST), Scientific Co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland (SCOPES), UNESCO, International Association of Science Academies (MAAN), Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Science & Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) and cooperation in the framework of Organization for Democracy and Economic Development between Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova (GUAM).

Publications

ASM is running several regular publications.

- “Akademos” - the monthly publication issued by Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development, in Romanian, English, and Russian for national and international circulation;
- “Academica” – the ASM publication issued 1 or 2 years and reflect the role of the greatest Moldovan personalities in the development of science in Moldova and in the world.