

**Report on Activities in 2004**

**January 2004**

- Meeting of ADS board
- Ministry of Education published a proposal of new notice on stipends for PhD students. Stipends shall be increased for about 3000 – 4000 SKK per year (80 - 100 EUR) Today Slovak PhDs. receive approx. 200 EUR per month.
- Presentation in the Slovak radio – almost 3 hours on air discussion with the director of the Section for science and technology of the ministry of Education and deputy head of University of Žilina. Presentations of young Slovak researchers in Slovak radio shall be broadcasted every month during 2004 in order to improve the knowledge of results and working conditions of young scientist. This is a part of the State program for young scientists lead by UŽ. ADS submitted a list of proposed young scientists and PhD. students.
- Negotiations with the management of the Slovak university of technology (SUT) that is also included to the State program for young scientists. ADS shall participate at the evaluation of Slovak legislative that refers to young scientists.
- Elaboration of ADS standpoint to the payment of fees by Slovak students that shall include also PhD students. Communication of the standpoint to Slovak media
- ADS information campaign followed by marked growth in the number of new ADS members.

**February 2004**

- Negotiations with the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Education and doctoral students regarding the payment of taxes from the stipend of full time PhD students. A contradiction between two acts caused that in January many universities and all SAS PhD. students had to pay tax from their stipend
- February, 26: Ministry of Education informed ADS that the Ministry was about to send a regulation to universities and SAS. According to the regulation February stipends should be free of tax. Ministry of Education also informed that Ministry of Finance opposes the proposal of new notice on stipends for PhD students. Negotiations with universities and SAS should start next week.

**March 2004**

ADS actively participated at the annual conference of EURODOC 2004 in Athens, Greece: presentation of a report concerning ADS and its activities; involvement in the activities of the working groups (M. Plesch, G. Gregušová).

**April 2004**

ADS participated at the conference concerning improvement of university education in Liege, Belgium (M. Kupka).

**May 2004**

ADS translated the basic features of the PhD study systems in eight European countries by materials of EURODOC – for the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava use (G. Gregušová).

**June 2004**

A representative of ADS participated at the international workshop for the young lecturers of political science in Prague (G. Gregušová).

**July 2004**

ADS organized a meeting which has been centered on the future tasks of ADS (E. Dugasová, G. Gregušová).

**January – September 2004**

ADS negotiated with the Ministry of Education SR about an opportunity to increase PhD. stipends. After it, the ministry issued a decree where it accepted the proposal of ADS. The scholarship of the internal (full-time) PhD students increased from pretax SKK 7220 (beginning in November 2001) to untaxed SKK 14090 (after a dissertation examination and two years of study at least).

#### **16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

ADS participated at the workshop concerning the conditions of young Slovak scientists in Žilina (M. Kupka – coordinator, G. Gregušová – participant).

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> October 2004**

A seminar in Slovak Radio involved in course about the ways of presentation of the young scientists in media (J. Dudáček – organizer, G. Gregušová and some other PhD. students from various Slovak universities – participants).

#### **September – October 2004**

Two representatives of ADS prepared a paper concerning the Slovak PhD students and their problems which was designed for a volume published by Inštitút pre verejné otázky (IVO – Institute for Public Issues) “Slovensko 2004. Súhrnná správa o stave spoločnosti. (Slovakia 2004. A Global Report on the State of Society.)” (E. Dugasová, G. Gregušová)

#### **November 2004**

Some members of ADS prepared an article concerning the problems of young scientists for a weekly paper Domino Fórum (prof. Pišút, B. Tomášik, M. Plesch, G. Gregušová).

ADS was asked by prof. Mičieta (Žilina University) to elaborate a study concerning the conditions of the Slovak PhD. students and the foreign experience. However, ADS, by reason of lack of time which was provided by prof. Mičieta for a preparation of the study, had to decline the participation on the project of Žilina University (coordinated by prof. Mičieta)

an information campaign started which main goal was to report about ADS and to involve new members in the activities of ADS.

#### **November – December 2004**

ADS was asked by Dipl. Ing. Košút from the Institute of Materials SAS (Slovak Academy of Sciences) to elaborate a study concerning an issue how the young scientists are able to prove competent in engineering and electro technical firms. The study was prepared and submitted by E. Dugasová, Ž. Hanová, G. Gregušová and M. Plesch.

ADS negotiated also with doc. Polonský (Žilina University – field place Liptovský Mikuláš) about the participation of ADS in the project concerning the improvement of the Slovak PhD. students' accommodation conditions.

ADS prepared and submitted a project focused on training for young university teachers (G. Gregušová, I. Štefunko, M. Feliks, M. Plesch). Project shall be evaluated by the Ministry of Education and after the approval it shall be funded from the EU funds.

#### **Permanent activities of ADS**

- Information and advisory services for PhD students.
- Co-operation with EURODOC and other organizations.
- Involvement of PhD students from other workplaces.
- Actualization of a web site (Slovak and English version).

#### **Outline plan for 2005**

January: A meeting of ADS board – objectives and tasks setting

February: Participation at the conference co organized by EURODOC in Salzburg

March: Participation at the annual conference of EURODOC in Strasbourg

September: A paper for a collective volume of IVO, Organization of the next seminar in the Slovak Radio.

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