



SIMS PROJECT

SCIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Background

The programme “Innovative Economy”, funded by the European Union, caused a total of 5 billion euros to be invested in promoting and modernizing the Polish research infrastructure in the period from 2007 to 2013. Numerous research institutions were thus given the opportunity to set up new laboratories and modernize existing facilities. This makes it possible for these institutions to conform to and be aligned with international standards for the long term. In the course of this process, it became evident that the staff of these institutions needed to undergo preparation for managing the newly created, state-of-the-art infrastructure. For this reason, the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) launched the project “SIMS – Science Infrastructure Management Support” (SIMS). Within the context of the SIMS project, Fraunhofer MOEZ was commissioned to arrange, coordinate and conduct a two-week training programme

to take place in Germany for four groups of participants. The entire project is being implemented in cooperation with the second contractor, the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM).

aims and benefits of the SIMS project

“SIMS – Science Infrastructure Management Support” offers 120 researchers and R&D managers at Polish colleges, universities and research institutes a platform for knowledge transfer, the exchange of experience and the further development of the scientific and social process management of research infrastructures. In expert lectures and workshops, participants in the SIMS training are given in-depth insight into the organization of research infrastructures, into strategy-forming processes and into instruments in business development, instruments in IP management and instruments related to the basic legal conditions at institutes of the Fraunhofer group, at the Technische Universität Dresden and at additional

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research institutions in Leipzig and Dresden. In addition to this, participants in the SIMS training are provided with information and know-how on science infrastructure management in high-tech companies through the NCBR service partner International Business Machines Corporation (IBM). The SIMS programme offers a wealth of top-class, practice-based opportunities for gaining information: as a combination of expert discussions at Fraunhofer MOEZ in Leipzig and dialogue with researchers and facility managers from various research institutions, tied in with visits to laboratories at different research institutes. The SIMS project provides a good basis for establishing a network between the participants within Poland and between relevant players from Poland and Germany. Interactive procedures, including workshops, group work and shadowing, allow participants an in-depth exchange of experience. High quality standards are guaranteed through small groups, well-founded expert lectures based on the specialist subjects, practical exercises and the evaluation of the contents of the training.

A further step towards ensuring the quality of the training and consolidating its contents lies in evaluating the skills of the participants, both their existing skills and those they are aiming for in the future. They were encouraged to reflect on their previous activities and to further develop their skills using the instruments for infrastructure management that they had learned about.