

Open problems faced by active scientists in Serbia and Montenegro

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Scientists in Serbia and Montenegro are faced with, from my point of view, three very important problems:

- The number of researchers is 15/10 000 employees,
- R&D input is around 0,3% GDP,
- The country does not have a strategy of scientific development.

In this situation we must give answers to two questions:

- What do we do?
- What we can or will do?

What do we do?

To change the situation summarized above is a long and hard process and mainly independent of scientists. In that situation ES local section in Serbia and Montenegro tries to act along the following lines:

- Participation in the initiative “ *La main a la pate*” (*Hands On*) that promotes a new pedagogy based on the behavior of scientists in their laboratories and the inborn curiosity of children. This pedagogy is very convenient for small and poorly equipped schools which we have so many. Up to now we have translated and published “*La main a la pâte*” and “*Grain de sciences 1*”. In very near future, before the end of this year, we will publish “*Grain de sciences 2*” and “*Enseigner les sciences a l’école*”. These books are very useful for primary school teachers.
- Face-to-face communication and debate about science in the frame of “Science Cafés” (“*50 Years of DNA Discovery*”; “*How, when and how many sciences in the primary school?*”...)

What we can or will do?

It is very easy to give many new propositions but it is very difficult to realize them. So let me to propose only those that are realizable:

- “Interregional exchange of Young Scientists in the Balkan in the frame of European Research and Education Area”,
- “Organization of Young Scientist’ Day, which could bring together young PhD students and young professors of sciences from primary and secondary schools in the Balkan”,

From my very recent experience it is very easy and not so expensive. On the Fifth General Conference of the Balkan Physical Union, August 2003, Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia and Montenegro, we brought together about 100 young physicists and young professors of physics from secondary schools. The UNESCO-ROSTE helped us with \$12 000.

Conclusion

We try to do our best in this, for us, very difficult situation and we are ready for any kind of collaboration with Romanian and Bulgarian Euroscience local sections.