



**BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
INSTITUTE OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH**

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**SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE INSTITUTE OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH
(2011)**

Staff

The permanent staff of IBER-BAS includes 235 persons (at 31.12.2011):

- researchers – 135 persons (58% of the staff), including 46 senior researchers (12 professors and 34 associate professors); 6 staff members are DSc holders and 86 are PhD holders;
- technical staff members with university degrees (bachelors and masters) – 56 persons;
- technical staff members without university degrees – 23 persons;
- administrative and supporting staff – 21 persons.

The comparison between the age structure of IBER-BAS in 2010 and 2011 demonstrates that the average age of the research staff becomes lower. The proportion of the research staff members at age under 35 years is 28% of the total staff.

Projects

The research plan of 2011 includes 138 projects (versus 171 projects in 2010). These are:

- 59 projects funded by national funds, ministries and government organisations;
- 5 projects funded by the Operational Programmes of the EU Structural Funds;
- 18 projects funded by the budget of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences;
- 12 projects funded by Bulgarian enterprises and companies;
- 2 projects funded by international companies;
- 5 projects funded by the Seventh Framework Programme of EU;
- 23 projects funded by other European and/or international programmes and funds;
- 14 projects funded by grants for international cooperation in the frames of bilateral agreements of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Two new collaborative FP7 projects started in 2012 focussing on studies of the trophic relationships and modelling of the Black sea ecosystems, the human impact assessment and management of the protected areas along the Black sea coast.

The research capacity building is essential for enhancing the research potential of the staff and serve as a basis for further successful project competitions. During 2011, the staff of IBER-BAS implemented three capacity-building projects: “CEBDER – Development of Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research” funded by the National Science Fund of the Republic of Bulgaria; “WETLANET - Enhancing research potential by strengthening a local network of laboratories for studying wetland ecosystems functioning, restoration and management” funded by the program Capacities of FP7; a project funded by the Human Resources Development Operational Programme supporting PhD students, postdoctoral and young researchers.

Publication activity

Total number of scientific publications produced by the research staff of IBER-BAS is 370 (versus 325 in 2010), including 230 printed publications and 140 publications in press. These numbers exclude the nearly 900 articles written by researchers from IBER-BAS and included in the three volumes of the “*Red Data Book of the Republic of Bulgaria*” (the digital version is available online at <http://e-ecodb.bas.bg/rdb/en>).

The list of papers printed in 2011 includes:

- 98 publications in journals with IF (versus 68 papers for 2010);
- 31 publications in other scientific journals;
- 81 articles in co-authorship with foreign specialists;
- 14 monographs, books or book chapters; 8 of them are printed abroad, and 6 printed in Bulgaria;
- 20 popular science articles.

The comparison with the previous years reveals the tendency of increasing the number of publications in renowned scientific journals (cited in SCI and other academic reference databases). These publications are 62% of all published papers for 2011.

Recently, the General Assembly of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences adopted a new scheme of differential distribution of the annual subsidy among the institutes based on their research achievements. Therefore, the stimulation of the efforts of the research staff to increase their publication activity and their participation in national and international grants with external funding will become the core of the management policy of IBER-BAS.

Financial statement

The annual budgetary subsidy of IBER-BAS for 2011 was 1 599 858 BGN. Additional targeted funding of 46 742 BGN was received for promotional academic degree procedures, public defences of PhD theses and compensations. The financial balance at the end of 2011 is 1 646 600 BGN.

The expenses distribution is as follows:

- salaries and social insurances of the staff – 1 340 896 BGN;
- payments of compensations (prescribed by the Labour Code of the Republic of Bulgaria) – 40 968 BGN;
- academic degree procedures, public defences of PhD theses – 5 774 BGN.

The expenses for staff salaries in November and December (app. 150 000 BGN) as well as the expenditures for water supply, heating and electricity (140 262 BGN) were paid entirely by the income from the external funding of IBER-BAS (mainly by overheads expenses of grants).

The Institutes' own revenues for 2011 are 53 843 BGN received mainly from real estate rentals and projects overhead costs.