

The Honorary Sign is bestowed to leading Bulgarian or foreign researchers nationally or internationally recognized, who maintain beneficial contacts with units or members of the Union.

The Certificate is awarded to sections, branches or other USB units, to higher schools and research organizations, business or trade juridical bodies for permanent assistance or contribution to USB or its units. The Certificate can be awarded also to physical persons – governmental, civil or business related, who have actively contributed to the expansion of Union activities.

CONTACTS

Contacts are maintained with national scientific and educational institutions in the country and with the other professional and creative unions. Through its sections and associate members USB is affiliated to the international scientific unions.

USB has signed agreements for collaboration and cooperation with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation, the Bulgarian Medical Doctor's Union, the Federation of Scientific and Technical Unions, the Agency for Bulgarians Living Abroad etc.

'SCIENCE' MAGAZINE

"Science" Magazine is published by the USB since 1991 in six issues annually. The magazine is financially supported by the USB Governing board.

"Science" Magazine is a unique for Bulgaria popular-science edition. It treats issues related to science, education and technologies, focusing on informing the specialists on current issues, latest trends and achievements in these fields.

ADDRESS OF USB

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"Frederick Joliot-Curie" International House of Scientists

This is the first conference centre in Bulgaria, built in "St. Constantine" resort in 1968 and owned by the Union of scientists to host scientific conferences and meetings and as a recreation complex for members and guests.

"SCIENCE" FOUNDATION

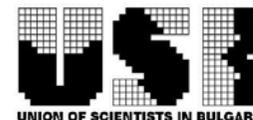
The Foundation was created after an initiative of the USB, the "St. Climent Ohridsky" Sofia University, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Bulgarian Trade Chamber, private companies and physical persons.

The aim and activities of the Foundation are to collaborate to the advancement of Bulgarian science by means of cooperation with universities, academies and other institutions in the country; creation and participation in the establishment of higher education bodies, high schools and other centers for science and education; organization, support and publishing of Bulgarian scientists' research work; encouraging and supporting the career of young researchers; assisting the practical implementation of scientific research; promoting the achievements of Bulgarian science in foreign research circles and organization of international scientific events; cooperation in intellectual rights protection.

"NAUKA INVEST" Ltd.

"Nauka invest" Ltd. - trade company, owned by the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria - works in the following three main directions:

- 1) Tourist agency for specialized congress tourism for which it owns the respective licenses for touroperating, restaurant and hotel activities;
- 2) Preprinting and publishing – it has its own publishing house.
- 3) Consultations for companies and business organizations, engineering activities: Agency.



Union of Scientists in Bulgaria

ABOUT USB

The Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB) was founded in October 1944 by 15 prominent Bulgarian scientists. The Union quickly expanded and became the largest organization of scientists and higher school lecturers. It has now about 4000 members from different research areas, of different age, with different political views. During the years the Union has irrevocably stood its positions of independent, non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, professional and creative organization of scientists.

According to the changes in the USB Statutes – adopted at its last Eighth Congress, held on 26-27 October 2001 and to the Law for Non-profit Juridical Bodies, the Union of Scientists was listed by the Sofia City Court on 30.01.2002 in the Register of non-profit organizations as "national, voluntary, non-governmental and democratic, creative and professional organization of scientists", as a "non-profit juridical body – association working for the benefit of society..." and as a Union "...built and functioning on federative principles", continuing the innovative traditions of the scientific community in Bulgaria.

AIM

■ The main aim of the USB is to assist the advancement of science and higher education in the country, to promote their prestige and contribution to the prosperity of the Republic of Bulgaria. The USB participates as an independent partner and consultant to the Law- and Decision-makers in the elaboration and implementation of the national strategy for the development of science and higher education.

■ The USB voices and protects the rights and interests of its members and assists their innovative and professional activities.

AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The USB performs activities for the benefit of society in the following areas: Science and Research, Education, Innovations, Environment, Health Care, Information, Informatics and Information Technologies, International

Cooperation, Social Assistance, Tourism and Recreation.

The USB can organize additional business activities, investing the incomes for achieving the aims declared in its Statutes.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership in the USB is voluntary. Members can be physical or juridical persons.

■ Every physical person - Bulgarian or foreign citizen, who owns a scientific degree and/or scientific title, or is a higher university graduate and performs or has performed till his retirement science research and/or lecturing, can become member of the USB.

■ Juridical bodies can become members of USB if they are unions, societies, associations, higher schools, research institutes, clubs and other civil organizations, whose staff consists of researchers and higher education specialists, and which are non-governmental and democratic in character and their aims do not contradict to the Statute of the USB. Members of USB can be organizations, centers, institutes, foundations etc. whose areas of activity are science and higher education, as well as those actively assisting and encouraging the development of science and education.

PhD graduates, specialists and students related to the research and lecturing process can become associate members of USB following a simplified procedure.

STRUCTURE

The USB performs its activities through units, built on research field and/or geographical area principles:

A) Sections

The Sections are units in the capital, consisting of at least 25 members of the same or similar research discipline.

Presently the following sections are functioning at the USB: agrobiological, biochemical, biomedical engineering, biophysics and molecular biology, biology, chemistry and pharmacology, economics, forestry, genetics, geology and geography, history, immunology, informatics, juridical sciences, mathematics, mechanics, medical sciences, microbiology, pedagogy and psychology, philology, philosophy, physical culture science, physics, physiology and biochemistry of plants, security and defence,

sociology, technical sciences, theology, theoretical and evolution biology, veterinary medicine and animal breeding.

B) Branches

The branches are units of USB spread outside of the capital, all over the country, built on geographic principle. Branches can be found in towns with at least 25 members working in different research areas. The branches can create their own sections.

Branches of USB exist now in the following 25 towns: Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Vidin, Vratza, Gabrovo, Dobrich, Kardjali, Kjustendil, Lovetch, Pleven, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Rousse, Svishtov, Sliven, Smoljan, Sofia Region, Stara Zagora, Targovishte, Haskovo, Shoumen, Jambol.

C) Societies, Clubs, Centers

Scientific societies can be found at the place of residence or at the working place, provided there are at least 10 members. The sections and branches at their initiative can also create clubs, teams, centers and other organization forms.

MANAGEMENT

The supreme governing body of the USB is the General Assembly of Proxies.

General Assembly of Proxies (GAP)

GAP consists of representatives of the Union members, elected according to quotas. With equal rights, proxies representing USB Juridical bodies members participate in GAP work.

GAP is convened at least once per year. It is entitled to adopt amendments to the Statute of the USB, to elect the members of the Governing board, the Audit Committee, the Ethics Committee, the President and the Vice-presidents of the USB. GAP adopts the bylaws of the USB, approves programmes for activities of the Union, adopts the budget, the activities and financial reports etc.

Governing Board

Between GAP meetings the USB is managed by the Governing Board which carries out the decisions taken by GAP and coordinates the activities of USB units. The Governing Board defines the strategy and controls USB business units activities, and also disposes of the properties of the Union.

Governing Board members are elected for a mandate of 4 years.

Committees

A system of permanent all-Union bodies is set up to assist the overall direction of the USB: Committee for Research Achievements, Committee for Scientific Events and International Relations, Committee for Information on Foreign Programmes Participation, Committee for Social Protection of Members, Committee for Young Researchers, Council on Science and Higher Education Issues, Publications Committee, "Nauka" Magazine Editorial Board.

Similar bodies exist in some of USB branches in the country.

President

The President of the USB is representing the organization and fulfils its management following the GAP and the Governing Board decisions.

The USB Congress which till 2001 was the Organization supreme governing body remains as a forum for discussing the activities of the Union for the benefit of society and for the development of science and higher education.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

More than 150 scientific events are organized annually by the USB and its units – international and national scientific congresses, national and regional conferences with foreign participation, scientific sessions, seminars, round table discussions and so on. In most of the cases, these events are held jointly with other organisations, institutes and higher education establishments.

At the initiative of the Union members, most university centers organize annually *Days of or Month of science*. As a rule, every significant event is accompanied by a publication of the contributions. The publication of Annuals with scientific articles tends to become a tradition in USB sections and branches.

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AWARDS

For their research or active union development contributions, USB members can be awarded the Honorary Sign, the Certificate with badge, or the Honorary membership.

Certificate with badge, or the Honorary membership.