

Oddelek za bilateralno sodelovanje

PROTOCOL of the 6th PSP Meeting

The meeting between the delegation of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia, headed by Dr Zvonko Bergant, Acting Director General of Directorate of Science and Higher Education, and Ms. Alenka Kocjan, Head of the Bilateral Cooperation Department, Office for International Scientific Co-operation and European Affairs and the British Council headed by Dr Robert Monro, Director of the British Council in Slovenia, and Ms Dora Glassford Cimerman, Science and Exchanges Manager, on the basis of the Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on Co-operation in Culture, Education and Science (Official Gazette of RS, No. 33/94, MP (Int. Agr) No. 7/94), took place on 5 January 2006 in the premises of the British Council in Ljubljana in order to determine the Co-operation Working programme and to reach a decision on which proposed projects would be accepted for financing for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006.

All participants of the meeting agreed the importance of co-operation between British and Slovene science and research institutions and of the exchange of researchers whose bi-annual meetings lead to long term co-operation as well as to applications for the EU funding in the fields of science and technology, as well as to other multilateral programmes.

Both sides examined 42 proposals for projects submitted in accordance with the Call for proposals in the framework of the programme »Partnerships in Science« (PSP), published by the Slovenian Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia. in the Official Gazette, No.74, on 5 August 2005 and British Council on 22 July 2005 and open until October 24, 2005.

The evaluation was performed separately by both institutions. The following criteria were used by experts in the Slovenian Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia:

- scientific excellence
- SCI index
- COBISS
- number of published articles in our and foreign professional publications
- mutually agreed fields of research
- centralizing to applicative research and technology and less to the basic sciences
- capability for marketing
- priority to projects with possibility of seeking subsequent EU funding within EU science programmes
- benefits for the Slovene and the British side
- other possible sources of co-financing
- supporting project co-operation also in different parts of the UK (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England)

- involvement of young researchers
- technology transfer
- new partnerships

The British Council evaluated the proposals on the basis of case presented by the researchers, the reputation of the institutions involved, whether they matched the published priority areas, whether they were innovative, whether they were likely to lead to future funding from other sources, whether they had a demonstrable practical application, the involvement of young researchers, the relevance of the outcomes for both Britain and Slovenia and whether they were a continuation of a previous partnership or a new proposal,

Both evaluations were compared at the meeting. The selection followed on the basis of both parties agreeing on strong, medium or low importance of the proposed subjects, agreeing on supporting those with strong importance for both parties, up to the level of available budget for the scheme on the British Council's side: GBP 15,000. (EUR 21.860)

It was mutually agreed that the following projects would be financially supported within the PSP – 2006 programme:

- new projects: 18 projects confirmed,
- extension of the projects: 5 projects confirmed
- rejected projects: 19 projects

The list of confirmed projects PSP – 2006 in alphabetical order:

PSP 1/2006:

Arčon Iztok, Polytechnic Nova Gorica, and Hylke J. Glass, University of Exeter, with project: Development of environmental Assessment methodology for lead-contaminated land around a former lead mine, Meža valley, Slovenija

PSP 2/2006:

Brzin Jože, Institute Jožef Stefan, and Gary Foster, The University of Bristol, with project: Functional analysis of Fungal Cysteine protease inhibitor

PSP 3/2006:

Čemažar Maja, Oncology Institute, Ljubljana, and Chryso Kanthou, University of Sheffield, with project: Therapeutic targeting of tumor vasculature with antiangiogenic gene therapy

PSP 4/2006:

Emri Igor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ljubljana, and A.R. Davies, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, with project: Determination of creep and Relaxation Using "Springloading" Method

PSP 5/2006:

Glavič Peter, Faculty of chemistry and chemical technology, University of Maribor, and Adisa Azapagic, University of Surrey, with project: Integrated design of sustainable Chemical processes

PSP 6/2006:

Glažar A. Saša, Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana, and John Holman, National Science Learning Centre, York, with project: Use of ict in science teaching

PSP 7/2006:

Gobec Stanislav, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Ljubljana, and Ian Chopra, University of Leeds, with project: Inhibitors of D-alanine-D-alanine ligase as potential antibacterial agents

PSP 8/2006:

Goličnik Barbara, Urban Institute, Ljubljana, and Catharine Ward Thompson, Edinburgh College of Art, with project: The Role of GIS environment-behaviour studies on effective evaluation and decision-making in design and planning processes (Field: Information Technology)

PSP 9/2006:

Junkar Mihael, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ljubljana, and Stefan Dimov, Cardiff University, with project: Detection of the electrode wear in micro electrical discharge machining

PSP 10/2006:

Kobe Spomenka, Institute Jožef Stefan, Ljubljana, and Ivor Rex Harris, University of Birmingham, with project: A Hydrogen -storage device for low-cost, environmentally friendly transportation

PSP 11/2006:

Lah Turnšek Tamara, National Institute of Biology, Ljubljana, and Nagy A Habib, Imperial College London, with project: Isolation and Characterisation of cancer stem cells from human glioblastomas

PSP 12/2006:

Majcen Le Marechal Alenka, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maribor, **and** John Pearson, University of Huddersfield, with project: Degradation of reactive and metal complex dyes by means of advanced oxidation processes

PSP 13/2006:

Marhl Marko, Faculty of Education, University of Maribor, and Anne K. Green, University of Warwick, with project: Time series analysis of intracellular calcium Oscillations

PSP 14/2006:

Naji Majda, Institute of Education, Unit Maribor, and Liz Singleton, Bradford Council, Centre for Learning Excellence, with project: Curriculum development for learners with additional and special educational needs

PSP 15/2006:

Ravnikar Maja, National Institute of Biology, Ljubljana, and Neil Boonham, Central Science Laboratory, York, with project: Development of real-time PCR technique for detection of different Potato virus Y strains

PSP 16/2006:

Rupnik Maja, Institute of Public Health, Maribor, and Nigel Peter Minton, University of Nottingham, with project: Characterisation of the newly emerged hypervirulent epidemic strains of *Clostridium difficile*

PSP 17/2006:

Sepčič Kristina, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, and Roderick Scott, University of Aberdeen, with project: Biophysical studies of polymeric alkylpyridinium salts from the marine sponge *Reniera sarai*, a new tool for intracellular delivery of DNA

PSP 18/2006:

Sivec Ignac, Natural History Museum, Ljubljana, and Adrian Plant, National Museum and Galleries of Wales, with project: Biodiversity of selected groups of aquatic insects, an important bioindicators in running waters in UK and Slovenia

PSP 19/2006:

Smolar Žvanut Nataša, LIMNOS, company for applied ecology, and Ian Maddock, University of Worcester, with project: Rapid Physical Habitat Assessment of Riverine Ecosystems using GPS Based Field Surveys

PSP 20/2006:

Šoštar Turk Sonja, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maribor, and Wolfram Scholz, W2O Environmental Research, Northampton, with project: Development of water recycling techniques for the textile industry

PSP 21/2006:

T. Van Elteren Johannes, Chemistry Institute Ljubljana, and Norman H. Tennent, Fyne Conservation Services, Argyll, Scotland, with project: Exploration of the scope of laser ablation - inductively coupled plasma analysis in the field of conservation - restoration of cultural heritage comprising glass and ceramics

PSP 22/2006:

Tadič Bosiljka, Institute "Jožef Stefan", Ljubljana, and Geoffrey Rodgers, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, with project: Packet Transport on networks

PSP 23/2006:

Zidar Janez, Clinical Centre, Ljubljana, and Nigel Leigh, King's College London, with project: Neural control of voluntary movements and breathing in motor neuron disease patients.

The above projects will receive financial support from the Slovenian Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia. and the British Council for the period from 1 January 2006 until 31 December 2006 on the following principle, agreed at the meeting:

The British Council will pay the British project partner or his institution a travel grant of GBP 200 (EUR 292) when travelling from London to Slovenia, and a travel grant of GBP 250 (EUR 364) when travelling from elsewhere in the UK to Slovenia. The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology / Slovene Research Agency will cover the costs of accommodation and subsistence for the British project partner during their visit in Slovenia, up to the value of 583 Euros in the national currency (GBP 400).

The British Council will pay the Slovene project partner a grant of GBP 400 towards accommodation and subsistence costs for their visit to the UK. The Slovenian Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia will cover the costs of travel of the Slovene project partner to the UK up to the value of 364 Euros in the national currency. (GBP 250).

Both the British Council and the Slovenian Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia will ask the researchers to undertake a public event during their stay in each country. This could include a lecture to under- or post- graduate students, a debate in Cafe Scientifique, a press interview or publication in some research magazine. The public event need not be related to the subject of the research but could include the raising of awareness of Slovenia in the UK, developments in academic management, etc.

Funding will be available for one visit of up to 7 days to the UK by the Slovene partner and one visit of up to 7 days to Slovenia by the UK partner. Young researchers' visits are encouraged in place of project leader's visits. One month's notice of travel is required for payments by the British Council. Reports are required within a month after each visit and a Final Report by end of February 2007 by the British Council on British Council forms, and copied to the Slovenian Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia.

The above grants are fixed, no receipts are required, only evidence that the visit took place has to be prepared, i.e. report after the visit.

The procedure on the Slovene side is governed by the Slovene law, which requires reimbursement of actual costs to the level agreed above.

It was suggested that a meeting would be organised in the first half of 2006, to review the programme in preparation for next year's call in July 2006.

The following projects were rejected, in alphabetical order:

1. **Bevc Vera, Institute of Education, Unit Maribor, and Tony Shallcross,** Manchester Metropolitan University, title of project: Use of ict in education for sustainable development
2. **Buckley Anita,** Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana, and Miles Reid, Mathematics Institute, University of Warwick, title of project: Building an advanced teaching and learning Capability in modern algebra and Geometry at the department of mathematics, Faculty of mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana - University level and beyond
3. **Gobec Stanislav,** Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Ljubljana, and Ian Chopra, University of Leeds, title of project: Inhibitors of D-alanine-D-alanine ligase as potential antibacterial agents
4. **Jenčič Vlasta,** Veterinary Faculty, University Ljubljana, and Brian Austin, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, title of project: Diagnosis and Control of fish diseases of relevance to Slovene aquaculture
5. **Kopitar Jerala Nataša,** Institute Jožef Stefan, Ljubljana, CM Morris, Health protection Agency, Newcastle, title of project: Stefin B cathepsins in the brain of Alzheimer's disease (AD) patients
6. **Korošak Dean,** Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Maribor, and Sacha Jon Mooney, University of Nottingham, title of project: Pore structure and transport properties of wet porous media
7. **Kožuh Eržen Nevenka,** Veterinary Faculty, University of Ljubljana, and Alistair Boxall, University of York, title of project: Environmental impact of veterinary Medicines

8. **Legiša Matic**, Chemistry Institute, Ljubljana, and David Mousdale, Beocarta Ltd., Glasgow, title of project: Improving microbial productivity by metabolic engineering
9. **Lobnik Aleksandra**, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maribor, and Roger H Wardman, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, title of project: Development of cromatic sensors in textiles for application by digital ink-jet printing technology
10. **Motaln Helena**, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, and Steve Pells, Roslin Institute, Edinburgh, title of project: Study of lens differentiation process by means of transgenic mice model
11. **Novak Marina**, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maribor, and Trevor K. Hellen, Engineering Consultant, Bristol, title of project: Intelligent Advisory System for Effective use of Finite Elements
12. **Novak Zoran**, Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Maribor, and Paul Hamley, University of Nottingham, title of project: Novel Catalysts for clean Oxidation
13. **Peteršič Eugen**, Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Maribor, and Dragan Savić, University of Exeter, title of project: Proactive urban flood forecasting
14. **Simonič Marjana**, Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, and Bhaskar Sengupta, Queen's University Belfast, title of project: Testing the Effectiveness of the Model for Integrated Assessment of Sustainability
15. **Štebe Janez**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, and Hillary Beedham, University of Essex, title of project: Social science data archives metadata harmonisation and quality control for joint C-catalogue.
16. **Tišler Tatjana**, Chemistry Institute Ljubljana, and Helen Thompson, Central Science Laboratory, York, title of project: Sublethal bioassays with aquatic organisms
17. **Trunk Širca Nada**, Management Faculty, University of Primorska, and Ian Stronach, Manchester Metropolitan University, title of project: Research and mentoring in theory and practise
18. **Welzer Tatjana**, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Maribor and Panos Liatsis, City University, title of project: Theoretical approach to study diagnostic model - Field Information Technology
19. **Zabukovec-Logar Nataša**, Chemistry Institute Ljubljana, and Jonathan Agger, School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, title of project: A Crystal-growth studies of metal-organic porous materials using atomic force microscopy.

The Slovenian Research Agency will inform all Slovene partners of the outcome of the meeting, and the British Council will inform all British partners of the results, positive or negative.

These minutes were signed in Ljubljana on 24 January 2006.

British Side:



Dr Robert Monro
Director
British Council

Slovene Side:



Dr Zvonko Bergant
Acting Director General
Directorate of Science and Higher Education
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology