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Revision 1

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Participation of the partners-universities and contribution of the regional seminars to the sociological survey

In the survey the different regions participated with filled response cards:

- Sofia (Sofia University ‘St. Kliment Ohridski’, University of National and World Economy, Bulgarian Academy of sciences, Technical University and New Bulgarian University) : in total 89 researchers;
- Plovdiv (Plovdiv University and Agricultural University): 24 researchers in total;
- Varna (Technical University Varna, Institute for aquacultures and Varna Free University): 35 researchers in total;
- Rousse (Rousse University): 22 researchers in total;
- Stara Zagora (Trakia University): 23 researchers;
- Bourgas (Bourgas Free University and University “Prof. Assen Zlatarov”): 27 researchers in total;

The total number of participants is 220 researchers

At the regional seminars participated in average 30-40 participants – researchers, academic managers, doctoral students, representatives of local authorities, etc., who took actively part in the discussion of the intermediate results of the sociological survey. The conclusions and summaries of the survey were practically checked and confirmed during the round-table discussions at the seminars in Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Varna and Rousse. The dominating part of the researchers – old and young – considered as basic problems of the Bulgarian science the following:

- lack of responsible and stimulating national policy regarding the development of research and scientific studies in Bulgaria;
- outdated and not properly maintained infrastructure in the research institutions (especially in the state-owned higher education);
- low salaries of researchers and lack of serious stimulus for young researchers;
- outdated law on scientific degrees and ranks, which requires too big centralisation of the procedures for allocation of degrees and delays the career development of Bulgarian researchers;

- low level of language education of the researchers in Bulgaria, and not sufficient activity for application, which is a serious barrier to their mobility under different programs;
- not sufficient scientific infrastructure, which prevents young researchers to find after finishing their PhD an appropriate job, especially in the country;
- lack of interest of the business representatives in Bulgaria for collaboration with the research establishments in a common research.