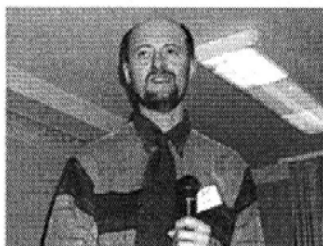


Six Years of Scientific Research Training in Hungary

Progress, Plans, Problems

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Abstract. The first six years of a new program to organize high-level scientific research training for gifted high school students in Hungary are described. Besides giving top-level research opportunities for talented students in their most receptive age, the program already helped the establishment of almost two hundred scientific research clubs in high schools of Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Serbia, providing a focal point for science training of high school teachers and helping regional cooperation in Central-Eastern Europe.

1. Introduction

Six years ago a new program has been established in Hungary helping gifted high school students (in the age between 14 and 20) to find mentors who introduce them to scientific research in Hungarian universities or research institutes. The program gained an overwhelmingly positive response from the Hungarian scientific community. Mentors are of highest scientific merit: among them 78 are members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (*George Olah* is a Nobel Laureate), and most are respected professors of their research field. The patrons of the program are *Ferenc Mádl*, the President of Hungary and *József Pálinkás*, Minister of Education (both are well-known scientists themselves, members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences).