

**SCIENCE AND EDUCATION POLICIES  
CONFERENCE**

**Chisinau, September 18-21, 2008**

The Academy of Sciences of Moldova, UNESCO Moscow Office and the Ministry of Education and Youth of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation, the Central European Initiative, the Moldovan Research and Development Association and the Office of Naval Research Global are organizing on **September 18-21, 2008** in Chisinau an International Conference on **SCIENCE AND EDUCATION POLICIES** for the Central and Eastern Europe, Balkans, Caucasus and Baltic States.

The conference will bring together key decision makers in national science and education policy from thirty Central and Eastern European countries: Presidents of the Academies of Sciences, Ministers of Science and Education, and representatives of international funding agencies and professional organizations. Independent experts from the European Commission and the United States of America will provide keynote speeches addressing each focus area. In addition to the speeches, discussion sessions related to each focus area will be held.

The Conference Sessions will focus on:

- **Strengthening research in higher education;**
- **Strengthening international impact of national research and education programs;**
- **Developing a knowledge-based economy;**
- **Stemming and reversing brain drain.**

More information on the website of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova: [www.asm.md](http://www.asm.md).

**KNOWLEDGE-BASED DIASPORA  
Fostering Cooperation within Moldovan  
Scientific Diaspora**

The Department of European Integration and International Cooperation of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova has launched the project “**Fostering Cooperation within Moldovan Scientific Diaspora**”. The project aims at setting up a platform for communication and interaction between Moldovan expatriate scientists and scholars and the scientific community from the Republic of Moldova, by establishing the **Moldovan Scientific Diaspora Network**.

The objectives of the network are to uphold and foster the communication / cooperation between Moldovan expatriate scientists and their home counterparts; to build up the means of supporting

and facilitating the engagement of Moldovan scientists abroad into the research and development processes of the Republic of Moldova; to support Moldovan research institutions to join international consortia and projects initiated by host institutions of emigrated Moldovan scientists.

All Moldovan expatriate scientists interested in the cooperation within **Moldovan Scientific Diaspora** and in the involvement and contribution to the development of the Moldovan research area are invited to fill in the questionnaire that can be found on the website [www.asm.md](http://www.asm.md) and to send it via mail to [intcol@asm.md](mailto:intcol@asm.md) or by fax to (+373 22) 270502.

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON  
SEISMIC HAZARD AND SEISMIC RISK  
REDUCTION IN COUNTRIES INFLUENCED  
BY VRANCEA EARTHQUAKES**

The workshop, organized in Chisinau (Moldova) on May 20, 2008, in the framework of the NATO research project SfP-980468, represented the final step of the research activities aimed at elaborating a joint seismic hazard map for the countries influenced by Vrancea earthquakes. Presentations made by researchers from the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey), the Academy of Sciences of Bulgaria, the Building Research Institute (Romania), the National Institute of Earth Physics (Romania), the Department of Earth Sciences (Trieste, Italy), the University of Karlsruhe (Germany) and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences covered different aspects of the Vrancea seismicity from geophysical, seismological and earthquake- engineering viewpoints. The complexity of the studies reflected the major problem in the seismic hazard evaluation for the given region – inconsistencies in the seismic catalogues and databases. These are the consequences of application of different scales, approaches and methods in different countries. Therefore, uniformization of the input data is of primary importance.

The workshop participants tackled the problem of seismic hazard from different perspectives – probabilistic and deterministic. The latter can be pure numerical or combination of the analytical and numerical methods. The impact of Vrancea earthquakes on existing or newly designed structures was also discussed in view of the adoption of Eurocode-8. In addition, the problem of cultural heritage protection was emphasized considering the pressure from real estate development in the countries involved in this project.

