



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa
Gefördert durch Deutschland
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
Sponsored by Germany



PREFACE

The Federal Government of Germany took up the initiative to create the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SEE) in 1999, as an innovative instrument in the field of peacekeeping and crisis prevention. It was, from the very beginning, a key component in Germany's foreign policy and the Stability Pact has since then contributed decisively to the process of peacemaking and reconciliation in South Eastern Europe as well as to the region's reconstruction and convergence towards the Euro-Atlantic structures. In the year 2000 was established the program "Academic Development in South Eastern Europe". Thanks to the support of the German Foreign Office its overall budget to date amounts approx. 19 Mio €.

With its Special Programme "Academic Restoration in South Eastern Europe", the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) very quickly and with great dedication reacted to the challenges which face Germany's foreign cultural and education policy in the South Eastern European area. Now we can look back on six years of intensive work. German universities foster 39 networking projects in SEE. Universities from different SEE countries or regions are involved in each project. With more than 23 international partnership projects only in engineering and natural sciences, involving a total of 160 and more institutions from Germany and particularly South Eastern Europe, the DAAD funds and promotes sustainable improvements to the quality of education and training provided at universities in the region and the establishment of regional teaching and research cooperation. Thus, it contributes excellently to the goals of the Stability Pact.

Together the partners have developed joint teaching modules and courses, qualified young scientists according to international standards and set up regional teaching and research centres in subjects with special relevance for the infrastructure development, such as engineering and computer sciences, law, economy, agronomy, health etc. In 2005 alone some 1.000 students and faculty from SEE went to neighbouring countries to teach, study, research and to design new teaching modules and curricula.

Since August 2000 one of those partnership projects was established successfully under the leadership of Ilmenau University of Technology. After starting the collaboration between the Universities of Niš, the Technical University of Sofia and the University of Technology Ilmenau, the partnership could be further extended. In 2003 was included the University of Banja Luka, and with the prolongation of the Special Programme for 2004 to 2005 we could welcome the University of Skopje, the University of Tirana and the University of Kragujevac (Technical faculty of Čačak), as new partners in our network of collaboration, the Joint Project "Electrical Engineering".

A main aspect of our Joint Project is the dedication to the academic qualification of students in South Eastern Europe. Therefore, it was initiated the Summer school "*Modern Aspects of Theoretical Electrical Engineering*" which was held twice, in 2001 and 2002, at Sozopol, Bulgaria, organized by the Technical University of Sofia. An International PhD-Seminar was first time organized in September 2004. The seminar was entitled with "*Computation of Electromagnetic Fields*" and was held in Budva, Montenegro, organized by the University of Niš. In September 2005 the 2nd International PhD-Seminar took place at Ohrid, Macedonia. It was organized by the University of Skopje and was devoted to problems of "*Numerical Field Computation and Optimization in Electrical Engineering*".

For this year we have planned the 3rd International PhD-Seminar, which will focus on modern aspects of “*Computational Electromagnetics and Technical Applications*”. With about 27 participants from six countries and six invited speakers, experts in this field and coming from five countries, we are sure to have an interesting workshop. It will take place from August 28 through September 1, 2006 at University of Banja Luka, Bosnia & Hercegovina. We are sure that we will have a lot of fruitful scientific discussions at the workshop but also some time to enjoy the location and have a nice time together.

Unfortunately, the DAAD Special Programme “Academic Restoration in South Eastern Europe” will probably be completed at the end of the year 2006. There is an ongoing discussion how certain projects or special activities especially those with strong long-lasting effects can be continued. This has to be discussed with respect to the requirements following from a general budget of the programme which was reduced from year to year. And this also means, we have to find other resources for supporting those activities which we would like to continue in the next future. Our International PhD-Seminar is, for sure, such an event where not only Diploma or Master and PhD students but also university teachers, invited speakers and even university staff members from all partner universities could benefit from these seminars.

Having this in mind we are looking optimistically into the next future and next we are looking forward meeting you in Banja Luka in August 2006.

Banja Luka, in July 2006

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