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## Norwegian KFOR Finances First Mycological Laboratory in Macedonia



Opened: Within the Botanical Gardens, at the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, the first mycological laboratory for investigation of fungi in Macedonia was opened. The Norwegian Contingent Commander, Colonel Arild Thobiassen discusses fungi with distinguished guests and CIMIC officers.

On 16 July at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, within the Botanical Gardens, at the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, the first mycological laboratory for investigation of fungi in Macedonia was opened. The Norwegian Contingent Commander, Colonel Arild Thobiassen, the pro-dean of the Faculty and a representative from the Ministry of Environment participated in the inauguration ceremony.

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The project was initiated by Professor of Mycology, Mitko Karadelev, realised by the Civilian-Military Cooperation Branch from KFOR HQ Rear in Skopje, and was sponsored by the Norwegian Contingent. The donation was worth 20,000 DM. The re -construction of the laboratory lasted from 4 May until the beginning of July.



Sample: These are some of the fungi-samples which will be studied in the new laboratory.

fungi, most of them from the Balkans but also from other parts of the world, conserved in compliance with the world standards. Apart from being a collection of fungi, the laboratory will have modern research facilities for both students, and Post Graduates, to enable them to study scientific projects in the field of mycology (science for fungi). The laboratory is the only one of its kind in the Balkans.

The laboratory will function as a regional centre for research of fungi, especially corticoid and poroid fungi, as there is no such specialised laboratory in the Balkans. It currently houses a collection of 10,000 samples of

Information as it appeared on <http://www.kforonline.com/news/default.htm>