

Challenges of running an international research group in a developing country

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The remote lab

The remote lab

Introduction

- Ghent Analysis and PDE Center, the Remote Lab in Armenia
- Established in 2023, consists of 10 researchers at different levels
- Grant from the Higher Education and Science Committee, approx. 400k EUR
- Grant from the FAST Foundation, approx. 400k EUR
- Analysis on groups, singular PDEs

The remote lab

Cast

- 3 faculty members from YSU
- 2 postdocs from Iran
- 2 PhD students from Armenia
- 3 MS students from Armenia

Funding

Challenges with funding

- Too little until too late: the lesson
- Salary caps
- Limited variety of sources
- Traditions of austerity

Bureaucracy

Rules and habits

- Strangulation by anti-corruption laws
- Dissipation of responsibility
- Resistance to modernisation
- Unhealthy and costly restrictions, either by the rules or habits

Attracting talent

Attracting talent

Challenges in talent acquisition

- Overly pragmatic mindset
- Competition with the tech industry
- Academic careers not very appealing

Facilities

Unhealthy parsimony

- Old-fashioned at best, often unhealthy
- Atmosphere not conducive of deep work
- Unwillingness to raise standards

Integration

International researchers

- Language barrier among faculty and administration
- Cultural challenges
- Jurisdiction and bureaucracy not prepared
- Idiosyncracies in public services

“But it definitely must be done.”

Thank you.