

2009 թվականի մարտի 17-ին Վրաստանի մայրաքաղաք Թբիլիսիում տեղի ունեցավ Սեւծովյան համագործակցության նախագծի (Black Sea Interconnection, BSI) ենթակառուցվածքի բացումը, որին մասնակցելու համար Հայաստանից մեկնել էին ՀՀ ԿԳՆ գիտության պետական կոմիտեի նախագահ Սամվել Հարությունյանը, ՀՀ ԳԱԱ ներկայացուցիչներ:

Ստորև ներկայացվում է Ս. Հարությունյանի ելույթը Սեւծովյան համագործակցության նախագծի ենթակառուցվածքի բացման արարողությանը:

## REPORT

### on the Role of BSI Projects in Armenia for Enlarging Scope of Scientific Collaboration and Bringing in New Technologies

*Statement by Markku Markkula, expert of UNESCO,  
Chairman of EuroPACE: "Armenia has excellent  
opportunities to become an important player in the global  
science, technology and innovation (STI) community – it is time  
to plan in detail and to implement well-targeted specific actions"*

At the European level the Lisbon Strategy documented in 2000 set the target of making the EU the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economic area in the world by 2010. One of the targets of the Lisbon strategy is to mobilize research and researcher training of the highest standard with a view to raising scientific and technological performance and, as well as, the industrial and economic competitiveness of the continent to the world top. The internationalization of science and technology has recently been influenced by growing cooperation due to the enlargement of the EU, the European Research Area (ERA), the Seventh EU Framework Programme and the establishment of the BSI. At the same time, the BSI member states trying to increase their national research activities by stepping up international cooperation. More collaboration, as well as healthy competition, is needed in European research. This is a critical question to be answered not only by the European development, but development more generally in the global sense. And Armenia is highly involved in strengthening collaborative links with scientific and educational centers both in our region and in Europe.

By the resolution of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, entered into force in the year 2000, information and communication sectors have been accepted as important factors for boosting Armenian economy. Further, realizing the urgent need for the formation of a well-informed society the Armenian Government's decision "Conception on Improvements in Science Sector in the Republic of Armenia" in July 2007 set several clear targets for action. The primary objective of improvements is the creation of knowledge-based economy and in this process strong State leadership is needed. These are the main preconditions for the Government of the Republic of Armenia to attach a specific importance to BSI projects and co-finance them in its territory. The Prime-minister of the Republic of Armenia highlighted the significant role of BSI projects, stating that the efforts of our researchers and students were hindered because of the difficulties emerged from the

lack of high-speed network systems, a factor that is most essential for Europe. Now that the preconditions of international networking are in place, it is essential to make the required decisions and commit to a persistent STI policy program which will help implement a significant strengthening of funding as well as the needed structural and functional reforms. With this respect, BSI projects will provide infrastructure that will enable the exchange of knowledge, enhancing of scientific collaboration and introduction of new technologies in Armenia.

A clear evidence of the importance of BSI projects is that a great number of scientific and educational establishments will become the immediate users: let me mention the scientific institutions of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, with 3000 research staff, establishments of higher education (like Yerevan State University, Yerevan State Engineering University) as well as institutions located outside Yerevan (Gyumri, Vanadzor, Byurakan, Ashtarak).

Now, I can strongly ensure that due to the efforts of specialists of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia and other concerned parties the project is being successfully realized in Armenia.

Moreover, BSI projects are expected to have their positive impact in furthering our efforts directed towards establishing GRID medium in our region. Particularly, SEE GRID SCI project and some other projects realized on the part of ISTC are to be underlined in terms of establishing GRID infrastructure, which are aimed at settling regional problems of strategic importance. Sufficient basic funding together with effective decision making and implementation structures are only prerequisites for the effective national information system and the Government of Armenia in its turn makes all efforts to support the National Grid Initiative. A great number of specialists will gain access to GEANT networks and the chances of accomplishing significant outcomes provided by BSI are absolutely realistic. This will help us to take care of the development of new growth fields, research based innovations and innovation environments. The effectiveness, however, derives more from the strong national commitment of all major actors to the development measures, STI activities themselves and the long-term policy needed.

Thus, our intention is to be supportive of all the joint activities, as I strongly believe that our access to European and global networks will result in promoting this project by reinforcing close links with scientific societies abroad. We owe special thanks to the EU initiative for taking care of all the practical arrangements for involving and financing BSI projects in Armenia to help achieve this Mission.

Thank you for attention!