



REPORTS ON REGIONAL OFFICE ACTIVITIES

On a routine basis the STCU Regional Offices are responsible for a range of administrative services across their regions. These include:

- responding to new and or repeat project applicants
- training of local scientists on STCU Project Software, proposal and project agreement preparation
- providing broad administrative support to STCU project managers
- arranging and conducting project monitoring visits and oversight
- compiling and transmitting regional information to the STCU Headquarters in Kyiv
- updating and maintaining information in the STCU web site and Project Database

Ukraine's Regional Offices

In Ukraine, all STCU activities outside of Kiev are coordinated through the Regional Offices in Lviv, Dnipropetrovs'k and Kharkiv. In 2005, the Lviv and the Dnipropetrovs'k had part-time administrative support (1 – 2 days / week) which enabled the regional managers to more extensively manage STCU activities across their regions. No administrative support was provided to the Kharkiv Regional Office in 2005.

In 2005, all three regional offices were extensively engaged in promoting the Targeted Research & Development Program (TRDP), in organizing the September Environmental Workshop (Lesnoy, Dnipropetrovs'k), screening and selecting scientists for participation on the technology missions to Canada (August and September) and providing key linkages in support of the incoming CIDA mission (November).

Lviv Regional Office – Currently, this Regional Office is responsible for managing 9 active STCU projects, for preparing 2 Project Agreements, and for overseeing 19 project proposals (12 of which are under STCU Party review). A total of eight (8) Travel Grants were processed for local scientists.

It is noteworthy that 25% (15 of 62) of all the STCU-NASU Targeted Initiative applications originated from the Western region of Ukraine. Of these, 2 were among the 14 proposals transmitted to the STCU by the NASU and one was selected for funding.

Other major activities undertaken by the Lviv office in 2005 include:

- participation of local scientific teams in the KPI / Univ. Lyon / STCU Industrial Marketing initiative targeted training; seminar on Intellectual Property (IP) management
- developing success stories from the region to promote STCU's programs and services, namely; the Magneto Sensor Laboratory of the Lviv National Polytechnic University and the State Enterprise Scientific Telecommunication Centre of the Institute for Condensed Matter Physics (UARNet)
- initiated discussions and currently exploring with local technology transfer group at the Lviv State Centre of Scientific, Technical and Economic Information how the STCU Regional Office can collaborate in areas of mutual interest.

In August 2005, the Lviv Regional Office Manager accompanied the Ukrainian delegation of scientists to the materials conference in Calgary, Canada. The mission provided an excellent opportunity to establish important linkages between scientists from across Ukraine with Canadian scientists in both academia and industry. Institutes visited during the mission, included; the National Research Council, Institute for Nanotechnology, Alberta Research Council, Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory, the Universities of Alberta and Manitoba. This mission was an important element of STCU Targeted Initiative Program.

Kharkiv Regional Office – Although the scientific potential is concentrated in the city of Kharkiv, other cities in the region (Donetsk, Sumy, Poltava, and Lugansk) have major research institutions that engage former WMD scientists. In 2005, 50 projects (40 Regular + 10 Partner Projects) from across the region received funding. Currently, the Kharkiv Regional Office is responsible for managing 18 active STCU projects, for preparing 4 Project Agreements, and for overseeing 35 project proposals (23 of which are under Party review).

Since June, the other major STCU activities of the Regional Office included:

- increased engagement of bio- and medical scientists / institutes, with a focus on Institute for Mechnikov Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, and Institute of Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine
- local training in grant writing and STCU administrative procedures.

Dnipropetrovsk Regional Office – This is a very large geographic area with several major cities, including; Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa, Zaporozhye, Sevastopol, Nikolaev. Currently, the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Office is responsible for managing 6 active STCU projects, for preparing 3 Project Agreements, and for overseeing 20 project proposals (11 of which are under Party review).

In 2005, major activities of the office included:

- seminars to institutes promoting STCU new vision following the reorganization of 2004. Cities targeted included, Odessa (Anti-plague institute, Filatov eye institute), Zaporozhye (S&R Institute of Titanium; The State Engineering Academy; –The Titanium / Magnesium Plant), Nikolaev (Center of Perspective Technologies, Institute of Automatics and Electronics, Ship-building Institute, Center of Applied Research on Energy, Inst. of Ecology and Energy Saving and National State University)
- Increased engagement of the Anti-plague Institute (Odessa) and other bio-institutes in region.

Azerbaijan Regional Office (Baku)

At present, there are 2 active STCU Regular Projects with Azeri scientists involved, with another 8 projects approved for funding and are in the Project Agreement preparation stage (7 of these funded projects are joint Azeri-Ukrainian projects). Currently, the Azeri Regional Office is responsible for managing 2 active STCU projects, preparing 4 Project Agreements, and processing 1 project proposal.

The Azerbaijan Regional Office has participated and organizing the several events in the region:

- STCU Seminar for Azeri Scientists in Ganja: The Seminar for Scientists in Ganja (the second administrative center in Azerbaijan) was held in June. Among of participants (more than 20 people) were representatives of various scientific and educational centers of Ganja. The main subject of this seminar was a presentation about STCU (using a prepared variant in Azeri language) and explanation of filling of the new STCU application submission form.

- Participating in Conference of CRDF. Azerbaijan National Science Foundation (ANSF) and U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) were held in 28 of October in Baku the Scientific Business Venture Conference. In the conference have taken part authors of projects-semifinalists and also representatives of the scientific-researchers and industrial organizations.
- Establishing of second STCU Internet Cafe in Azerbaijan, this one at the Institute of Medical Prophylaxis.
- Organized and held an STCU IPR Workshop in Baku (27-28 September of 2005). This workshop was part of a series of STCU training events aimed towards assisting scientists in their sustainability efforts. More than 50 Azerbaijani and Georgian scientists were selected to participate in order to obtain an improved understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), licensing and other related issues. Among the speakers at the Workshop were: Mark R. Powell (U.S. Patent and Trademark Office), Judson R. Hightower (Associate General Counsel, Oak Ridge National Laboratory), and Victor Korsun (Consultant Coordinator, Science Centers Partners Program, US Department of State).

Uzbekistan Regional Office (Tashkent)

Since June, the Uzbekistan Regional Office has operated without disruption, in spite of the continued situation with the STCU local financial operations, the uncertain period of political relations between Uzbekistan and some of the STCU Parties, and the departure of Mr. Lawrence Leahy, a U.S. Party-provided Senior Specialist.

At present, there are 50 active STCU projects with Uzbek scientists involved: 16 Regular Projects involving only Uzbek scientists, 17 joint projects involving other STCU member state scientists, and 17 Partner Projects. Currently, the Uzbek Regional Office is responsible for managing 14 active STCU projects, for preparing 3 Project Agreements, and for overseeing 13 project proposals (7 of which are undergoing Party review).

The major activities for this office since June include:

- Hosting a visit from the STCU ED, with meetings at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Nuclear Physics, and the Center for Science and Technology.
- Assisting in preparations for a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Workshop highlighting numerous STCU Partner Projects between USDA and Institutes in Uzbekistan. This workshop is planned for the beginning of December 2005 in Tashkent.
- In October, Uzbekistan Regional Officer, Dr. Regina Sattarova, gave a presentation about STCU at the Khoresm Branch Academy of Sciences RU during the international conference "Termites of Central Asia".
- Dr. Sattarova also represented STCU at a meeting hosted by the UK Department of Trade and Industry's Closed Nuclear City Program (CNCP) in Moscow, in connection with results of the first DTI project implemented by Uzbek colleagues at the Institute of Nuclear Physics as well as development next proposals under this program.
- Uzbekistan office staff also participated in the Conference "Physics in Uzbekistan" at the Academy of Sciences RU and the Workshop dedicated to opening ceremony of the Center on Chromatography and STCU Internet Caf  at the Institute of Polymer Chemistry and Physics AS RU.

Georgian Regional Office (Tbilisi)

At present, there are 19 active STCU projects with Georgian scientists involved: 6 Regular Projects involving only Georgian scientists, 11 joint projects involving other STCU member state scientists, and 2 Partner Projects. Currently, the Uzbek Regional Office is responsible for managing 8 active STCU projects, for preparing 4 Project Agreements, and for overseeing 29 project proposals (21 of which are undergoing Party review).

The dynamic of collaboration between Georgian scientists and other scientists in STCU member states is quite positive. Starting from joining Georgia to STCU since 1998 more than 150 joint GEO-UA, 2 UZ-GEO and 3 AZ-GEO project proposals were registered. As a result, 27 joint project proposals were approved for funding.

Other major Regional Office activities since June include:

- Participated in EURO PM 2005 World congress and exhibition in Prague.
- Participated in STCU IPR Workshop, held in Baku in September.
- Participated in 3 S&T Entrepreneurship Program (STEP) seminars, arranged and financed jointly by CRDF and STCU.
- Visited different scientific Institutions and Universities of Imereti and Adjara regions of Georgia.
- Participated in a 2-day seminars entitled "Practical aspects to make purchasing within STCU" in Tbilisi organized together with the STCU Headquarters.