

# ACTIVITY REPORT

## 2006 – 2014

The present Board of Directors of the SNS Foundation has been elected by the Founders Assembly on April 27, 2006.

In conformity with Art. 23 of the Statute of the SNS Foundation (as revised on April 27, 2006) the attributions of the Board of Directors are:

- a. *Establishes the general strategy and the Foundations' programs;*
- b. *Concludes legal papers, in the name and for the foundation;*
- c. *Develops fund raising activities for the Foundation;*
- d. *Suggests the modification of the Statute, the suspension and liquidation of the foundation to the founding members.*
- e. *Disposes the foundation's adhesions to other bodies and national or international programs*
- f. *Chooses from the directors' board's members the chairman and deputy chairmen with the approval of the majority of the founding members*
- g. *Chooses and revokes the censors committee members with the approval of the majority of the founding members*
- h. *Approves the income and the expenses budget' and the financial statements of the foundation*
- i. *Executes the income and expenses budget*
- j. *Receives the executive director's report and acquits him of the financial administration*
- k. *Elaborate annually a scientific report intended to the founding bodies*
- l. *Approves, at the suggestion of the executive director, the organization and payment schemes of the foundation's staff, including the chairman's, deputy chairman's and the executive director's.*
- m. *Decides on hiring and dismissal of the scientific staff*

The Art. 24 of the Statute of the SNS Foundation stipulates that:

*The Board of Directors assigns to the Senate of the Upper Normal School from Bucharest all the privileges related to the activity of research and education.*

Point (f) of Art. 26 of the Statute of the SNS Foundation stipulates that the Foundation's Chairman watches over the activity of the Upper Normal School from Bucharest.

Art. 7 of the Statute of the SNS Foundation stipulates that:

*The Foundation's general objectives include:*

1. *Founding, supporting and development of the Upper Normal School.*
- 1<sup>1</sup> *Unfolding scientific research activities*
2. *Creation of an environment that allows the recognition of cultural and scientific values.*
3. *Promotion of the scientific exchanges between universities in the country and from abroad.*

In agreement with the above requirements the activity of the Board of Directors of the SNS Foundation since its election on April 27, 2006 and until December 31, 2014 has been oriented mainly on four directions:

1. Funds raising.
2. Initiating and implementing a procedure of formal accreditation of the Upper Normal School from Bucharest.
3. Monitoring the scientific life of the Upper Normal School from Bucharest.
4. Executing the expenses budget of the Upper Normal School from Bucharest.

## 1. Funds raising activity.

After the experience of the first five years of activity (2001 – 2005), our funds raising strategy during the period 2006 – 2014 has been based on four pillars:

1. trying to maintain the contacts with a number of strategic partners for a long term perspective
2. offer a number of 'packages' (like a group of lectures, a dedicated master programme, a number of scholarships, etc) for sponsorizations by different types of sponsors
3. try to use the facility offered by the Romanian taxation system through the 2% amount that can be oriented directly to a chosen target
4. apply for the official recognition of our Foundation as a “Foundation of Public Interest” and then try to apply for governmental financial support.

Concerning the strategic partners let us begin by mentioning the basic structure formed by the partnerships with the Axxess Capital Group and with the SOFTWIN Group that are essential for the continuation of our activity and let me thank our friends Horia Manda and Florin Talpes for their inestimable support. Another important strategic partner has been the Clay Mathematics Institute from the USA, but unfortunately their inner regulations only allowed for a three years partnership agreement (2006 – 2008). A similar partnership but with a longer perspective has been established with the French Institute in Bucharest and together with them with the Ecole Normale Superieure de Cachan and the two mathematical foundations in Paris: the “Jacques Hadamard Foundation” and the “Fondation des Sciences Mathematiques de Paris”. Now we plan to enforce this partnership by becoming a member of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, and having access to its support and to its programmes. I have to express my gratitude to Fabien Flori, Michel Farrine and Michel Roy for their important support in this direction. A third component of these strategic partnerships is based on the collaborations with the “Simion Stoilow” Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy and the Institute of Biochemistry of the Romanian Academy that not only ensure all the needed infrastructure and scientific expertise but also bring some important financial support through their research and cooperation agreements. I want to thank here all our colleagues who have offered junior research positions on their research grants for students of SNS-B, and for the support offered during the last years by the “Laboratoire Europeen Associe Math-Mod” and the Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Unfortunately, although the above cited cooperations have made possible to continue our main objective: the functioning of the “Scoala Normala Superioara – Bucuresti”, a very wide activity of trying to present our objectives and results to other possible partners or sponsors has obtained only very limited pointwise success or in most cases even complete failure! Let us cite here our contacts with the HBV Bank, the Romanian Lottery, the MTRA-KAP Group, the Ellias Foundation, the Tzuca, Zbarcea and Associates law firm, the e-Mag Foundation, etc. Some pointwise sponsorships have been obtained only from the Raiffeisen Bank and the RTC Group. At our last meeting of our Board of Directors, in January, we have discussed some initiatives to be carried on during this spring:

- to open a fund raising campaign addressed mainly towards some of our colleagues from abroad
- to try to contact some banks and other financial institutions for sponsorships for some scholarships to be offered to students of SNS-B.

Considering the 2% directed taxes, this campaign has been started in 2006 and has brought, with some exceptions, about 10.000 Lei per year. Our Executive Director Claudia Dan had a very important role in this campaign and we thank her very much.

Considering the recognition of the quality of “Foundation of Public Interest” for our Foundation the legal request with the necessary file has been submitted to the Ministry of Education, as provided by law, and despite all our pressures and efforts, supported also by the Faculty of Mathematics of the Bucharest University and the by the French Embassy, our demand remained without any answer.

## **2. Initiating and implementing a procedure of formal accreditation of the Upper Normal School from Bucharest.**

This activity has been carried on during the period 2007 – 2011 and has necessitated a very large amount of efforts and of money (37.625 Lei). In a first period (2007 – 2009) we have obtained an authorization by ARACIS of 4 Master level programs (2 in mathematics, 1 in informatics and 1 in biochemistry) valid for a 5 years period. Immediately after we have initiated the second step: the accreditation as a university level private institution for education. After a long procedure, the ARACIS Council in his meeting on October 21, 2010, has decided to recommend the accreditation of Scoala Normala Superioara from Bucharest and to submit the file to the Ministry of Education for elaboration of the law proposal. All the documents concerning this decision are on web at the address:

<http://www.aracis.ro/rezultate-evaluari/evaluari-institutionale/rezultate/scoala-normala-superioara-bucuresti-snsb/>

Following this decision, SNSB is authorized without having yet an accreditation by law (see the web page of the Ministry of Education: <http://www.edu.ro/index.php/articles/text/8406>)

After a long series of contacts with officials from the Ministry of Education we have been received by the Ministry together with the Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the Bucharest University and the Director of the Department for University Cooperation of the French Embassy who brought their support to the proposal of creating such a high level master school in sciences oriented towards research. Unfortunately the Ministry has not agreed our proposal motivating that it does not fit into the general national strategy in high level education of the moment in Romania. His recommendation has been to try to find a way to cooperate with the Bucharest University.

After this official refusal to recognize our institution, our Board of Directors has analyzed the new situation and proposed a new mid-term strategy. First we decided to give a larger autonomy to the Departments recommending to them to try to find the 'natural' partnerships (with any Universities or with the Doctoral School of the Romanian Academy) that can allow them to organize joint master programs by keeping our specific features, but offering to the students the possibility to obtain a master diploma recognized by our Ministry of Education. In this new perspective the Department of Mathematics has signed an agreement with the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the Bucharest University in order to mutually recognize their courses on the European credit basis.

Another objective of our new mid-term strategy is to try to sign as many agreements as possible with other European Universities and education institutions in order to obtain a large formal recognition at the European level. In this direction the Department of Mathematics of SNS-B has signed an agreement with the Paris Foundation of Mathematical Sciences, concerning mutual recognition of the first year master studies in mathematics and a program of scholarships in Paris Universities for the second master year and a second agreement with the “Jacques Hadamard” Foundation and the ENS Cachan for organizing a common master programme in applied mathematics and a yearly regional summer school in applied mathematics. This summer school has organized the first edition last year in July in Sinaia and a second edition will be organized this year also in July in Sinaia.

## **3. Monitoring the scientific life of the Upper Normal School from Bucharest.**

The situation here is the following:

- **The Department of Mathematics** has begun its activity in 2001 and proposes a preliminary cycle of 1 year for students in their last year of license (Bologna system) and a master cycle of 2 years. This system has been initiated in the academic year 2008 – 2009; before 2008 the preliminary cycle was of 2 years and the master cycle of 1 year. During the period 2007 – 2008

the Department has also organized an “Initiation cycle” with 2 courses per year for young students. During the period 2006 -2014 this Department has organized 4 courses each year for the Preliminary cycle and between 5 and 13 courses each year for the master cycle. This difference in the amount of courses offered each year at the master cycle was in agreement with the number of students. Let us present a summary of the number of students of this Department:

Academic year	Pr. Cycle	M. Cycle
2006-2007	8	10
2007-2008	6	6
2008-2009	6	12
2009-2010	5	13
2010-2011	5	12
2011-2012	7	5
2012-2013	7	4
2013-2014	1	8
2014-2015	3	2

It is evident from above that after the refusal of the ministry of education to recognize our school by a law the number of students has abruptly diminished; a large number of the top level students has chosen to finish the master studies abroad. Starting with this year we have signed an agreement with the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the Bucharest University for a mutual recognition of our master level courses on the basis of European credits and we hope to increase the number of students for the future academic year. In the same time we hope to largely increase our impact through an agreement with the University Agency for Francophony for a system of making accessible our courses through internet. We also plan to develop some facilities for hosting students coming from other cities of Romania.

- **The Department of Informatics** has been active during the period 2002 – 2011 with some remarkable results; a synthesis of its activity and results may be found on web at the address: <http://www.imar.ro/~snsb/Informatics.html>.

Let us present a summary of the number of students of this Department:

Academic year	Pr. Cycle	M. Cycle
2006-2007	1	2
2007-2008	1	3
2008-2009	2	1
2009-2010	1	5
2010-2011	-	3

The activity of the Department of Informatics had a pronounced research oriented character, the curriculum proposed been rather focused. Consequently the students of this Department have achieved some remarkable research results, including 6 publications in top international journals in logic or informatics.

- **The Department of Biochemistry** has begun its activity in 2008 and proposes a master cycle of 2 years. During the period 2008 -2012 this Department has organized 4 courses for each year

of this master cycle. Due to the broad diversity of knowledge in Chemical Biology, we realized that 4 courses are still not sufficient to provide a solid background to our students. Therefore, starting with academic year 20012-2013, we increased the number of courses to 5 for each year of the master cycle.

Here is a summary of the number of students of this Department:

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>M. Cycle</b>
2008-2009	6
2009-2010	7
2010-2011	8
2011-2012	4
2012-2013	7
2013-2014	5
2014-2015	5

Given the repeated refusal of the Ministry of Education to recognize our masteral school as such and also its diplomas, the number and the interest of the applicants to enter this form of masteral education has been constantly diminished; a large number of the top level students has chosen to finish the master studies abroad. Our efforts to collaborate with universities to get official recognition of our masteral school, in a similar way with the Department of Mathematics, did not meet the interest of either the University of Bucharest nor of the Polytechnic University of Bucharest. They rather consider our School as a competitor by attracting their outstanding students. Thus, because our master is not recognized by the Ministry of Education and because a master degree is according Romanian regulations a prerequisite for starting a PhD, our graduating students are not accepted to enroll in any PhD study hosted by Romanian universities. On the other hand it is worth mentioning that all foreign universities where our graduating students have applied to for a PhD study where accepted.

- We have contacts with some of our colleagues in order to start the activity of the **Department of Physics** in connection with two research programs in Romania: the ELI-NP on lasers and their interaction with nuclear physics (<http://www.eli-np.ro/>) and the Southeastern European Network in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics (<http://www.seenet-mtp.info/>).

Annex 1: List of courses given at SNS-B.

Annex 2: List of SNS-B students.

#### 4. Executing the expenses budget of the Upper Normal School from Bucharest.

Sold on September 1, 2006: **1032 lei.**

Academic year	Incomes		Expenses	
	Source	Lei	Type	Lei
2006-2007	SOFTWIN	50838	scholarships	61883
	RAEF	106319	lecturers	47276
	CLAY	18224	exec director	29767
	RTC	5304	current exp	13260
	IMAR	2158	taxes	34757
	2 %	3238		
		<b>186081</b>		<b>186943</b>
2007-2008	SOFTWIN	72394	scholarships	78547
	RAEF	106562	lecturers	34652
	CLAY	16867	exec director	14538
	French Inst	10067	current exp	7758
	THETA Found	2500	taxes	13617
	2 %	2866		
		<b>211256</b>		<b>149112</b>
2008-2009	RAEF	85329	scholarships	35523
	CLAY	22524	lecturers	58158
	BITDEFENDER	17320	exec director	24006
	2 %	3185	current exp	10939
			taxes	29118
			accred. Tax	11229
		<b>128358</b>		<b>168973</b>
2009-2010	RAEF	79074	scholarships	47537
	BITDEFENDER	45616	lecturers	48403
	AXXESS CAPITAL	8000	exec director	21427
	2%	11557	current exp	8984
			taxes	19425
			accred. Tax	26396
		<b>144247</b>		<b>172172</b>

Academic year	Incomes		Expenses	
	Source	Lei	Type	Lei
2010-2011	RAEF	255000	scholarships	58849
	AXXESS CAPITAL	60000	lecturers	132275
	2%	14962	exec director	29604
			taxes	35890
			current exp	6330
		<b>329962</b>		<b>262948</b>
2011-2012	2%	7657	scholarships	5646
			lecturers	16856
			exec director	26252
			taxes	18300
			current exp	5941
		<b>7657</b>		<b>72995</b>
2012-2013	AXXESS CAPITAL	40000	scholarships	
	BITDEFENDER	44032	lecturers	35045
	AdAstra	8000	exec director	27024
			taxes	28340
	directionare 2%	7822	current exp	7244
		<b>99854</b>		<b>97653</b>
2013-2014	BITDEFENDER	57358	scholarships	16000
	AXXESS CAPITAL	10000	lecturers	26344
	EGIS INTERNAT. F	5000	exec director	21181
	SRBBM*	6267	taxes	17987
	directionare 2%	7563	current exp	5042
	IMAR	7666		
		<b>93854</b>		<b>86554</b>

Academic year	Incomes	
	Source	Lei
2014-2015	<b>AXXESS CAPITAL</b>	138000
	<b>BITDEFENDER</b>	26649
	<b>EGIS INTER. FR.</b>	5000
	Ioana&Florin Boca	2512
	directionare 2%	