BOOK LAUNCH

Skilled Migration and Development Practices: Republic of Moldova and the Countries of South East Europe

On February 7th, 2014 the scientific publication "Skilled Migration and Development Practices: Republic of Moldova and the Countries of South East Europe" has been officially launched within a public event at the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. The work was edited in 2013, as a result of the research project “Connecting the scientific Diaspora from the Republic of Moldova to the scientific and economic development of the home country” implemented by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM) in cooperation with the Cooperation and Development Center at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland (EPFL) in the period 2010-2013. The volume was coordinated by Dr. Vitalie Varzari, Dr. Gabriela Tejada, Sergiu Porcescu and Prof. Jean-Claude Bolay. The project was funded by the SCOPES Programme of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The event which was chaired by Dr. Aurelia Hanganu, the General Scientific Secretary of the ASM brought together relevant stakeholders from Moldova. ASM representative mentioned that the book approaches a very actual and essential issue for Moldovan society, and the relevance of its scientific results are proven by the fact that it conjugated efforts of a team that integrates renowned as well as junior migration researchers from Switzerland, Moldova, Belgium, Albania, Serbia, Croatia and Ukraine. The event therefore comes to confirm once again the importance of the Diaspora – homeland connections, and the need to foster this cooperation which could contribute to the socio-economic development of our country.

Dr. Aurelia Hanganu expressed her hope that the launching event of the publication will not only be a parade of demonstration of some results but also a platform which will stimulate further discussions between Moldovan diaspora returnees, international organizations, public authorities and experts from the field on the research that has been carried out within this project. As the General Scientific Secretary of ASM, she emphasized that the multilateral approach in this field between diverse national and international stakeholders would be valuable for the advancement
of new knowledge on migration and development issues and for identifying new practical ways to capitalize on diaspora competences.

The general scientific secretary of ASM had, as well, the mission to convey the greetings from the President of ASM, Acad. Gheorghe Duca to the Moldovan-Swiss team of researchers, who contributed to the fruitful implementation of the project. In this context, Prof. Jean-Claude Bolay and Dr. Vitalie Varzari were awarded the Diploma of Merit of ASM for their valuable contribution.

The scientific publication was presented by Dr. Gabriela Tejada (EPFL) and Dr. Vitalie Varzari (ASM). Dr. Vitalie Varzari started his intervention by mentioning that in 2008 ASM launched the national initiative which approaches the skilled migration and promotes the cooperation with scientists from Moldova established abroad. The decision to strengthen the relations of cooperation relies on two main issues – the belief that a sustainable cooperation with the diaspora focused on specific projects can contribute to the development of key sectors in the Republic of Moldova, including the science and technology sector, and the presumption that the country and its research system are ready to host initiatives that come from the scientific diaspora for the benefit of both the country of origin and countries of destination.

Dr. Gabriela Tejada and Dr. Vitalie Varzari thanked the audience for their attendance and participation in the discussion, and presented the results of the SCOPES research project which has been the basis of the volume, including general scope of the study, team involved, methods used, structure of the book, and other relevant aspects of the joint work.

As well, the two coordinators of the volume highlighted that the new empirical evidence presented in the 3rd Part of the book was collected simultaneously in Moldova and abroad. The work investigates the relationship between skilled migration and development practices, presenting national experiences from a broader regional perspective and placing them in a European context.

During the questions and answers session, the participants valued the scientific and practical value of the work presented, and the discussion addressed several issues related to the connection between the capitalization of diaspora resources and the level of the socio-economic development of the home country, and the most effective ways for transferring the knowledge and expertise from the diaspora to the local context in the country of origin. Aspects related to student mobility and the factors which would encourage their eventual return to the Republic of Moldova as graduates captured also the center of the discussion.