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On July 14, 2006 the Institute of Physics in Belgrade (IPB) and its Scientific Computing Laboratory were hosts to high level delegations from EU Directorate General for Research, headed by Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Research, and from the Ministry of Science of Serbia, headed by Aleksandar Popović, Minister of Science. The joint delegation also included Andras Siegler, Director INCO, Giancarlo Caratti, JRC, Tania Friederichs, DG Research, Ivan Videnović, Assistant Minister, and Gradimir Milovanović, Chairman of Serbia's National Scientific Council.

The main purpose of the Commissioner's visit to IPB was to get first hand information about the four IPB laboratories that were awarded three year EU Centre of Excellence grants that started on July 1, 2006. The results of the 2005 SSA call for reinforcing of research in the West Balkans were a success for Serbia whose R&D centre's got 8 of the region's 10 grants; for Serbian physics (6 grants), and, most impressively for the Institute of Physics in Belgrade whose high quality research was recognized with the awarding of EU Centre of Excellence grants to 4 of its laboratories. The success of IPB was further enhanced by the fact that the CX-CMCS project of its Scientific Computing Laboratory was the best evaluated R&D proposal in the whole West Balkan region.

SCL AT A GLANCE

People: 17 staff members (6 senior, 11 junior) and 15 external associates.

Infrastructure: PARADOX parallel cluster (132 processors, 1 Gbps dedicated network connection).

Research programme:

- Simulation of complex systems, granular materials, near-Earth objects/impactors, high energy physics.
- Development and deployment of GRID technology (integrated in the pan-European GRID infrastructure, prominent in SEE).

Current projects:

The Scientific Computing Laboratory actively participates in several national and bilateral RTD projects as well as in the following EU-wide projects:

- CX-CMCS (FP6, EU Centre of Excellence);
- SEE-GRID 2 (FP6, e-Infrastructure);
- EGEE-II (FP6, e-Infrastructure);
- COST action P10 – Physics of Risk.

CX-CMCS (COMPUTER MODELING OF COMPLEX SYSTEMS)

CX-CMCS aims to reinforce SCL research capacity by: hiring young researchers; providing training and mobility for the research staff; upgrading the computing infrastructure. The success of this endeavour will be measured through a benchmarking exercise to be performed in the project's last year. Our networking partners (4 from EU and 3 from Serbia) have been carefully selected to provide the skills and expertise necessary to reinforce the research potential of SCL through training and joint research. The proposed equipment upgrade will make it possible to tackle even the most complex GRID applications allowing SCL to become a key regional player in deployment and use of this emerging technology. The CX-CMCS International Advisory Board will help SCL develop a long term strategy and facilitate its integration into ERA.

CX-CMCS aims to be a living example that it is possible to bridge the "digital divide" between countries and regions having different access to advanced ICT technology.

Additional material:

- IPB Press material
- CX-CMCS Info sheet
- QUPOM Info sheet
- OPSA Info sheet
- IPB-CNP Info sheet

High-resolution photos and transcript of Potocnik's speech are available at SCL's web site:

<http://scl.phy.bg.ac.yu/>

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Photos (top to bottom):

High level visit to Institute of Physics in Belgrade by delegations from EU DG Research and the Serbian Ministry of Science. Left to right: Ivan Videnović, Assistant Minister, Aleksandar Popović, Minister of Science, Janez Potočnik, EU Commissioner for Research, Andras Siegler, Director INCO. The purpose of the visit was to see the four IPB laboratories that received EU Centre of Excellence grants.



At the Scientific Computing Laboratory Commissioner Potočnik was greeted by Aleksandar Belić, head of SCL, and given a brief overview of the labs mission and R&D activity. In particular, the commissioner was informed about SCL's three year project for reinforcing research capacity CX-CMCS (Centre of Excellence for Computer Modelling of Complex Systems) the best evaluated proposal in the region. The Commissioner was particularly interested to learn about SCL's participation in EU e-Infrastructure projects: EGEE-II, SEE-GRID, and SEE-GRID 2.

During the tour of SCL the two delegations had a chance to view the lab's computing infrastructure, particularly its PARADOX parallel cluster – one of the central GRID resources in the SEE region. Left to right: Aleksandar Belić, head of SCL, Djordje Šijački, Deputy Director General IPB, Giancarlo Caratti, JRC, Andras Siegler, Director INCO, Janez Potočnik, EU Commissioner for Research, Tania Friederichs, DG Research.



At the end of the visit to the Institute of Physics in Belgrade and, in particular to its Scientific Computing Laboratory, Commissioner Potočnik, Minister Popović and INCO Director Siegler posed for a group photo with several of the graduate students working at SCL. The CX-CMCS project's chief aim is to reinforce SCL's research capacity by hiring top young scientists, implementing the training and mobility of SCL's research staff, and, by upgrading the state-of-the-art computing infrastructure.



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