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Ukrainian-German cooperation in basic research

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The State Fund for Fundamental Research of Ukraine (SFFR) is the only one state organization in Ukraine that provides grants for Ukrainian scientists on the competitive base. Since Fund establishment in 1991 more than 60 different competitions of initiative projects have been held both national and international. The Fund has received more than 25 thousands proposals and almost 6 thousands projects have been granted. Nearly 20 thousand publications, hundreds of monographs, tens of licenses and patents could be the confirmation of significant efficiency of the SFFR activity. For example, the last year, the budget of the Fund was 29 million UAH (about 3 m. euro). 257 projects were financed including: 6 joint projects with National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS); 7 joint projects with German Research Foundation (DFG); 5 joint projects with National Scientific Foundation (USA); projects of the joint competitions of the SFFR and the JSPS (Japan) - 10 projects; more than 150 (one hundred fifty) joint projects with Russian and Belarusian Funds for Fundamental Research. Among national projects first following projects could be mentioned: Key Laboratory of Molecular and Cell Biology; Key Laboratory of Physics of High Energy; Grants of the President of Ukraine for young researchers.

Scientific collaboration of scientists of Ukraine and Germany on the basis of Intergovernmental Agreements started in 1993. There were joint projects and conferences on priority scientific directions (nanotechnology, system of environment control, preservation of biodiversity within the framework of competitive activity of the SFFR. The SFFR collaborated with the Work Community of Industrial Research Associations «Otto von Guericke» in the field of technologies and innovations. Priority developments of scientific institutions of Ukraine were represented at the different exhibitions in Germany (for example «Laser technology, forum, Munich) in November 2009 there was signed» Letter of Intent on German-Ukrainian Academic Cooperation between DFG and the SFFR and in July 2010 there was announced continuous competition of the joint projects on 7 scientific directions with the grant support by each of the sides. Unfortunately, limited budget does not allow to increase both national and multilateral funding of research projects (the share of Fund budget for projects is less than 1% of R&D state financing), in 2014 SFFR has to make a temporary stop in financing the considerable number of joint projects including joint projects with DFG.

Among the most urgent Funds needs are:

- the increasing of Funds' funding;
- the renovation of SFFRs' personal index in State budget, which SFFR lost in 2011;
- the competitive projects of SFFR are still undergo the procedure, contrary to the part 3, paragraph 2 of the Law of Ukraine "About the public procurement realization". Solution ways:
 - a) The exclusion of competitive projects from the tender procedures
 - b) The raise of the tender bar to the 300 hundreds hryvnas' point.

Solving of these problems is the way of increasing the effectiveness of competition system in the basic research and intensification of international, in particular Ukrainian-German cooperation.