

1. Publishable summary

The objective of the present project was to create the necessary tools for improvement the research capacity of the Institute of Materials Research of Slovak Academy of Sciences (IMR SAS) in Košice in the fields of nanomaterials and new technologies with the aim to increase it's contribution to regional economic and social development and for better participation in FP7 and other international projects. This was planned to be realized through;

- an international independent expert evaluation of the level of the overall research quality and management & research capability of the IMR SAS and;
- definition and preparation of an Action Plan for improving their research and development capacities, based on the results of the evaluation and on discussion with representatives of the Centres in Europe, regional research and development authorities and utilizing the possibilities of cohesion policy programmes of EU for 2007-2013.

A detailed material describing the activities of the IMR SAS during the last 5 years from 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2008 has been prepared which served as the basis of the evaluation process. The independent experts visited the IMR SAS, including it's laboratories and attended the workshop during which key persons of the Institute informed them concerning the activities of the IMR SAS during the evaluated period. They absolved a meeting with the local authorities during which the contribution of the IMR SAS to the regional economic and social development was discussed. Based on the report on the activities of IMR SAS and discussions, experts prepared a report on the quality of management and research capability of the IMR SAS.

Visits of similar Institution in Europe have been realized by he scientists of IMR SAS with the aim of discussion concerning their experiences how to realize the recommendation of experts in creation of Action Plan.

Based on the report of independent experts and discussion by the representants of similar Institutions in Europe an Action Plan for the IMR SAS was prepared for the years of 2010 – 2015. This was discussed during the workshop with local authorities, leaders of local universities and industrial partners and taking to the consideration their comments the Action Plan was finalized.

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