

**IMPACT OF CURRENT
HOST GOVERNMENT
CONCURRENCE PROCESSES**



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Article VI of the Agreement to Establish the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine details that each project submitted for approval by the Governing Board shall be accompanied by the written concurrence of the state(s) in which the work is to be carried out.

Traditionally, it is Ministry of Science and Education (previously Committee) that provided HGC for the projects in Ukraine. For the other STCU regional offices this is handled by the following: - The Academy of Sciences in Azerbaijan, The Department of Science and Technology in Georgia, and the Science and Technology Centre in Uzbekistan.

The scheme is as follows. Scientists get a number for the short form of their project proposal (assigned by the STCU). Once they obtain the project number, they have to fill in a full form for their project (without STCU's assistance) and submit it to the Government body responsible for issuing HGC.

Here are the statistics for obtaining HGC during the year 2004. For the year 2004 the STCU has obtained 23 Host Government Concurrences from Azerbaijan, 25 from Georgia, 163 from Ukraine and 15 from Uzbekistan. *To date - 60 regular and 2 partner project proposals are being processed in the Ministry of Science and Education in Ukraine.*

Unfortunately, I cannot present you statistics on the term for obtaining HGC for each of those projects. But some project proposals submitted to MSE in, let's say, March 2004 got HGC in October 2004 only. This shows that for some project proposals the STCU has to wait for almost half a year to get its HGC from the MSE.

The reason that the MSE did not always provide HGC in a timely manner was that a number of people responsible for providing HGC at the MSE left their posts and new people came. Besides, it was during the summer period (vacation season) which can also be added to the possible list of explanations for the delay.

Additionally: MSE has advised us that the Expert Control Committee can process the proposals for as long as they need, as no time limit is in place, and the MSE cannot influence the process to hurry them up.

Moreover, taking into account recent events in Ukraine and the situation with the presidential elections, it should be mentioned that all the MinSciEdu staff are currently acting staff only at the moment until new Governmental Structures are formed.

It should be also pointed out that we managed to organize a meeting (on 18.01.05) between the STCU ED and a person responsible for issuing HGC (Head of Department). During the meeting the STCU was informed that all the problems that hampered the process of HGC issuing were solved, and in future the process should be smoother and streamlined. Thus, on January 20, 2005 the STCU received a HGC package for 8 partner projects only. So at the moment the situation with proposals' reviewing looks as follows: currently, there are 2 partner project proposals and 60 regular project proposals that are being processed at the MSE. Out of 60 regular project proposals – 35 are almost ready to be returned to the STCU, and 25 are still being reviewed.

The STCU ED also had a meeting with NASU representatives and discussed the possibility of issuing HGC by NASU itself for implementing projects with NASU institutes.

Georgia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan do not face such problems. The term for HGC issuing is very short, in some cases it takes one day only.

What does the STCU suggest to solve the situation with HGC issuing in Ukraine? As we see it there should be a document signed between the STCU and MSE that would outline a clear time/term procedure on receiving HGC and which will show how long/how many days/weeks it should take to get it.