

BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIETY AND KNOWLEDGE

REPORT

OF ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Sofia,

January 2012

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1. SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM AREAS AT THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIETIES AND KNOWLEDGE

1.1. Review of the accomplishment of objectives and assessment of achieved results in relation to the Institute's mission and priorities, confirmed by the General Assembly of BAS at the time of structural changes in 2010.

The scientific activity of ISSK throughout the year was aimed at fulfilling the mission of the institute to develop philosophical, sociological, and science studies knowledge through fundamental and applied, theoretical and empirical, research, and to conduct educational, expert, and consultancy activities for the needs of governance and organization of all spheres of social practice in accordance with the needs of the social-economic and cultural development of the country, and with the development of science in the knowledge society.

The scientific researches conducted during the year were in accordance with the strategic goal of BAS, for the period 2009-2013, to promote the construction of a knowledge-based society. The research activity of the scholars of ISSK is in harmony with the fundamental tasks of BAS: maintaining a high quality of scientific work, interdisciplinarity of research, international competitiveness, and maintaining national self-confidence.

Researchers have made considerable efforts “to preserve and develop capacity in the area of fundamental researches as a basic catalyst of knowledge and a foundation for the development of applied research”. We are convinced that the expectation on the part of EU that Bulgaria will “build its base infrastructures, increase investments in human capital, and realize restructuring of the economy in order to enhance its competitive capacity” cannot be fulfilled without developing the social and human sciences, which not only “lead to the harmonious development of society in accordance with European values and quality of life” but fulfill important social functions with regard to ensuring the development of Bulgarian society and its full integration in a United Europe.

Thanks to the combined efforts of philosophers, sociologists, and science studies experts, the line of interdisciplinarity is being successfully followed in ISSK: scientists from other specialties and other scientific institutions have been engaged to take part in a number of projects, which has resulted in more comprehensive and in-depth analyses.

During the year, the scientists of ISSK have worked on 80 projects, of which 27 had external assignors; and 53, internal ones.

Thirty-eight projects were completed during the year.

1.2. Perspective for the development of the unit and priorities for the period 2013-2015.

PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1. Sustainable development of the Bulgarian economy and society under conditions of a global social-economic crisis

- **1.1. The scientific study of the social-economic preconditions for a knowledge society in Bulgaria: processes of internationalization and radical strengthening of science-education-innovations links.**
- **1.2. Reducing the social-economic and educational inequalities in Bulgarian society**
- **1.3. Generating new knowledge and forms of rationality.**

PRIORITY 2. Integration processes and national identity in the context of ethnic and religious diversity

PRIORITY 3. Social-economic cooperation with countries of the Danube region

In continuing work on the priorities formulated above, special attention should be focused on the field of stratification, mobility, poverty, exclusion, and social gender studies. Together with this, the **field of research** must be enlarged so as to embrace new problems in theory, and new problems of the modern social context and of Bulgarian society.

We should:

Achieve an optimal balance between **fundamental** and **applied research**;

Assert with increasing comprehensiveness the **interdisciplinary character** of the studies conducted by ISSK on man, society, and living nature, and on the cultural diversity of Europe and the world;

Concentrate our efforts towards **enhancing the quality** of scientific studies so as to make them match the high international quality standards; aim at publishing in authoritative international peer-reviewed and impact factor editions;

Maintain **active scientific life**;

Enlarge and deepen **international cooperation** in various forms – ISSK must achieve a generally fuller inclusion within the European and world scientific area; in addition to joint studies, we should aim our efforts at **importing and disseminating the achievements of world science in Bulgaria** (specifically, the department of logic envisages preparing and publishing an extensive reference book – a dictionary of terms and concepts of modern logic).

Staff growth: The future development of the Institute is inseparably linked with attracting young researchers. This is necessary for the normal reproduction of the scientific researcher staff but also for enhancing the capacity for inter-institutional cooperation at national and international level, and for ensuring a fresh new perspective on social processes.

It would also be useful to enhance, and engage more actively in the **training of cadres**, both as regards training of doctoral students and teaching activities in higher educational institutions.

The institute has the potential and capacity to expand its **consultancy and expertise activity** for state organs, and economic and other organizations.

1.3. Connection with policies and programmes of BAS

The scientific-research activity of ISSK is focused on problem areas constructed in accordance with scientific traditions, with modern developments in world science, and with the needs and problems of Bulgarian society. The main priority is **the study of social change, social innovations, and knowledge**. The scientific studies conducted by the institute are related to all the policies and programmes of BAS, as formulated in the Academy's strategy for development until the year 2013, but they are especially closely linked with Policy 1, Programme 1.1 "Economic development, social relations and structures in Bulgaria under conditions of world economy and civil society", Programme 1.2. "Sustainable development", Programme 1.4. "Human and scientific potential", Programme 2.3. "Quality of life and interdisciplinary studies", Programme 2.6. "Security of the state and society", Programme 3.3. "Value system of Bulgarian society". It is on these general topics that are centred both the fundamental and the applied studies of the Institute's scientific researchers. In accordance with the topics, the scholars of the Institute are working in the following basic research areas:

- Ontological and logical models: epistemological principles and approaches to their study;

- Interaction between the Bulgarian and European philosophical cultures;
- The universal essence of religion as a basis for interfaith dialogue;
- Structure and dynamics of scientific knowledge and the network of social factors of the development of science and innovation; modern forms of education;
- Social stratification and inequalities, poverty and exclusion, forms of social integration and solidarity;
- Ethnic and socio-cultural composition of Bulgarian society, gender, disability, and equal access;
- European integration and globalization;
- Processes in post-industrial and globalized knowledge-based societies;
- Models and policies for successful development;
- Regional and local development, ecological practices, and new social risks;
- Development of civil society: social activity, social capital and trust;
- Socio-cultural conditions conducive to crime and corruption.

1.4. Activities conducted in connection with 1.3.

The concrete activities of researchers from ISSK intersect with each of the three basic policies of BAS: “Science as the main motive force for development of the national science-based economy and society” (Policy 1); “Scientific potential and research infrastructure as part of the European Research Area” (Policy 2); and “National identity and cultural diversity in Europe and the world” (Policy 3).

The development of theoretical knowledge achieved through the Institute’s projects contributes to the formation and development of the “Value System of Bulgarian Society”, which is Programme 3.3 of Policy 1. On the other hand, the results of many of the projects are closely connected with interdisciplinary studies of mankind and living nature, because an integral philosophical approach to both spheres has been maintained, contrary to the traditional theories about the separateness of mind and matter; this approach contributes to the realization of Programme 2.3 of BAS Policy 2. One of our current projects represents a direct response to Programme 1.5 “Informational, expert, and operative servicing of the Bulgarian state and society”, and to Programme 1.6 “Quality and competitive education” of Policy 1. The training of doctoral students and their integration into the professional life of scientists is part of the implementation of Programme 1.4 “Human and scientific potential for a knowledge-based economy and society” from Policy 1. As is likewise the development of the Institute’s staff potential. Also contributing to a large degree to the implementation of the

BAS programmes are the expert assessments carried out by our researchers, their social assessments, practically-oriented proposals, conferences, seminars, trainings, etc.

1.5. Usefulness/impact on society of activities conducted under 1.4.

The theoretical conclusions resulting from the research conducted by scholars of ISSK can be useful in the following ways:

- For making various expert analyses for the needs of government organs at various levels, including the legislative and executive organs;
- For preparing lecture courses for higher schools in our country, mainly those in master's and PhD programmes in the humanities;
- In the sphere of Bulgarian human sciences, for the needs of researchers in relevant fields;
- For transmitting scientific knowledge to a broad audience through the media.

Together with this, a number of applied studies have been accomplished, as a result of which, concrete recommendations have been made.

1.6. Mutual relations with institutions

Researchers from ISSK have been systematically assisting the activities of a number of government institutions. In the past year, these scholars were engaged as members of work groups, as experts, and as consultants of state and public-administrative organs in all fields and at all levels: national level (the Council of Ministers, the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Interior, the Chief Prosecutor's Office, the National Commission for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings at the Council of Ministers), regional and local levels; they were also engaged in projects of nation-wide significance.

Some particularly significant examples of such activity are the following:

1. *Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. M. Zhelyazkova, cooperation with the European Parliament;*
2. *Prof. DSc D. Minev and Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. M. Zhelyazkova – cooperation with EU institutions – with the European anti-poverty network and the EC;*
3. *Prof. DSc. Galin Gornev – member of the Standing Committee of the European Science Foundation; Rapporteur of the European Science Foundation ;*
4. *Prof. DSc Tanya Nedelcheva – member of the Standing Committee on Social and Legal Sciences and National Security at the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency, Council of Ministers;*
5. *Prof. DSc Pepka Boyadjieva – President of the Commission elaborating “Criteria and Indicators for Evaluating the Scientific-Research Activity of the Basic Units of Higher Schools and Scientific Institutes”, attached to the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Science;*
6. *Assoc. Prof. DSc Rumyana Stoilova and Assoc. Prof. Dr Mariana Draganova – National Council on Gender Equality at the Council of Ministers;*
7. *Prof. DSc Valentina Zlatanova and Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Markova – member of the Inter-institutional Working Group on Demographic Issues at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;*
8. *Prof. DSc Svetlana Seykova – member of the Expert Board on the Population Census of Bulgaria at the National Statistical Institute – preparation of census materials;*
9. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Chengelova – member of the National Statistical Council;*
10. *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefan Penov – cooperation with the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Science;*
11. *Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Zhasmina Donkova – participation in the Religious Confessions Directorate of the Council of Ministers;*
12. *Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Georgi Petrunov – participation in the Permanent Expert Working Group of the National Commission for Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings at the Council of Ministers;*

13. *Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Todor Galev – participation in the Working Group at the Board of Advisors on Issues of Communications, Information Technologies, and E-Government at the Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies, and Communications;*
14. *Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Vyara Gancheva – chairperson of the Education Commission at the Sofia Municipality’s Public Council for the Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion;*
15. *Chief Asst. Prof. Dr Lilia Sazonova – conducts training courses for government administration staff on the topic “Integrated Gender Approach” (Gender Mainstreaming).*

1.7. National-scale and operative activities serving the state.

Projects connected with national-scale and operative activities serving the state and society, funded by national institutions

Within the Institute, or as members of groups in other institutions, researchers from ISSK have worked on a number of projects that directly serve or assist the activity of government organs.

Some of the more important of these projects are:

1. The project “The Population of Bulgaria at the Beginning of the 21st Century: Condition and Trends”, under the leadership of Corr. Member Prof. DSc Atanas Atanasov. It is being conducted jointly with researchers from the Institute for Population and Human Studies. Participants from ISSK are Prof. DSc S. Seykova, Assoc. Prof. Dr. E. Chengelova, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Ivkov. The project is financed through the budget.
2. The project “Investigation of the Possibilities for Fuller Assimilation and More Effective Use of European Funds Resources – ESF, ERDF, and CF”, headed by Prof. DSc Duhomir Minev. It is financed through the budget.
3. The project “Restricting and Preventing the Informal Economy” under Operative Programme Human Resource Development at the Industrial Capital Association; Assoc. Prof. DSc Karamfil Manolov is a participant from ISSK.

2. RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

During the year, researchers from ISSK have worked on 80 projects, 26 of which were funded from external sources.

Projects financed by national funds, under contracts with ministries and other institutions – 12.

Projects financed under Structural Funds Operative Programmes – 1.

Projects funded by national (Bulgarian) firms – 0.

- Projects under contracts internal to the institution (funded through the budget subsidy) – 53.
- Projects funded by international (foreign) firms – 0.
- Projects funded by EU Framework Programmes for Research and Development – 3.
- Projects conducted through international cooperation in the framework of inter-academic contracts and agreements (equivalent academic exchange) – 8.
- Projects funded by other European and international programmes and funds – 3.
- Concluded – 38 projects.

14 conferences and seminars were organized during last year

1. Discussion on process philosophy (co-organized by the Department of Philosophy at the Philosophical Faculty of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski), 26.01.2011.
2. Seminar on “Deviances in Social Behaviour”, 22.03.2011.
3. Concluding conference under the European research programme TransEurope, financed by the European Science Foundation, 20-21.05.2011.
4. Scientific conference “Rural Life and Education”, co-organized by BSA and ASB, 07.06.2011.
5. First International Conference “Education, Science, Innovations” of the European Polytechnic Institute, June 9, 2011, Pernik (co-organized by ISSK).
6. International scientific conference “Dynamics of World Religions and the Significance of Orthodoxicalness”, 29.06.2011.
7. National conference “National Identity: the Contemporary Social Context and Ethical Frameworks” – 15.07.2011.
8. Bulgarian-Russian Round Table “Do Classes and Class Conflicts Still Exist?“, 04.10.2011.
9. Conference “Boundaries: Philosophical and Political Interpretations”, 21.10.2011.
10. Conference “Ethics in Bulgarian Science” (co-organizer UNWE), 4-5.11.2011.

11. Conference “Islam in a Multicultural Context”, 21.11.2011.
12. Conference “Humanism-Science-Religion”, 25-27.11.2011, Varshets.
13. Conference “Contemporary Logic: Approaches, Ideas, and Perspectives”, 14 – 15.12.2011.

2.1. Most important and outstanding scientific achievement.

Ethnicity and National Identity

The project gives a complex explanation of the character and specificities of present-day mutual relations between the ethnic communities of Bulgarians, Turks, and Roma, as well as those between the religious communities of Christians and Muslims. The new religious movements are analyzed. Theoretical models, policies, and approaches for prevention of ethnic conflicts are proposed. The need for an integral cultural framework is grounded, which would combine Bulgarian national identity with the European cultural identity, while preserving the cultural specificity of the ethnic communities in Bulgarian society. The project provides a characterization of multicultural differences, values, and intercultural discourse in a European context. It achieves a deeper understanding of the cultural continuity in the context of political trends in Europe and our country.

T. Nedelcheva, E. Marinova (eds.) Collection of articles “National Identity: the Contemporary Social Context and Ethical Frameworks”, 2011. Sofia: Faber, 356 p. IISBN 978-954-400-473-6

Tilkidjiev, N., Milenkova, V., Nedelcheva, T., Hristova, S., Petkova, K., Mileva, N., The Successful Roma, 2011. Sofia: Iztok-Zapad Publishers

Lazarova, E. (ed.) The Golden Fund of Bulgarian Science, 2011. Sofia.

Penov, S. (ed.) Dynamics of World Religions and the Significance of Orthodoxicalness. Humanis Publishers, 2011.

Projects

Philosophical Discourses on Bulgarian National Identity. Latyo Latev. Team members: A. Stoynev, N. Dimitrova, T. Batuleva, E. Petrova, K. Zhabilova.

Religious and Geostrategic Paradigms and the Future of Orthodoxy in the EU. S. Penov.

Dynamics of World Religions and the Significance of Orthodoxicalness. S. Penov.

Value Commitments and Conflicts in Present-day Bulgarian Society (A Study Based on Biographical Investigations of Ethnic Identity and Religious Values). T. Karamelska.

A Co-existence Model in the Central and Eastern Rhodope Region. B. Todorova.

Religious and Ethnic Models in the Processes of Globalization and Regionalization, and Their Impact on National Security. B. Todorova.

Multicultural Differences, Values, and Intercultural Discourse in the European Context. I. Raynova, T. Batuleva.

Conferences

1. “Dynamics of World Religions and the Significance of Orthodoxicalness”, 29.06.2011, international.
2. “National Identity: the Contemporary Social Context and Ethical Frameworks” – 15.07.2011, national.
3. “Islam in a Multicultural Context”, 21.11.2011.
4. “Humanism-Science-Religion”, national, 25-27.11. 2011.

2.2. Most important and outstanding scientific-applied achievement

Dynamics of Social Inequalities

The project has assessed the basic factors of inequalities in society: education, income, age, health status, gender. A diagnosis has been made of lifelong learning in our country. It has been established that the growth of income inequalities and material status

inequalities has become a central aspect of public policies in Bulgaria. It has also been found that the income structure of households of disabled persons leads to drastic self-restriction. By means of comparative analysis in the static and dynamic aspect, the characteristics of network interaction relevant to mutual aid across generations have been assessed.

Publications: collections and monographs

Prodanov, V. (ed.). Inequality and Poverty. Trends in Contemporary Bulgaria and the European Context, 2011; 13 authors from ISSK.

Atanasov, A., S. Seykova, E. Chengelova, B. Ivkov, et al. The Population of Bulgaria at the Start of the 21st Century. Condition and Trends, 2011, Sofia: Academic Publishers Prof. Marin Drinov, 491 p. Three authors from ISSK.

Minev, D. The Crisis of Public Policies in the Developed Countries, 2011, Troyan. (monograph).

3. INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

Researchers from ISSK work in partnership with colleagues from a number of foreign universities and research centres, and with international organizations. They have professional contacts with scholars from authoritative research centres in countries of Western, Central, and Eastern Europe, Russia, US, Canada, Japan, China, Australia, etc. In view of the EU policy for engaging the Western Balkans in the European Research Area, special attention is given to contacts and cooperation with universities and research centres in this region.

ISSK has proven to be a sought-after partner: during the past year, special interest was displayed by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and a meeting with Korean scientists was organized, at which our researchers shared their experience in the study and management of social macro transformation.

During the year (on 23.02.2011) a meeting-discussion was held in connection with the forthcoming collaboration with Prof. Brigitte Steinmann, who is in charge of international cooperation at the University of Lille, France.

Prof. Hans-Peter Blossfeld, from Germany, was awarded the badge of honour of ISSK (May 2011).

An agreement for cultural and scientific exchange was concluded between ISSK, the Bulgarian National Institute with Museum, and the Ikuo Hirayama Foundation.

3.1. In the framework of contracts and agreements at BAS level

The following projects are being conducted in ISSK under the equivalent academic exchange system:

1. “Logic and Its Relations with Cognitive Sciences, Linguistics, and Computer Sciences” – with **Poland**, head of project: Prof. DSc M. Tabakov, 2009–2011.
2. “Social-philosophical Problems of Ensuring Social Safety of Interaction Between State, Business, and Civil Society in Contemporary Europe and Russia” – with **Russia**, head of project: Prof. DSc V. Prodanov, 2009-2011.
3. “Socio-cultural and Institutional Problems of Cooperation Between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova” (2009–2011) – with **Moldova**, head of project: Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Lichev.
4. “Overcoming the Contrast Between Continental and Analytic Philosophy Through Process Philosophy” – with **Belgium**, head of project: Assoc. Prof. DSc V. Petrov 01.01.2011–2013.
5. “Selected Problems of Ontology and Epistemology in the Light of the Analytic and Continental Philosophical Traditions” – with **Slovakia**, 01.01.2012–31.12.2014, head of project: Assoc. Prof. DSc V. Petrov.
6. “Transformation of the Social Sciences in Knowledge-Based Societies” – with **Poland**, 2009–2011, head of project: Chief Asst. Prof. Dr I. Ivanova.
7. “Trust and Integration: A Comparison Between Bulgaria and Czech Republic” – with **Czech Republic**, 01.01.2011–31.12.2013, head of project: Assoc. Prof. Dr. D. Kostova.
8. “Ethical Decision-making in Situations of Biotechnological Risk”– with **USA**, 2011–2014, head of project: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stanka Hristova.

3.2. In the framework of contracts and agreements at Institute level

Work is being done in ISSK on the following projects:

Under Sixth and Seventh Framework Programme of the EU:

1. “Towards a Lifelong Learning Society in Europe: the Contribution of the Education System” (LLL 2010) – completed, 6FP; head of the Bulgarian team: Prof. DSc Pepka Boyadjieva.
2. “Work and Life Quality in New and Growing Jobs” (WALQING) ongoing 7 FP; head of the Bulgarian team: Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kirov.
3. “Evolution of European Identity: Using Biographical Methods for Studying the Development of the European Identity”/ Euroidentities, 7 FP, ongoing; coordinator: Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Romyana Zheleva, Assoc. Prof. Mariana Draganova.

In addition to these three projects, individual researchers are taking part in other international projects under the EU Framework Programme, or in projects of other international scientific institutions under contracts to which ISSK is not a party.

It can be said in general that the Institute is taking successful steps towards integrating its work with European studies in the field of the social sciences. Work is being done under other international programmes as well. Each of these projects is devoted to some social and scientific problem important for Bulgaria and Europe. In the course of work our researchers conduct fruitful cooperation and build enduring and useful professional contacts with researchers working in the field of sociology and in other disciplinary areas of the social sciences.

Researchers from ISSK have taken part with 85 papers in international scientific forums.

Ten foreign scholars from 9 countries (Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Finland, Poland, Switzerland, UK) have been guests of the Institute.

Particularly important are the following internationally funded projects, carried out under Sixth and Seventh Framework Programme of the EU.

1. **“Towards a Lifelong Learning Society in Europe: The Contribution of the Education System” (LLL 2010)**, funded under 6FP, head of project: Prof. DSc Pepka Boyadjieva.

A relatively comprehensive sociological conception has been elaborated regarding the nature of lifelong learning (LLL); its specific characteristics have been deduced from the system-structural characteristics of societies of late modernity. A diagnosis has been made of the development of LLL in our country and the thesis has been demonstrated that the economic and social perspectives are the leading factors in the national LLL policies and practice; the importance of LLL for the overall formation of the individual and for the development of civil society has proven to be underestimated. Obstacles to the development of LLL are identified, and models are highlighted of firm strategies that stimulate inclusion of staff in continuing education. Concrete policies at national and institutional level are formulated and proposed, as regards the developing of LLL as a predominant educational strategy in our country.

The main results of the project have been presented in a monograph, published in English, entitled *The LLL Hybrid: Policy, Institutions and Learners in Lifelong Learning in Bulgaria* (Sofia, Iztok-Zapad Publishers), and in two articles accepted for publication in peer-reviewed international journals.

4. 2. “Work and Life Quality in New and Growing Jobs” (WALQING), Seventh FP, Contract N 244597, December 1, 2009 – November 30, 2012; head of the Bulgarian team: Chief Asst. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kirov.

The project makes a contribution to the study of social dialogue in the sector in Europe, and of the role of stakeholders for improving the quality of labour.

3. “Evolution of the European Identity: Using Biographical Methods for Studying the Development of the European Identity”/Euroidentities, 01.03. 2008–28.02.2011.

The project studies the formation, evolution, and significance of the European identity, or identities, using the bottom-up approach for obtaining knowledge about individuals; the modern sociological method of biographical interview and biographical analysis is applied. The biographical stories fall under five specially selected social groups undergoing influence from the European Union: 1) persons working within the EU; 2) “educationally mobile persons” (who have used international exchange programmes for obtaining their education); 3) farmers; 4) individuals who serve as channels of long-term cultural exchange, people who work or have country houses in neighbouring countries, etc.); 5) activists of civic organizations. Various factors are revealed which encourage or slow down the identification

of persons with Europe and the European community. Various life strategies and trajectories have been identified, through which the individuals life course passes, and in which are interwoven in different ways the various images of Europe, attitudes, evaluations, opinions, criticisms regarding various spheres of European policy, including the economic, social, educational, civic, etc.

The following researchers from ISSK are assessors of projects under various EU programmes:

Prof. DSc Pepka Boyadjieva;

Prof. DSc Krastina Petkova;

Prof. DSc Valentina Zlatanova;

Assoc. Prof. DSc Romyana Stoilova;

Chief Asst. Prof. Dr Ekaterina Markova;

Chief Asst. Prof. Dr Vasil Kirov.

4. PARTICIPATION IN THE TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS

By January 1, 2011, 23 post-graduate students were studying in ISSK, 16 of them as regular students, and 7 on an independent basis. Four new regular students and one extra-mural student were enrolled during the year. By the end of last year, the number of doctoral students in all three forms of study was 23.

During the year one doctoral student, Aneta Sakalova, successfully defended her dissertation and received the PhD degree.

One scholar, Chief Asst. Prof. Dr Mariana Bakalova, successfully defended her second PhD thesis in the Central European University in Budapest.

A serious contribution to the training of cadres was made under the project ***“Enhancing Skills and Qualification of the Young Scientist: a Prerequisite for Professional Realization in Borderline Fields Between Science and Practice”***. In the framework of this project, as a result of teaching activities and joint work by young scientists and the specialists from the teaching units, the following results were achieved:

Four new products were created with the participation of 9 young researchers;

Four young researchers made proposals for perfecting 3 technological processes in the teaching units;

Two joint projects were submitted for targeted funding;

Two projects won funding from the National Scientific Research Fund in the “Young Scientists” competition.

Seventy percent of the young scholars have continued their joint work with specialists from the firms and NGOs in which their individual training was conducted.

Researchers from ISSK have been active in the teaching of students. They have taught in 16 different higher education institutions: Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, UACG, the Musical Academy, Plovdiv University Paisi Hilendarski, the University of Veliko Tarnovo, SULSIT, UNWE, the National Art Academy, New Bulgarian University, Southwest University, Varna Free University, Burgas Free University, the Higher Islamic Institute, the College of Management, Trade, and Marketing, the College of Economics and Administration.

During the past year, 33 of our researchers have given lecture courses and taught seminars. A total of 98 lecture courses have been given (amounting to 2531 lecture hours and 597 seminar hours).

Two scholars gave lectures in foreign countries:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivanka Raynova: lecture courses on “Philosophischer Lese- und Diskussionskreis” and “Wertekompetenz” in VHS Meidling, Vienna; and lecture courses “Auf der Suche nach dem Sinn”, “Einführung in die Philosophie” in VHS Landstrae, Vienna.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Koleva: a lecture course on “Classes, Stratification, and Social Inequalities” at the Department of Sociology in the University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada; and a lecture course on “History of Russia and Eastern Europe: Sociological Aspects” at the Department of Social Sciences, University of Quebec, Outaouais, Hull, Canada.

Scholars from ISSK were scientific advisors of 12 doctoral students.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Koleva was methodological advisor for the research project of Remo Glaus, master’s student from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, who is on a 5-month training course under the Erasmus Programme at the Chair of Sociology of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

All colleagues from our Institute, especially those teaching in higher schools, should actively recruit and motivate young people with a potential for scientific research to apply for post-graduate studies or for work as young researchers. This is all the more necessary as quite a few people on the scientific staff will retire in the next few years. Finding incentives for young people to enter doctoral programmes would ensure visibility for the Institute in society and would lead to significant scientific products.

Overall, the large potential of the scholars of ISSK to train students, graduates and post-graduate students could develop even more intensely.

5. CONDITIONS AND PROBLEMS IN PUBLISHING AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

The publication activity of ISSK staff members was quite intense during the year 2011.

Our colleagues have had 58 publications in peer-reviewed and indexed editions, 5 of which (2 in the press) in impact-factor or impact-rank editions. Publications in non-reviewed and non-indexed editions were 105 in journals and 265 in books and collections. Scholars from the Institute have published or taken part in 38 monographs and 79 textbooks, study aids, publicist and popular-science works.

ISSJ has three periodic journals.

The journal **Philosophical Alternatives** published 6 issues in 2011, containing a total of 85 articles, including 12 translated ones by classical or reputed contemporary philosophers from Europe and US. The journal has been a place for promoting the ideas and theses, research projects, and monographs of the already established generation of Bulgarian philosophers and scholars in the human sciences, and also for initiating and developing the writing activity of a large part of our young generation of philosophers. The main rubrics in each of the 6 annual issues were devoted to: *classical and contemporary philosophical problems* – knowledge, concept, science, values, imagination, religion. *Philosophical interpretations of topical social themes and problems* have also had a visible presence. Another important line of topics is related to *philosophical reflection on themes such as the future of social sciences in Bulgaria, academic capitalism, professionalism as a humanism, etc.* The journal **is part of the global information network and Internet: it is indexed** by EBSCO, *The Philosopher's Index*, CEEOL.

The journal **Sociological Problems** published three regular double thematic issues and one special issue in 2011. In the rubric *Reviews and Comments* fourteen books were reviewed, and in *New Books* 31 titles of newly published books were presented. Doctoral students were provided space for debut publications. The international popularity of the journal is maintained by the traditional subscription form of dissemination, and also by continuing collaboration with the Central European online library (www.ceeol.com), which contains all back issues from 1991 to 2011.

The **Balkan Journal of Philosophy** has been coming out for the third consecutive year; it has affirmed itself as an international academic journal that fills a free niche on the market of European journals. It regularly maintains and renews its own web-site,

<http://www.issk-bas.org/BJP/index.htm>, and is disseminated both in paper copies and in the Frankfurt on-line library www.cceol.com; it is indexed by *The Philosopher's Index*. The excellent cooperation between this journal and the editorial boards of journals in other Balkan countries is continuing. There is also very good interaction between its Bulgarian editorial board and representatives of Sofia University and New Bulgarian University. In 2011 the journal published two issues. It has become an established practice to publish discussion articles in a special rubric devoted to debates.

It is very satisfying that during the past year the institute won funding for the publication of 4 books and 2 journals (*Sociological Problems* and *Balkan Journal of Philosophy*) from the National Scientific Research Fund.