Ausgabe 05/11
20. Mai

ITB infoservice

Strategisch
International
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**Berichterstattung zur Forschungs-,
Technologie- und Innovationspolitik weltweit**

Inhaltsverzeichnis

Global

High-level Meeting on the Internet Economy: Generating Innovation and Growth

This high-level meeting (28-29 June 2011) builds upon the *OECD Ministerial Meeting on The Future of the Internet Economy*. Drawing together leaders from all stakeholder communities, its aim is to continue fostering the development of the internet economy, with a focus on:

- Supply: by encouraging the extension of high capacity communication networks to reach maximum national coverage and provide access at affordable prices.
- Demand: by fostering the use of the internet in critical areas (health, education, transport, energy) in order to increase efficiency.
- Openness: by reaching a consensus on how to maintain an open internet economy and encouraging multi-stakeholder co-operation
- Measurement: by benchmarking developments in high capacity communication networks and quantifying the internet's impact on the economy in order to facilitate evidence-based policies.
- Means: by exchanging best practices in all of these areas.

Leaders from governments and stakeholders will discuss the adoption of shared principles to help policy makers, increase trust and reach a consensus on how best to ensure the continued and innovative growth of an open internet economy.

Quelle

→ http://www.oecd.org/site/0,3407,en_21571361_47081080_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Weitere Informationen

OECD Ministerial Meeting on The Future of the Internet Economy (Seoul, Korea, 17-18 June 2008)

→ http://www.oecd.org/site/0,3407,en_21571361_38415463_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

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Fokus OECD

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/oecd

Fachliche Ansprechpartner für OECD im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Sonja Bugdahn, Tel. 0228/3821-1474, sonja.bugdahn@dlr.de
Peter Klandt, Tel. 0228/3821-1506, peter.klandt@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

African Nations Call for ICTs to Tackle Disease

African health ministers have called for the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to help with attempts to tackle non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and sickle-cell disease. The recommendation that ICTs be harnessed to increase health awareness and empower individuals and communities was part of the Brazzaville Declaration on NCDs, which the ministers have signed.

The declaration includes other recommendations, calling for strengthening health systems and support for partnerships and networks that bring together national, regional and global players including academic and research institutions, public and private sectors, and civil society to tackle the rising problem.

The ministers also urged the WHO, partners and civil society organisations to take the initiative and give technical support to member states so that they can implement the recommendations better, as well as monitor and evaluate what they have done.

NCDs such as cancer, diabetes and heart diseases, have spread to the developing world and cause the majority of the deaths worldwide, according to the first global report on the status of NCDs released by the WHO (27 April 2011). Some 36 million, or 80 %, of deaths caused by NCDs in 2008 occurred in the low- and middle-income countries.

The declaration will be presented at the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on NCDs in September.

Quelle

→ http://www.scidev.net/en/news/african-nations-call-for-icts-to-tackle-disease-1.html

Download

Brazzaville Declaration on NCDs

→ http://www.afro.who.int/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=6304

Weitere Informationen

African Health Ministers adopt Brazzaville Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases

→ http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/pressreleases/2839-african-health-ministers-adopt-brazzaville-declaration-on-noncommunicable-diseases.html

High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases

→ http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/ncdiseases.shtml

ICT for Development (ICT4D)

→ http://www.ict4d.org.uk/

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→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/global

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Global Corruption Report Published

The global response to climate change will demand unprecedented international cooperation, deep economic transformation and resource transfers at a significant scale. Corruption threatens to jeopardize these efforts.

Transparency International has now published the “Global Corruption Report: Climate Change” (GCR), which is the first comprehensive publication of its kind to explore the corruption risks related to tackling climate change. From international policy-making to national level mitigation and adaptation strategies and with a special focus on the forestry sector, the GCR draws on the expertise of more than 50 experts and practitioners from the anti-corruption movement and the climate change field. The report covers four key areas:

- Governance: investigating major governance challenges towards tackling climate change.
- Mitigation: reducing greenhouse gas emissions with transparency and accountability.
- Adapting to climate change: identifying corruption risks in climate-proofing development, financing and implementation of adaptation strategies.
- Forestry governance: responding to the corruption challenges plaguing the forestry sector, and integrating integrity into international strategies to halt deforestation and promote reforestation.

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 90 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, TI raises awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and works with partners in government, business and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.

Quelle

→ http://www.transparency.org/publications/gcr/gcr_climate_change2

Download

Global Corruption Report: Climate Change

→ http://www.transparency.org/content/download/60586/970870/Global_Corruption_Report_Climate_Change_English.pdf

Executive Summary

→ http://www.transparency.org/content/download/60644/971384/GCR_ClimateChange_ExecSum_EN.pdf

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→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/global

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Umwelt im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Raimund Glitz, Tel. 0211/6214-546, glitz@vdi.de

Ziele für eine bessere Bildung: EU-Bildungsbericht veröffentlicht

Laut Bildungsbericht hat die EU lediglich eines der fünf 2003 erklärten Ziele erreicht, doch ihre Ziele für 2020 sind realisierbar.

Die EU hat ihr Ziel, die Anzahl der Absolventen mathematischer, naturwissenschaftlicher und technischer Fächer in der EU bis 2010 um 15 % zu erhöhen, problemlos übertroffen. In anderen Bereichen gab es zwar auch Fortschritte, doch wurde noch nicht genug getan, um den Anteil der vorzeitigen Schulabgänger zu senken, die Lese- und Schreibfähigkeit zu verbessern und die Anzahl erfolgreicher Schüler in der Sekundarstufe II und in der Erwachsenenbildung zu erhöhen.

> Die EU hat bereits Maßnahmen ergriffen, die Mitgliedstaaten beim Erreichen dieser Benchmarks zu unterstützen. 2010 leitete sie Jugend in Bewegung ein, eine Initiative zur Modernisierung der Bildungssysteme, zur Förderung der Mobilität von Studierenden und zur Beseitigung von Jugendarbeitslosigkeit. Anfang dieses Jahres wurden weitere Programme zur Bekämpfung des frühzeitigen Schulabgangs und zur Förderung der Vorschulerziehung gestartet.

Der Bericht zeigt außerdem, dass die EU-Länder ihre 2009 überarbeiteten Zielvorgaben bis 2020 erreichen können, wenn sie Finanzmittel dafür bereitstellen und der Bildungsreform einen hohen Stellenwert einräumen. Zwei dieser neuen Benchmarks sind gleichzeitig Kernziele der Strategie Europa 2020 für Wachstum und Beschäftigung und stehen damit in der EU ganz oben auf der Tagesordnung.

Bildungsziele 2020 – Fortschritte bis jetzt:

- Senkung des Anteils vorzeitiger Schul- und Ausbildungsabgänger auf unter 10 % – seit 2003 ist der Anteil junger Menschen, die die Schule ohne Sekundarstufe-II-Abschluss verlassen, auf ungefähr 14 % gesunken.
- Steigerung des Anteils der 30- bis 34-jährigen mit Hochschulabschluss auf 40 % – der EU-Durchschnitt stieg von 2000 bis 2009 um fast 10 Prozentpunkte auf 32,3 %.
- Teilnahme von 95 % der Kinder an Vorschulerziehung – zurzeit liegt dieser Anteil bei 92,3 %. Neun EU-Länder erfüllen zwar bereits dieses Ziel und zahlreiche andere sind auf dem Weg dorthin – doch liegen einige noch zurück.
- Verbesserung der Fähigkeiten im Lesen, in Mathematik und Naturwissenschaften bei 15jährigen – bis 2020 soll der Anteil der Schüler, die in diesen wichtigen Bereichen unzureichende Fähigkeiten aufweisen, 15 % unterschreiten. Derzeit sind die Lesefertigkeiten bei etwa 20 % der Schüler als unzureichend zu bezeichnen.
- Erhöhung der Anzahl der Erwachsenen, die sich am lebenslangen Lernen beteiligen, auf 15 % – der Anteil der Menschen in entsprechenden Programmen ist leicht zurückgegangen; in 17 EU-Ländern liegt er nunmehr bei unter 10 %.

Quelle

→ http://ec.europa.eu/news/culture/110419_de.htm

Download

EU-Bildungsbericht: Progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training - Indicators and benchmarks, 2010/11

→ http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/report10/report_en.pdf

Weitere Informationen

EU-Bildungsbericht: Trotz guter Fortschritte mehr Anstrengungen erforderlich

→ http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news2900_de.htm

Informationen über Bildung in der EU

→ http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_de.htm

Strategie Europa 2020

→ http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_de.htm

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→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/eu

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Bildung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Commission Announces New Strategy to Halt Biodiversity Loss within Ten Years

The Commission presented a new strategy to protect and improve the state of Europe's biodiversity over the next decade on 3 May 2011. The strategy includes six targets which address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and which will reduce the main pressures on nature and ecosystem services in the EU by anchoring biodiversity objectives in key sectoral policies. The global aspects of biodiversity loss are also addressed, ensuring that the EU contributes to combating biodiversity loss around the world. The strategy is in line with the commitments made by the EU in Nagoya, Japan, last year.

The strategy features six priority targets and accompanying actions to greatly reduce the threats to biodiversity. The actions include:

- Full implementation of existing nature protection legislation and network of natural reserves, to ensure major improvements to the conservation status of habitats and species
- Improving and restoring ecosystems and ecosystem services wherever possible, notably by the increased use of green infrastructure
- Ensuring the sustainability of agriculture and forestry activities
- Safeguarding and protecting EU fish stocks
- Controlling invasive species, a growing cause of biodiversity loss in the EU
- Stepping up the EU's contribution to concerted global action to avert biodiversity loss.

In Europe, biodiversity is in crisis, with species extinctions running at unparalleled rates. Many ecosystems are degraded to the point where they are no longer able to deliver the wide variety of services we depend on – from clean air and water to pollination of crops and protection from floods. This degradation represents enormous social and economic losses for the EU. Insect pollination, for example, which is heavily declining in Europe, has an estimated economic value of 15 billion Euro per year in the EU. The situation is no less worrying at the global level.

Current global rates of species extinction are now running at up to 1,000 times the natural rate, mainly due to human activities. In the EU, about 25 % of European animal species, including mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and butterflies are at risk of extinction, and 88 % of fish stocks are over-exploited or significantly depleted.

The strategy is in line with two major commitments made by EU leaders in March 2010 – halting the loss of biodiversity in the EU by 2020, and protecting, valuing and restoring EU biodiversity and ecosystem services by 2050. It is also in line with global commitments made in Nagoya in October 2010, in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, where world leaders adopted a package of measures to address biodiversity loss world wide over the coming decade.

As an integral part of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the biodiversity strategy will contribute to the EU's resource efficiency objectives by ensuring that Europe's natural capital is managed sustainably, as well as to climate change mitigation and adaptation goals by improving the resilience of ecosystems and the services they provide.

Quelle

→ http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/526&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Download

Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020

→ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf

Weitere Informationen

EU Biodiversity Policy Development

→ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/policy/index_en.htm

EU Commission's biodiversity campaign

→ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/campaign/index_en.htm

Strategie Europa 2020

→ http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_de.htm

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→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/eu

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Umwelt im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Raimund Glitz, Tel. 0211/6214-546, glitz@vdi.de

Halbzeitbewertung des Eurostars-Programms

Die Europäische Kommission hat am 8. April 2011 zur Halbzeitbewertung des Eurostars-Programms Stellung genommen. Ende 2010 hatte eine unabhängige Expertengruppe ihren Evaluierungsbericht vorgelegt und konkrete Empfehlungen für die Zukunft des Programms ab 2014 ausgesprochen.

Konkret beurteilt die Europäische Kommission die Vorschläge des Expertenberichts wie folgt:

Die Kommission wird die Empfehlung, Eurostars auch nach 2013 mit einem erweiterten Budget fortzuführen, prüfen. Eine Fortführung wird davon abhängen, ob die Nachfrage weiterhin hoch bleibt und die beteiligten Mitgliedstaaten dieser Nachfrage gerecht werden können. Unabhängig davon könnten nach Meinung der Kommission auch die Evaluierungskriterien verschärft oder die Verschiebung von Budget für zukünftige Ausschreibungsrunden auf aktuelle ermöglicht werden, um mehr gut bewertete Projekte fördern zu können.

> Eurostars ist ein Förderprogramm für kleine und mittlere Unternehmen (KMUs), die im Rahmen der europäischen Forschungsinitiative EUREKA mit Partnern in anderen Mitgliedsländern gemeinsam Forschungs- und Entwicklungsprojekte durchführen möchten. Bei Eurostars gibt es keine thematischen Vorgaben („Bottom-up-Prinzip"). Anträge können jederzeit eingereicht werden, wobei i.d.R. zweimal pro Jahr Begutachtungsrunden stattfinden. Die Förderung der Projektteilnehmer erfolgt aus nationalen Mitteln, die durch einen Beitrag der Europäischen Kommission aufgestockt werden.

Darüber hinaus unterstützt die Europäische Kommission die Forderung der Experten, die Anspruchsvoraussetzung für eine Förderung durch Eurostars einheitlich in allen beteiligten Mitgliedstaaten zu gestalten, um so zu verhindern, dass beispielsweise einige Mitgliedstaaten zusätzliche Kriterien aufstellen.

In Bezug auf die Feststellung des Evaluierungsberichts, dass das Eurostars-Programm v. a. KMUs anspricht, die bereits in internationale Forschungskooperationen eingebunden sind, spricht sich die Kommission dafür aus, zukünftig, „Newcomer" noch gezielter anzusprechen, d. h. der Fokus sollte nicht auf einer Erhöhung der Anzahl der beteiligten KMUs liegen, sondern auf der Ansprache von KMUs mit geeignetem Profil für das Programm.

Quelle

→ http://de.sitestat.com/hk/dihk/s?themenfelder.international.info.bab.bab02052011&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=http://www.dihk.de/themenfelder/international/info/bab/2011/bab02052011/at_download/file?mdate=1304344497936

Download

Bericht der Kommission an das Europäische Parlament und den Rat: Zwischenbewertung des gemeinsamen Programms Eurostars

→ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0186:FIN:DE:PDF

Eurostars Programme Interim Evaluation:Final Report

→ http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/archive/fp7-evidence-base/other_fp7_panel_evaluations/eurostars_programme_interim_evaluation.pdf

Weitere Informationen

Das Eurostars-Förderprogramm

→ http://www.eureka.dlr.de/de/194.php

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→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/eu

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Evaluation im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

New Journal on Internationalisation

The European University Association has launched a new journal to report on developments in the European Higher Action Area and encourage further debate.

The Bologna process may be formally closed but the European Higher Education Area that it spawned continues its transforming action, according to Michael Gaebel, one of the editors of the new *Journal of the European Higher Education Area*.

The publication documents progress and covers general trends in internationalisation and new approaches to learning and teaching in Europe.

The first issue of the journal has extensive articles on the Bologna bachelors and doctorates, qualification frameworks, socially inclusive higher education, student-centred learning and the Open Method of Coordination. Future issues are planned that will cover one single theme.

Quelle

→ http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110421201822696

Weitere Informationen

Journal of the European Higher Education Area
→ http://www.ehea-journal.eu
European University Association (EUA)
→ http://www.eua.be

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Fokus EU
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/eu

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

New Initiatives Could Improve EU-Arctic Relations

A proposed EU-Arctic Centre could strengthen EU involvement in the Arctic region. That was among the conclusions of a high-level seminar on EU and Nordic relations with the Arctic held in Brussels on 8 April. The centre could be located in Finland and the EU Commission expressed its commitment to continued cooperation with the Nordic Council of Ministers on Arctic issues.

The European Parliament has requested the EU Commission to take initial steps to create an EU-Arctic Centre. Rovaniemi in Finland could be the hub for this research network, that is intended to secure a firmer scientific basis for future policy decisions in the Arctic.

This move reflects an increasing concern for the Arctic in the EU system, a concern increasingly reflected by the activities of the Nordic Council of Ministers over the last three years.

„Years ago, if one stated a need for North Atlantic activities within the EU, one was told to focus on the right ocean, which to the EU then was only the Baltic Sea. That is changing rapidly with an inclusion of the North Atlantic Ocean and we are part of that movement," the Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) Halldór Asgrímsson said in his opening remarks.

The EU Commission – represented by Director Bernhard Friess from the Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – confirmed this change of focus and expressed a commitment for increased cooperation on Arctic issues with the NCM. He also underlined the obligation of the EU not only to continue promoting research and commercial activities in the region, but also assume responsibility for the ecological footprint of the EU in the Arctic.

According to the Ecological Institute in Berlin, emissions from the EU countries account for up to 45 % of black carbon in the Arctic and 24 % of all mercury. Black carbon increases ice melting and mercury endangers the livelihood of the indigenous populations, depending heavily on fishery. This move by the EU would be welcome, according to experts.

"The indigenous populations in the Arctic region are suspicious of EU intentions and sceptic due to controversies linked to seal hunting and whaling. A certain inconsistency is perceived between EU support for economic development and a lack of understanding for indigenous practices," said scientist Adèle Airoldi.

Airoldi is author of key reports issued by the NCM since the 2008 landmark conference "Common Concern for the Arctic" in 2008, inauguring increased EU-Nordic dialogue in the Arctic.

"We already have commitments from key players ranging from the Polar Institute in Tromsø to the Scott Polar Institute at Cambridge. An EU-Arctic Centre would improve research and dialogue around Arctic issues, ensuring the impact of scientific research on new policy moves and initiatives," said Hannu Halinen,

Finnish Ambassador for Arctic Affairs and member of the Arctic Expert Committee under the NCM.

The Nordic Council of Ministers is a crucial actor in EU-Arctic relations, both due to geographical location, but also because of its expertise and knowledge of the Arctic region, he underlined.

Quelle

→ http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/new-initiatives-could-improve-eu-arctic-relations

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Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Nordische Länder im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

ICT World Beaters

The Nordic Region fares particularly well in the World Economic Forum (WEF) rankings of the best countries in the world for information and communications technology. All five Nordic states feature near the top of the table, with Sweden and Finland right at the top.

The WEF published "The Global Information Technology Report 2010-2011" last month, and the Nordic countries stand out among the most digitally connected countries in the world. Four of them are in the top 10: Sweden (1), Finland (3), Denmark (7) and Norway (9) – with Iceland in an honourable 16th place.

The report highlights the Nordic countries' impressive ability to use ICT as a lever for long-term economic growth. This is particularly important “in the wake of one of the most serious crises for decades" the WEF writes.

Professor Soumittra Dutta is one of the founders and authors of the WEF report. Asked about the reasons behind "the Nordic wonder" he thinks that certain common features have facilitated Nordic progress in ICT.

He points out the countries' extremely innovation-friendly business environments with open and encouraging regulations. "The Nordic Region’s strong position is a result of positive policy work by official bodies, smart investments in education and the emergence of strong technology companies, e.g. Ericsson and Nokia," he says.

According to the report, the key factors are a first-class education system, research conducted in partnership with the ICT industry and a strong, socially rooted innovation culture. These factors allow the Nordic countries to integrate new technologies into their competitiveness strategies.

The WEF report, which studies 138 countries, covers a variety of parameters, e.g. entrepreneurial climate, the rules and infrastructure environment for ICT, and how individuals, businesses and governments use and reap the benefits of ICT.

Quelle

→ http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/ict-world-beaters

Download

The Global Information Technology Report 2010-2011

→ http://www.weforum.org/reports/global-information-technology-report-2010-2011-0?ol=1

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→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/eu

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Nordische Länder im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Joint Nordic Supercomputer in Iceland

The national bodies responsible for high-performance computing in Denmark, Norway and Sweden are to build a joint supercomputer in Iceland. Supercomputers require a great deal of energy, so the decision will save the countries money.

The pilot project will seek to understand the organisational, political and technical challenges involved in the joint development and running of research infrastructure. It will also attempt to quantify the potentially significant price and performance improvements for supercomputers.

Supercomputers are used a great deal in modern research and engineering science. High-performance computing (HPC) facilitates advanced scientific calculations and simulations, which are a prerequisite for much of the research and innovation that is so crucial to modern knowledge-driven economies.

“Access to HPC infrastructure is necessary for any country with ambitions in research and innovation," says Rene Belsø of the Danish Centre for Scientific Computing.

The environmental impact is also considerable due to the high energy consumption. Iceland generates cheap power from carbon-neutral sources, making this particular initiative climate friendly as well.

The project is a collaboration between the Danish Centre for Scientific Computing, the Swedish National Infrastructure for Computing (SNIC), UNINETT Sigma in Norway and the University of Iceland.

Quelle

→ http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/joint-nordic-supercomputer-in-iceland

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→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/eu

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Nordische Länder im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Infrastruktur im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

PISA Restricts Innovative Thinking in Education

One of the conclusions of an extensive new study of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in the Nordic education system is that PISA restricts innovative thinking in education. More entrepreneurial forms of teaching would, for example, help cut the drop-out rates that plague education in some of the Nordic countries.

The study, commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers and conducted by a group of researchers headed by the University of Nordland in Norway, identifies clear visions at political level of enhancing young peoples’ creative and innovative skills. However, a number of structural barriers and attitudes still preclude implementing these visions in the school system.

An education system that makes pupils and students creative, flexible and innovative is one of the keys to maintaining Nordic competitiveness in the globalised knowledge economy.

The study does not advocate adding more subjects to the timetable. It calls for new teaching methods and new ways of organising education. According to the report, it is important to move away from traditional subject-based teaching, which considers entrepreneurship a separate activity, towards innovative teaching in which entrepreneurship becomes a way of thinking that permeates the whole of the education system.

The study also concludes that new methods, e.g. in nature studies, have potential for reducing drop-out rates, and it calls for closer focus on practical and creative subjects such as handicrafts and music.

According to the researchers, the increased use of tests, as per PISA, often leads to the emphasis being on factual knowledge and mechanical skills at the expense of problem-oriented teaching and creativity. Unlike traditional subjects such as maths and reading, it is difficult to quantify the results of prioritising in-

novation and entrepreneurship, so better evaluation methods are needed if creative skills are to be accorded sufficient priority.

Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in the Nordic education system is also the theme of one of the globalisation projects in which the Council of Ministers for Education and Research is involved. The project was presented in greater detail at an event organised by the Nordic Council of Ministers on 27-28 April.

Quelle

→ http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/pisa-restricts-innovative-thinking-in-education

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Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Nordische Länder im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Bildung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Nordic-Baltic Dialogue in Oslo

The three organisations at the Nordic Centre in Oslo welcomed 12 participants from the Baltic Assembly to a seminar on 28-29 April. The aim was to get further acquainted with each other's work and experiences within the research and innovation area. Can the Nordic model for cooperation be an example for the Baltic countries?

The Baltic Assembly is an international organisation with the aim to promote cooperation between the parliaments of the Baltic Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The comparison to the Nordic cooperation is clear, and during the seminar in Oslo, research and innovation was on the agenda.

The Baltic delegation was introduced to the Nordic collaboration through presentations by the Nordic Council of Ministers including the Top-level Research Initiative, NordForsk, Nordic Innovation, and Nordic Energy Research. The various projects, funding schemes and tools in use were presented, many of which were of great interest to the Baltic delegation.

Comparisons were made between the various systems in the Nordic and Baltic countries regarding differences in situation, resources and priorities.

A wide range of issues were discussed, such as the links between public and private partnership, inter-linkage between businesses and between the Nordic and European research areas, the links between research and innovation, joint Nordic use of research infrastructure, and more concrete Nordic-Baltic cooperation.

The different models for cooperation represented by the three Nordic organisations were an interesting focal point, demonstrating that successful intra-Nordic collaboration can be carried out in many forms.

Gunnel Gustafsson and Ivar Kristensen, Directors of NordForsk and Nordic Innovation respectively, pointed to the importance of looking at the larger picture of international cooperation, also beyond mere funding. Networking, knowledge transfer and creating an added value together are also important effects of international collaboration that will benefit all participating partners.

Anne Cathrine Gjærde, Director of Nordic Energy Research addressed the issue of green technology and the possibilities and obstacles for carrying through such projects in the Baltic region. This issue initiated an extensive discussion, focusing on regional dependencies and resource situations on the one hand, and the importance of planning for the future on the other.

Members of the Baltic delegation expressed interest in following the Nordic cooperation closely, perhaps drawing on this model for further developing the Baltic collaboration.

Quelle

→ http://www.nordforsk.org/en/news/nordisk-baltisk-dialog-i-oslo

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus EU

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/eu

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Nordische Länder im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Digital Agenda: Commission Seeks Views on How Best to Exploit Cloud Computing in Europe

The European Commission is seeking views from citizens, businesses, public administrations and other interested parties on how to fully benefit from 'cloud computing'.

Cloud computing enables companies, public administrations and individuals, using networks such as the internet, to access their data and software on computers located somewhere else. It can help businesses – especially SMEs – to drastically reduce information technology costs, help governments supply services at a lower cost and save energy by making more efficient use of hardware.

Cloud computing is already used widely, for example for web-based e-mail services. This trend is growing and cloud services are expected to generate revenues of almost 35 billion Euro in Europe by 2014.

Cloud computing has the potential to develop into a major new service industry, presenting great opportunities for European telecoms and technology companies. Client companies and public administrations can benefit from lower costs and state-of-the-art services by using cloud computing rather than installing and maintaining software and computing equipment of their own.

Promoting the right conditions for citizens and businesses to best benefit from this technical development is one of the actions foreseen by the Digital Agenda for Europe. The online public consultation will run until 31 August. Responses will feed into the preparation of a European cloud computing strategy that the Commission will present in 2012.

Quelle

→ http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/575&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr

Weitere Informationen

Digital Agenda Website

→ http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/index_en.htm

Public consultation

→ http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=cloudcomputing&lang=en

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Fokus EU

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/eu

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Nordic Research Cooperation in the Coming European Research Landscape: Strategies for Added Value

The main framework for research priorities in Europe are set in the EU, and EU research policy has wide-ranging implications for Nordic researchers and policymakers. Participation in EU research cooperation is therefore a main political priority in all the Nordic countries.

NordForsk is a platform for joint Nordic research and research policy development. Its aim is to contribute to the development of the knowledge society in the Nordic region, and consequently to a globally competitive European Research Area (ERA). To implement this, its strategic actions are inter alia developing the knowledge basis for sound Nordic research and research policy coordination, and promoting cooperation that adds value to national initiatives in the Nordic region.

The EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) is, for the time being, the main instrument to respond to Europe's needs in terms of growth and European competitiveness. FP7 covers the entire range from basic to applied research, and represents a key pillar in the establishment of the ERA. This

represents substantial opportunities for Nordic researchers. At the same time, the size and complexity of FP7 represents challenges for actors from small countries, when it comes to influencing relevant decision-making processes and mobilizing sufficient resources to fully participate.

Against this background, NordForsk has commissioned three reports to describe and analyse key aspects of Nordic research cooperation in a European context, both at the research policy and strategy level (research ministries and research councils) and the research-performing level (researchers, universities and institutes).

Quelle, Download

Enhancing the Effectiveness of Nordic Research Cooperation

→ http://www.nordforsk.org/files/coming-policy-brief-enhancing-the-effectiveness-of-nordic-research-cooperation

Nordic contributions in developing the ERA

→ http://www.nordforsk.org/files/coming-policy-brief-nordic-contributions-in-developing-the-era

Rethinking Nordic Added Value in Research

→ http://www.nordforsk.org/files/coming-policy-brief-rethinking-nordic-added-value-in-research

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Nordische Länder im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

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Fokus EU

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/eu

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Frankreich

Zwei neue Clusterallianzen im Bereich grüne Chemie und Pflanzen

Ende März 2011 wurden in Frankreich zwei neue Clusterallianzen gegründet: das Plant InterCluster (PIC) und der Zusammenschluss der Pôles de Compétitivité im Bereich grüne Pflanzenchemie (UPC2V).

Plant InterCluster wurde auf Initiative von fünf Pôles de Compétitivité (PdC - Kompetenznetze) gegründet und zielt auf die Entwicklung einer gemeinsamen Strategie für diesen Bereich ab. Ziel der Allianz ist der Aufbau neuer Partnerschaften in Forschung, Bildung und Wirtschaft mit internationalen Clustern und die Stärkung der internationalen Sichtbarkeit seiner Mitglieder. Die Schwerpunkte liegen in folgenden Bereichen: Getreide, Obst und Gemüse, Zierpflanzenzucht, Heil- und Gewürzpflanzen, Samen, Tropenpflanzen, Rebbau und Weinkultur und Biotechnologie.

Das Partnerschaftsabkommen zur Gründung der zweiten Allianz wurde am 17. März 2011 von den fünf Clustern – Industries & Agro-ressources - IAR, Axelera, Agrimip Innovation, Fibres und Xylofutur – unterzeichnet. Ziel der UPC2V ist es, die verschiedenen Vorstellungen, die Ausrüstungen und die notwendigen Mittel zu vereinigen. Des Weiteren soll durch diesen Zusammenschluss die internationale Sichtbarkeit der Akteure und des Themas vergrößert werden.

Quelle

→ http://www.wissenschaft-frankreich.de/de/forschungspolitik-und-innovation/zwei-neue-clusterallianzen-im-bereich-grune-chemie-und-pflanzen//

Weitere Informationen

Plant Interclusters

→ http://www.plant-inter-cluster.eu/

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Frankreich

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/frankreich

Grenoble / Lyon High Tech Cluster
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/countries/themes/international/clusterlist/grenoble-lyon-high-tech-cluster/
Pôle Mer Bretagne
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/countries/themes/international/clusterlist/pole-mer-bretagne/
Region Paris - Île de France
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/countries/themes/international/clusterlist/region-paris-ile-de-france/
Sophia Antipolis
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/countries/themes/international/clusterlist/sophia-antipolis/

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Frankreich im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Naima Barouk, Tel. 0228/3821-1418, naima.barouk@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Cluster / Netzwerke im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

34 Forschungslaboratorien erhalten als Ergebnis der Ausschreibung "Instituts Carnot 2 " das begehrte Label Carnot

Zehn neue Laboratorien sind mit dem Carnot-Label ausgezeichnet worden. 24 Laboratorien hatten das Label bereits im Jahre 2006 erhalten ("erste Welle"). Den somit insgesamt 34 Carnot-Instituten wurde die Auszeichnung für fünf Jahre zuerkannt (bisher vier Jahre). Bei ihrer Auswahl wurden die Ergebnisse der Evaluierung der Arbeit der Laboratorien der "ersten Welle" berücksichtigt.

Auf der Linie der "Stratégie nationale de recherche et d'innovation" (SRI) decken die 34 Laboratorien neue Themenfelder ab (u. a. Human- und Sozialwissenschaften; Medizinwissenschaften). Sie sind auf einen sehr großen Teil des französischen Staatsgebiets verteilt und betreffen fast 25.000 Forscher. Zusammengefasst stellen sie ein Forschungsbudget von 1,9 Milliarden Euro dar; sie erzielen 350 Millionen Euro aus Vereinbarungen über Gemeinschaftsforschung - davon 60 Millionen mit Kleinen und Mittleren Unternehmen (KMU/PME).

Das CNRS ist an 70 % von ihnen ebenso beteiligt wie auf dem Wege über mehr als 300 "unités mixtes de recherche" (UMR) an fast allen 71 "pôles de compétitivité".

Forschungsministerin Valérie Pécresse erinnert in einem Pressekommuniqué vom 28. April 2011 daran, dass im Rahmen des "Programms Zukunftsinvestitionen" noch ein Projektaufruf über 500 Millionen Euro aussteht, der allerdings nur auf die jetzt neu mit dem Carnot-Label ausgezeichneten Laboratorien abstelle. Diese zusätzlichen Mittel sollen insbesondere der Stärkung ihrer Beziehungen zu KMU und dem Ausbau ihrer grenzüberschreitenden Beziehungen dienen.

Quellen

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/frankreich/themes/nc/info/detail/data/55168/
→ http://www.recherche.gouv.fr/cid55917/300-millions-d-euros-pour-les-34-instituts-carnot-2.html

Weitere Informationen

Instituts Carnot
→ http://www.instituts-carnot.eu/

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Frankreich
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/frankreich

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Frankreich im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Naima Barouk, Tel. 0228/3821-1418, naima.barouk@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Big Facility Losers Announced by UK Government

Geoff Brumfiel reports on *Nature*'s *NewsBlog*, that "the UK government has announced cuts to planned scientific facilities that are part of a broader effort to decrease its swollen budget deficit. The cuts are a loss for science, though its funding has done better than many other government sectors."

In response to a parliamentary question, "[…] which highest scientific priorities were identified by the research councils and were not provided with additional funding following the Budget 2011" David Willets, Minister of State for Universities and Science (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) answered that "[…] capital projects identified by the research councils as their highest scientific priorities were:

- ARCHER – a new national supercomputing service;
- Hartree Centre – a new international centre for computational science and engineering at the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus;
- Institute for Animal Health – Phase 3 of the redevelopment;
- Rothera Research Station, Antarctica – upgraded facilities.

These priorities are subject to periodic revision by Research Councils UK as new capital projects evolve and to reflect the availability of capital."

Brumfiel concludes that "given the depth of the cuts to capital projects, this is likely to be just the start of a long list of delayed and cancelled projects."

Quellen

→ http://blogs.nature.com/news/2011/05/big_facility_losers_announced_1.html
→ http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110509/text/110509w0001.htm#11050934000300

Weitere Informationen

Spending Review
→ http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_index.htm

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)
→ http://www.bis.gov.uk/
The Hartree Centre
→ http://www.stfc.ac.uk/About+STFC/18572.aspx
Institute for Animal Health
→ http://www.iah.ac.uk/
Rothera Research Station
→ http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/living_and_working/research_stations/rothera/

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Großbritannien
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/grossbritannien

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Großbritannien im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Ursula Henze-Schulte, Tel. 0228/3821-1808, ursula.henze-schulte@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Budgets im VDI Technologiezentrum

Miguel Krux, Tel. 0211/6214-460, krux@vdi.de

David Willetts Commits to Engaging Public with Science

Science Minister David Willetts has underlined his commitment to engage the public with science, after a survey published showed that whilst there is an increasing appreciation for science, people feel less informed about it.

The Public Attitudes to Science 2011 survey finds that 82 % of people agree that "science is such a big part of our lives that we should all take an interest" and 86 % say they are amazed by the achievements of science. These proportions have been steadily increasing since 2000. Participants were similarly positive about the potential impact of science on economic growth.

However, 51 % of people feel they see and hear too little information about science, compared with 34 % in 2008. Similarly, 56 % do not feel well informed about scientific research and developments, compared with 43 % three years ago. Two-thirds of people also agree that scientists should listen more to what ordinary people think.

Public Attitudes to Science Survey 2011 was commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The survey is carried out every three years

and this is the fourth in the series. For the 2011 survey, Ipsos MORI interviewed 2104 UK adults aged 16+ between 11 October and 19 December 2010.

Quelle

→ http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=419325&NewsAreaID=2&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+bis-news+%28BIS+News%29

Download

Public Attitudes to Science 2011

→ http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/2764/Public-attitudes-to-science-2011.aspx

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Fokus Großbritannien

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/grossbritannien

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Großbritannien im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Ursula Henze-Schulte, Tel. 0228/3821-1808, ursula.henze-schulte@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für ethische, rechtliche und gesellschaftliche Aspekte im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Italien

Italy Puts Nuclear Power on Indefinite Hold

Edwin Cartlidge reports for *ScienceInsider* that “plans to build a new generation of nuclear reactors in Italy have run aground following the accident at the Fukushima plant in Japan last month.”

According to Cartlidge “the center-right government of Silvio Berlusconi announced in 2008 that it wanted to start constructing four new nuclear plants by 2013 in order to reduce the country's considerable dependence on imported energy. That would reverse a ban on nuclear energy generation imposed by a referendum held in the wake of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. But the Japanese accident led the government to announce a 1-year moratorium on its nuclear program, and yesterday (20 April 2011) the upper house of parliament approved a measure to delay the setting up of new plants indefinitely.“

Cartlidge also reports, that “Economic Development Minister Paolo Romani said on Tuesday (19 April 2011) that the government will present a new 20-year energy strategy after the summer, explaining that ‘it is important to look to the future, using the best available technology for the production of clean energy, in particular renewables.’”

Quelle

→ http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2011/04/italy-puts-nuclear-power-on-indefinite.html

Weitere Informationen

Ministry of Economic Development

→ http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Italien

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/italien

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Italien im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Ursula Henze-Schulte, Tel. 0228/3821-1808, ursula.henze-schulte@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Energie im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Raimund Glitz, Tel. 0211/6214-546, glitz@vdi.de

Progress Achieved on China-Italy Innovation Cooperation

China and Italy released a three year action plan to strengthen economic cooperation during Premier Wen Jiabao's state visit to Italy in October, 2010. Both governments listed collaboration on sci-tech innovation as a priority and prepared to establish three inter-governmental centers, namely China-Italy Design and Innovation Centre (CIDIC), China-Italy Technology Transfer Centre (CITTC) and China-Italy E-Government Centre (CIEGC).

In the past six months, MOST and the Italian Ministry for Public Administration and Innovation have been working hard on the preparation of CIDIC and CITTC, making innovation collaboration a highlight of the bilateral relations. Mr. Renato

Brunetta, Minister for Public Administration and Innovation attended the launching ceremony of CIDIC and CITTC during his visit to China during 21-25 April.

Quelle

→ http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/pressroom/201105/t20110505_86445.htm

Download

Framework Agreement on China-Italy Design and Innovation Center (CIDIC)
→ http://www.innovazionepa.gov.it/media/665472/cidic_agreement.pdf

Weitere Informationen

Ministry of Science and Technology of the People´s Republic of China (MOST)
→ http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/index.htm
Italian Ministry for Public Administration and Innovation
→ http://www.innovazionepa.gov.it/
EUPIC: The Unveiling Ceremony of China-Italy Technology Transfer Center
→ http://www.eupic.org.cn/show.php?id=958

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Italien
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/italien

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Italien im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Ursula Henze-Schulte, Tel. 0228/3821-1808, ursula.henze-schulte@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Japan

Plans to Reverse Post-disaster Student Exodus

Japan's recovery plans following the powerful earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident on 11 March include luring back thousands of foreign students who play a significant role in bolstering higher education in the country.

Some 4,300 foreign students left the country or did not turn up for the new term, according to a survey, with many of them being advised by their governments not to travel. Universities in the disaster region were worst hit but the effects were felt much further afield, including in Tokyo.

"Various measures have been taken to assure international students they can return to their studies following the disaster," said Kenichi Ota, official in charge of the overseas population at the Japan Students Association, which provides support for local and foreign students. Under Japan's Disaster Relief Act, the association is overseeing a financial scholarship programme extended for four months to undergraduate and graduate students in disaster-affected universities.

Under a special support programme that will accept applications through universities, students can receive JPY 65,000 (US$ 800) a month each between April and July to cover the initial expenses of settling back into university, including rent and books. Foreign students enrolled in two-year programmes in colleges in the area will be offered JPY 48,000 (US$ 585) monthly for the same period.

The Education Ministry is also extending air fares to graduate students who want to return to their studies in the affected region which includes the Fukushima, Iwate and Miyagi prefectures and parts of 113 municipalities in Tokyo. An official explained that the offer covers 350 students and is open-ended, pointing out that the universities have not yet opened.

Chinese and Korean students top the overseas list in Japan followed by students from the US and Southeast Asia. Graduate level courses and research programmes in agriculture and engineering are the most popular.

Japan, hit with a declining national student population, has set an annual target of attracting 300,000 foreign students but the current number is slightly above 141,000. Officials fear that unless the exodus is swiftly reversed, students will enroll in universities in other countries instead.

Universities and colleges not located in the disaster zone have also been conducting seminars and offering information to foreigners in a bid to reduce concern over radiation and aftershocks and to prevent further deterioration of confidence in Japan, explained university staff. Some have even dispatched staff to China and South Korea, where a large number of foreign students originate, to explain to returned students and prospective students how universities are dealing with the disaster.

According to a survey conducted by the Yomiuri newspaper, a leading daily, at least 4,330 foreign nationals studying at 71 Japanese universities left the country after the earthquake. The figure includes students who cancelled their planned visits to avoid the aftershocks and radiation contamination from damaged nuclear reactors in badly-hit Fukushima prefecture.

Quelle

→ http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110429170500250

Weitere Informationen

Japan Student Services Association (JASSO)
→ http://www.jasso.go.jp/index_e.html
Study in Japan
→ http://www.g-studyinjapan.jasso.go.jp/

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Fokus Japan
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/japan

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Japan im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Jörg Stähle, Tel. 0228/3821-1403, hans.staehle@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Russland

Regierung gibt grünes Licht für Biotechnologien und Innovationsprojekte

Der russische Premier Wladimir Putin beauftragte im April 2011 das Wirtschaftsministerium, bis Mitte Mai ein koordiniertes Programm für die Entwicklung von Biotechnologien zu entwerfen.

Russland soll Putin zufolge konkurrenzfähige innovative Produkte auf dem Weltmarkt anbieten. Wie der russische Premier am Freitag in einer Sitzung der Regierungskommission für Hochtechnologien und Innovationen mitteilte, entfallen heute auf Russland nur 0,2 % des Umsatzes auf dem biotechnologischen Weltmarkt. Es wird angestrebt, den russischen Anteil am Weltmarkt der Biotechnologien bis 2020 auf 3-5 % zu erhöhen.

„Unsere Aufgabe besteht darin, die Situation zu ändern und die Bedingungen für die Herausbildung eines mächtigen Bioindustrie-Sektors zu schaffen“, sagte Putin. Die notwendigen Forschungsgrundlagen dafür seien vorhanden.

Es komme darauf an, Stimuli für eine höhere Nachfrage nach russischen Biotechnologien zu schaffen sowie überflüssige bürokratische Hürden, die die Unternehmertätigkeit oft behindern, zu beseitigen, so Putin weiter. Es gelte, die „Arbeit der Forschungs- und Entwicklungsinstitute zu koordinieren und alle Ressourcen und Bemühungen des Staates, der Forschungszentren und der Unternehmen zur Durchsetzung innovativer Projekte auf staatlicher und regionaler Ebene zu konsolidieren.“

Quelle

→ http://de.rian.ru/politics/20110401/258730821.html

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Putin fordert schnelleren Übergang Russlands zur Innovationsentwicklung
→ http://de.rian.ru/business/20110506/259046923.html

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Fokus Russland
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/russland

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerinnen für Russland im Internationalen Büro

Maria Josten, Tel. 0228/3821-1469, maria.josten@dlr.de
Dr. Jörn Grünewald, Tel. 0228/3821-1457, joern.gruenewald@dlr.de
Dr. Marion Mienert, Tel. 0228/3821-1469, marion.mienert@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Russische Wissenschaftlerin bekommt UN-Umweltpreis für ihr Eintreten gegen Pestizide

Die russische Wissenschaftlerin Olga Speranskaja ist laut dem Organisationskomitee des UN-Umweltprogramms UNEP für den Schutz der Erde vor giftigen

Pestiziden neben vier anderen Preisträgern mit dem UN-Umweltpreis «Champion of the Earth» für 2011 ausgezeichnet worden.

Speranskaja wurde in der Kategorie „Wissenschaft und Innovationen“ für eine „erfolgreiche Mobilisierung der Zivilgesellschaft gegen die Nutzung von überalterten Pestiziden und Toxinen auf dem postsowjetischen Territorium“ ausgezeichnet. Laut der UN-Pressemitteilung sind dank den Bemühungen der russischen Ökologin mehr als 70 Projekte zur Vernichtung von gefährlichen Chemikalien in Osteuropa, Südkaukasien und Mittelasien verwirklicht worden.

Die russische Wissenschaftlerin leitet das Programm für chemische Sicherheit im russischen Zentrum für Umweltschutz „Öko-Soglassije“, das von Absolventen verschiedener Fakultäten der Moskauer Lomonossow-Universität 1992 gestiftet worden ist.

Quelle

→ http://de.rian.ru/society/20110512/259101268.html

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Fokus Russland

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/russland

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerinnen für Russland im Internationalen Büro

Maria Josten, Tel. 0228/3821-1469, maria.josten@dlr.de
Dr. Jörn Grünewald, Tel. 0228/3821-1457, joern.gruenewald@dlr.de
Dr. Marion Mienert, Tel. 0228/3821-1469, marion.mienert@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Umwelt im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Raimund Glitz, Tel. 0211/6214-546, glitz@vdi.de

„EU-Russia Common Spaces Progress Report 2010“ veröffentlicht

Am 6. April 2011 wurde der offizielle Bericht über die Zusammenarbeit zwischen Russland und der EU im Rahmen des EU-Programms „Four Common Spaces” veröffentlicht. Das Dokument berichtet über die Entwicklung der Zusammenarbeit im Jahr 2010 in den Bereichen Wirtschaft, Sicherheit (extern und intern) und gesetzliche Bestimmungen sowie Forschung, Bildung und Kultur. Die geplanten Aktivitäten 2011 werden dort ebenfalls beschrieben.

Download

→ http://www.increast.eu/en/1151.php

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Fokus Russland

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/russland

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerinnen für Russland im Internationalen Büro

Maria Josten, Tel. 0228/3821-1469, maria.josten@dlr.de
Dr. Jörn Grünewald, Tel. 0228/3821-1457, joern.gruenewald@dlr.de
Dr. Marion Mienert, Tel. 0228/3821-1469, marion.mienert@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

USA

2011 Budget: Agreement on a Final Continuing Resolution

The negotiated agreement between the House, Senate, and White House on a final Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution (CR) will prevent a government shutdown, fund the entire federal government until 30 September 2011, and provide essential funding for national defense. In addition, the legislation will cut an unparalleled nearly $ 40 billion in federal spending.

The Commerce, Justice, Science section of the CR contains a total of $ 53.4 billion, a $ 10.9 billion, or 17 %, reduction from fiscal year 2010 levels, and a reduction of $ 7.1 billion, or 12 %, from the President’s fiscal year 2011 request.

The CR provides funding above fiscal year 2010 levels for National Institute of Standards and Technology research and manufacturing programs, as well as critical FBI national security and prisons/detention requirements. Justice Department appropriations are reduced by $ 946 million below fiscal year 2010, with significant reductions to grant and construction programs, and Commerce Department appropriations are cut by $ 6.5 billion below fiscal year 2010. The

bill also includes $ 18.5 billion for NASA and fully funds the newly authorized exploration program.

This section of the CR also prohibits funding for: the establishment of a Climate Service at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the approval of new fisheries catch-share programs in certain fisheries; and for NASA and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to engage in bilateral activities with China (Anmerkung der Redaktion: vgl. Artikel *Spending Bill Prohibits U.S.-China Collaborations* in dieser Ausgabe)

Quelle

→ http://republicans.appropriations.house.gov/_files/41211SummaryFinalFY2011CR.pdf

Download

Full text of the Continuing Resolution

→ http://rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF_112_1/Floor_Text/FINAL2011_xml.pdf

List of reductions

→ http://republicans.appropriations.house.gov/_files/41211ProgramCutsListFinalFY2011CR.pdf

Weitere Informationen

Historic Spending Cuts the Centerpiece for Final Continuing Resolution (CR) for Fiscal Year 2011

→ http://appropriations.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=285

US budget deal – A (science) first look

→ http://blogs.nature.com/news/2011/04/us_budget_deal_a_science_first_1.html

Research Survives in 2011 Budget After Earlier Scare

→ http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2011/04/research-survives-in-2011-budget.html

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Fokus USA

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/usa

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für USA im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Barbara Hellebrandt, Tel. 0228/3821-1433, barbara.hellebrandt@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Budgets im VDI Technologiezentrum

Miguel Krux, Tel. 0211/6214-460, krux@vdi.de

Spending Bill Prohibits U.S.-China Collaborations

Jeffrey Mervis reports for *ScienceInsider*, that "a little-noticed clause in the 2011 spending bill signed into law in April cuts off funding for a host of scientific exchanges between the United States and China." (Anmerkung der Redaktion: vgl. Artikel *2011 Budget: Agreement on a Final Continuing Resolution (CR)* in dieser Ausgabe) According to Mervis, "representative Frank Wolf (R-VA), a fierce opponent of the Chinese government and chair of a key appropriations panel, inserted two sentences into the legislation that prohibits any joint scientific activity between the two nations that involves NASA or is coordinated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). White House officials say that they are still reviewing the language. On the surface, it appears to apply only to those two entities, and the bill extends only for the rest of the 2011 fiscal year, which ends on 30 September."

Two weeks later Mervis continued to report on this topic. He wrote that "the Obama Administration has carved out a loophole in the recent congressional ban on scientific interactions with China that would permit most activities between the two countries to continue. But that interpretation doesn't sit well with Republicans in the House of Representatives who drafted the language, one of whom said today that ignoring the ban could imperil funding for NASA or other science agencies."

Quellen

→ http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2011/04/spending-bill-prohibits-us-china.html

→ http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2011/05/holdrens-response-to-ban-on-china.html

Download

Fact Sheet: U.S.-China Science and Technology Cooperation Highlights: 32 Years of Collaboration (19 January 2011)

→ http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/st-fact-sheet.pdf

Weitere Informationen

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

→ http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp

NASA

→ http://www.nasa.gov/

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Fokus USA

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/usa

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für USA im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Barbara Hellebrandt, Tel. 0228/3821-1433, barbara.hellebrandt@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

NIH Establishes Working Group on the Future Biomedical Research Workforce

A new working group at the National Institutes of Health will examine the future of the biomedical research workforce in the United States. The group will recommend actions to the Advisory Committee to the Director to ensure a diverse and sustainable biomedical and behavioral research workforce. The working group will consider questions such as:

- What is the right size of the workforce?
- What are the appropriate types of positions that should be supported to allow people to have successful careers and to continue to advance biomedical and behavioral sciences?
- What is the best way to support these various positions?
- What types of training should be provided?

To do this, the group will gather input from the extramural community, including students, postdoctoral fellows, investigators, scientific societies, and grantee institutions. In addition, the group will develop a model for a sustainable and diverse U.S. biomedical research workforce using appropriate expertise from NIH and external sources. The model can help inform decisions about how to train the optimal number of people for the appropriate types of positions that will advance science and promote health.

Quelle

→ http://www.nih.gov/news/health/apr2011/od-27.htm

Weitere Informationen

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

→ http://www.nih.gov/

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Fokus USA

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/usa

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für USA im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Barbara Hellebrandt, Tel. 0228/3821-1433, barbara.hellebrandt@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Humankapital im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Biomass R&D Grants to Diversify America's Clean Fuel Supply

As part of the Obama Administration's comprehensive plan to address rising gas prices, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced on 6 May a total of $ 47 million to fund eight research and development projects that will support the production of biofuels, bioenergy, and high-value biobased products from a variety of biomass sources. These investments in clean, sustainable transportation fuels will help reduce U.S. oil imports, support economic development in rural America, create clean energy jobs for U.S. workers, and protect American families and businesses from future spikes in gas prices. The advanced biofuels produced through these projects are also expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 % compared to fossil fuels.

Through federal funding and leadership for research, education and extension programs, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) focuses on investing in science and solving critical issues impacting people's daily lives and the nation's future.

DOE's Biomass Program works with industry, academia, and national laboratory partners on a balanced portfolio of research in biomass feedstocks and conversion technologies.

The projects are funded through the Biomass Research and Development Initiative and will help increase the availability of alternative renewable fuels and bio-based products to diversify the nation's energy resources. Funding is provided through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and DOE's Biomass Program. Each award was made through a competitive selection process.

Grant recipients are required to contribute a minimum of 20 % of matching funds for research and development projects and 50 % of matching funds for demonstration projects. Awardees must pursue projects that integrate science and engineering research in three areas: feedstocks development, biofuels and bio-based products development, and biofuels development analysis.

The following projects have been selected for awards:

- Cellana LLC, Kailua Kona, Hawaii. Cellana will work to develop a protein supplement from algae as a byproduct of algal biofuels production, by demonstrating its nutritional and economic value in livestock feeds.
- Domtar Paper Company, LLC, Fort Mill, South Carolina. This three-year project will work to build a demonstration plant using two technologies to convert low-value byproducts and wastes from paper mills into higher-value sugar, oil, and lignin products.
- Exelus, Inc., Livingston, New Jersey. Exelus will work to develop energy crops with improved tolerance to drought and salt stress to enhance yields on marginal lands.
- Metabolix, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts. Metabolix will enhance the yield of bio-based products, biopower, or fuels made from switchgrass.
- University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. The purpose of this project is to improve the production and sustainability of sweet sorghum as an energy crop.
- University of Kansas Center for Research, Lawrence, Kansas. The purpose of this project is to demonstrate a novel, sustainable technology at a pilot scale that produces diverse products, including advanced fuels, industrial chemicals and chemical intermediates.
- University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky. The purpose of this project is to improve the economics for biorefineries by using on-farm processing to convert biomass to a mixture of butanol, ethanol, acetone and organic acids. The product can then be easily transported to a biorefinery for further processing.
- U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula, Montana. This project will develop an integrated approach to investigate biomass feedstock production, logistics, conversion, distribution and end use centered on using advanced conversion technologies at existing forest industry facilities.

Quelle

→ http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/daily.cfm/hp_news_id=300

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Fokus USA

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/usa

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für USA im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Barbara Hellebrandt, Tel. 0228/3821-1433, barbara.hellebrandt@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Förderung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Australien

Professor Ian Chubb Australia's New Chief Scientist

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Minister for Innovation Senator Kim Carr announced the appointment of Professor Ian Chubb AC as Australia's new Chief Scientist on 19 April 2011.

Professor Chubb has had a distinguished career in higher education and research. Starting out as a neuroscientist, he then took on leadership roles in university administration and sector advocacy bodies. Professor Chubb recently

retired after a decade as vice-chancellor of the Australian National University. He will work closely with the Gillard Government to provide advice on science and technology issues that impact on Australia and the world.

Professor Chubb will begin his three year term on 23 May 2011.

Quelle

→ http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/professor-ian-chubb-australia%E2%80%99s-new-chief-scientist

Weitere Informationen

Professor Penny D Sackett has tendered her resignation as Chief Scientist for Australia
→ http://www.chiefscientist.gov.au/2011/02/an-announcement-from-the-chief-scientist/
Chief Scientist for Australia
→ http://www.chiefscientist.gov.au/

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Fokus Australien
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/australien

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Australien im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Jörg Stähle, Tel. 0228/3821-1403, hans.staehle@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

China

More than 1.2 million Chinese Studying Abroad

China has the largest number of overseas students in the world, with a record 1.27 million studying abroad at the end of 2010, according to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Education, the official China Daily reports. It added that instead of staying abroad after finishing studies, more Chinese students choose to come back after graduation.

Some 285,000 are new students who began overseas studies last year, up 24 % over 2009, said the ministry. Self-financed students now make up the largest group of those going overseas. More than 90 % of the students chose to study in the United States, Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Canada, Singapore, France, Germany and Russia.

With the rapid economic development in China, more and more middle-class families can afford to send their children abroad for education. They believe that oversea study experience could win their children better job opportunities.

Quelle

→ http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110421200341899

Weitere Informationen

Full report on the China Daily site: Students go overseas in record numbers
→ http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-04/18/content_12342187.htm
Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (MOE)
→ http://www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe_2792/index.html

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Fokus China
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/china

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für China im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Xiaomeng Shen, Tel. 0228/3821-1419, xiaomeng.shen@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Bildung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Science Ministry Reveals Budget

Hepeng Jia and Mark Peplow report on *Nature*'s *NewsBlog*, that “Facing strong public pressure for fiscal transparency, China's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) has become the first government ministry to reveal in detail how it plans to spend its budget.”

According to Jia and Peplow, MOST's budget appeared on its website on 14 April. Its annual spend for 2011 is set to reach CNY 24.69 billion (US$ 3.8 billion), including CNY 24.1 billion on science and technology research funding. It will also spend CNY 273 million (US$ 42 million) on resource exploitation, CNY 91.5 million (US$ 14.1 million) on 'diplomatic affairs' and CNY 21.1 million (US$ 3.2 million) on creating jobs. It also plans to spend CNY 40 million

(US$ 6.2 million) on international travel, car purchase and business accommodation for its staff.

MOST's S&T funding has risen 14.08 % compared with last year. The total S&T budget of the central government is CNY 194.4 billion (US$ 29.9 billion) in 2011, which will be shared by the National Natural Science Foundation, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and various ministries.

Anmerkung der Redaktion:
Bis zum Redaktionsschluss lagen auf den englischsprachigen Internetseiten des MOST keine Informationen zu den im Artikel genannten Budgetzahlen vor.

Quelle

→ http://blogs.nature.com/news/2011/04/chinese_science_ministry_revea.html

Weitere Informationen

Ministry of Science and Technology of the People´s Republic of China (MOST)
→ http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/index.htm

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Fokus China
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/china

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für China im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Frank Stiller, Tel. 0228/3821-1408, frank.stiller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Budgets im VDI Technologiezentrum

Miguel Krux, Tel. 0211/6214-460, krux@vdi.de

Dänemark

Increase in Applications for Higher Education

This year again sees a considerable increase in the number of applications received for higher education programmes. Especially the health sector is popular. More dream of becoming a nurse, pedagogue and teacher. But courses in the areas of IT, communications and finance also enjoy great attention.

Compared to 2010, there is an increase of 22 % for those higher education programmes that are governed by the Ministry of Education. 20 % more have applied for professional bachelor's degrees, while 33 % more have applied for academy profession programmes. Another notable development is that the male contingent is growing. Consequently, male applicants now make up for 37 % of all applicants – a rise of nine percentage points over the past five years.

The development pleases Minister for Education, Troels Lund Poulsen. "A high level of education is vital to Denmark's future growth and prosperity. It is therefore very uplifting to see that more are applying for higher education programmes. I am also happy to note that we seem to be getting a better hold of the boys."

Quelle

→ http://eng.uvm.dk/Aktuelt/News/Eng/2011/Apr/110428%20Increase%20in%20applications%20for%20higher%20education.aspx

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Fokus Dänemark
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/daenemark

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Dänemark im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Bildung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Finnland

Learning Networks as Engines of Innovation

Learning and innovation have become key concepts in charting a path to success. Innovations are often created in multi-actor networks, on the borders between different kinds of organisations.

Learning network is a new model for co-operation between workplaces and R&D organizations, based on open innovation approach. The network is built around

some common interest, and it aims at learning and joint innovation processes at various dialogic forums.

The Finnish Workplace Development Programme TYKES funded learning networks as a new experimental project activity in 2004-10. Learning networks proved to be an excellent environment to make research and innovations, and to disseminate them simultaneously. The co-operation in learning networks also strengthened the development infrastructure.

The experiences of the learning networks have been collected into a book, Linking Theory and Practice - Learning Networks at the Service of Workplace Innovation. This book introduces the learning network activity theoretically as well as gives concrete examples, focusing on interactive forums enabling co-creation, structuring of innovative networks and the general results and conclusions of the network projects.

Quelle

→ http://www.tekes.fi/en/community/News/482/News/1344?name=learning+networks+as+engines+of+innovation

Download

Linking Theory and Practice: Learning Networks at the Service of Workplace Innovation

→ http://www.tekes.fi/en/community/News/482/News/1344?name=learning+networks+as+engines+of+innovation

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→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/finnland

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Finnland im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Science and Research Spending to Double

The Indian government has said it will double its spending on science and technology research and development over the next five years, in a bid to keep up with other major developing countries such as China and Brazil. The government will also provide more scholarships to arrest a decline in students interestes in pure sciences, applied sciences and research, increasing the budget for scholarships and post-doctoral fellowships to more than five times its current levels.

The Department of Science and Technology will spend INR 150 billion (US$ 340 million), amounting to 0.6 % of the country's gross domestic product in the next five years. The move is aimed at attracting the best students into science and technology research and making India a hub for innovation. The government also wants its scientists to find solutions to India's problems.

According to OECD data, India has 119 researchers per one million people, compared to 1,564 in China, 2,706 in the UK, 4,605 in the US and 6,807 in Iceland. Even in terms of the number of researchers per 1,000 people employed, India, with 24 researchers, ranks below China (115), Japan (131), the European Union (231) and the US (324).

India's department of biotechnology is already strengthening institutional research capacity to promote interdisciplinary science and innovation by supporting centres of excellence in biotechnology. The department plans to establish 50 centres across the country. So far, 15 have been supported covering healthcare, agriculture, bioinformatics and basic research in biotechnology.

In 2008, the government launched the project Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), which offers 10,000 scholarships a year for youth in the 17 to 22 year age group and some 1,000 post-doctoral fellowships a year in the 22 to 27 age group in both basic and applied sciences. The government is

planning to substantially increase the scholarship grants, rising from Rs64 million (US$1.4 million) to INR 300 million (US$ 6.7 million) in the next five years.

Quelle

→ http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110507093252461/

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Department of Science and Technology (DST)

→ http://www.dst.gov.in/

Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Programme

→ http://dst.gov.in/scientific-programme/inspire/ser-inspire.htm

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Fokus Indien

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/indien

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Indien im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Martin Goller, Tel. 0228/3821-1407, martin.goller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Budgets im VDI Technologiezentrum

Miguel Krux, Tel. 0211/6214-460, krux@vdi.de

Irland

Cork Scientists Ranked as World Leaders in Probiotic Research

Ireland's scientists are punching above their weight on a global stage. This is according to the independent international ratings agency Thomson Reuters Science Watch global analysis, which tracks trends and performance in research disciplines according to scientific publications. University College Cork weighs in at number 2 in the world for probiotics research, due primarily to publications from researchers in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre (APC), a research centre funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). The report, based on overall citations of APC research publications over the past ten years, also indicated that six present and former APC researchers ranked in the top 20 of more than 15,000 authors globally, namely Prof Fergus Shanahan, Prof Gerald Fitzgerald, Dr Liam O'Mahony and Prof Kevin Collins from UCC, and Prof Paul Ross and Dr Catherine Stanton from Teagasc Food Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork.

The APC, a centre for gut health in Cork, represents a collaboration amongst basic scientists and physician-scientists at University College Cork, Teagasc Food Research Centre Moorepark and, more recently, Cork Institute of Technology.

In addition to seed funding from Science Foundation Ireland, APC researchers have been awarded research grants from other agencies including Enterprise Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Health Research Board, the Higher Education Authority, and from various indigenous and multinational industries. They have also successfully competed for research grants from the European Union. Over 700 scientific articles have been generated by the APC scientists within the past seven years, many of which have appeared in and featured on the covers of high-impact international journals. The APC has strong industry partners in Alimentary Health Ltd, an Irish speciality biotechnology company, and the multinational GlaxoSmithKline, as well as collaborating with more than 20 Irish and international food, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. APC researchers have filed 23 patent applications and negotiated four licences.

Quelle

→ http://www.sfi.ie/news-events/press-releases/cork-scientists-ranked-as-world-leaders-in-probiotic-research/

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→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/irland

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Irland im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Ursula Henze-Schulte, Tel. 0228/3821-1808, ursula.henze-schulte@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Humankapital im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

NWO Offers International Experience to Young Scientific Talent

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) has awarded 29 young, promising researchers funding from the Rubicon programme. Through Rubicon, NWO aims to offer Dutch scientists who have recently obtained their PhD the chance to gain research experience in other countries and equally to attract talent from abroad to the Netherlands. The programme is therefore a vehicle that allows NWO to stimulate the international mobility of scientific talent.

Most young researchers are heading for the United States and the United Kingdom. Others are off to do research in Belgium, Germany, Estonia and Finland. An American, an Australian and a New Zeeland researcher are coming to the Netherlands. For many scientists, experience abroad is an important part of their CV.

Rubicon is specially designed to keep young talent in science. The programme is for promising young researchers who have recently obtained their PhD, are still at the start of their scientific careers and are expected, on the basis of their scientific qualities, to go on to occupy an important position in the Dutch scientific community.

A total of 172 researchers submitted applications; 29 of them will now receive a Rubicon grant. The level of funding depends on the chosen destination. Dutch institutions that offer a place to a foreign researcher for a year receive 55,000 Euro. Recipients of Rubicon funding, may use it to perform research for up to 24 months.

Quelle

→ http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOP_8FMALB_Eng

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Fokus Niederlande

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/niederlande

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für die Niederlande im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Humankapital im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

TNO Takes over ECN Activities

Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) is taking over two activities from the Energy research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN). This was settled in an agreement between the two knowledge institutes in early April. The activities are ‘Energy in the Built Environment’ and ‘Intelligent Electricity Grids’.

TNO will integrate the activities in its own Built Environment and Energy programmes. This strategic combination of knowledge and expertise strengthens TNO’s position in the national and international knowledge infrastructure in these fields considerably. The transfer also fits with ECN’s new programme strategy, in which ECN focuses on those core activities in which it holds a strong national and international position: wind energy, solar energy, biomass, sustainable process and heat technology and policy studies.

As part of the agreement, 16 ECN staff members will transfer to TNO. The transfer of both research programmes to TNO guarantees that the knowledge and technologies developed by ECN will remain available to Dutch and international society for the development of sustainable buildings and the future energy infrastructure.

Quelle

→ http://www.tno.nl/content.cfm?context=overtno&content=persbericht&laag1=37&item_id=201104110019

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Fokus Niederlande

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/niederlande

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für die Niederlande im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum
Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Norwegen

Key Report for Norwegian Research: Explores Correlation Between Resources and Results

A government-appointed committee recently submitted its report on the connection between the resources, impact and quality of publicly funded research in Norway. A main goal of the committee has been to suggest ways to improve the framework for the most innovative research. The committee was appointed by the Ministry of Education and Research and was headed by Professor Jan Fagerberg of the University of Oslo.

“The report by the Fagerberg committee is interesting, but it does little to advance the debate on Norwegian research. For instance, it does not answer the question of how we can measure research activities in a meaningful way,” said Arvid Hallén, Director General of the Research Council of Norway, when asked to comment on the committee’s conclusions.

The committee recommends the establishment of a research barometer that would show the relationship between resource allocations and performance, which in turn would shed light on the productivity of Norwegian research.

“The committee’s discussion of performance indicators for research, especially at universities and university colleges, is relevant, but I would like to have seen more focus on the crucial social impacts,” Mr Hallén notes.

According to the committee’s report, the achievement of a more open research system largely revolves around the ability of individual researchers to obtain funding for high-quality projects. A chief recommendation is to increase funding for independent basic research projects to a total of NOK 2 billion, up from the current NOK 600 million.

“The Research Council agrees that the open arena has long been under-funded and that far too many projects worthy of support have been rejected due to financial constraints. This is why the open arena has been one of the Research Council’s main priorities in its budget proposals in recent years,” states Mr Hallén. “The committee raises an important discussion about what constitutes an optimal balance between programme research and the open arena, but its perspective is too narrow,” Mr Hallén continues.

“The report appears to be working from the assumption that the aim of all the thematically oriented programmes is to promote applied research rather than to develop basic scientific knowledge, and that renewal in research primarily takes place via the open arenas. This does not reflect the reality of the situation,” states Mr Hallén, who points out that several of the Research Council’s Large-scale Programmes, for instance, have been established and designed specifically with research renewal in mind.

The report focuses on the university and university college sector. The independent research sector, the business sector and the international research arena are given surprisingly little attention. “The report provides analyses and discussions of extremely important issues, and represents a constructive contribution to the research policy debate. But we need a much broader perspective on the issues than it gives us,” Mr Hallén emphasises.

Quelle

→ http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/Explores_correlation_between_resources_and_results/1253966224756?WT.mc_id=nyhetsbrev-ForskningsradetEngelsk

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Fokus Norwegen

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/norwegen

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Norwegen im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

New Programme in the Pipeline: Research on Humanitarian Policy

The Research Council is establishing a new research programme that will focus on humanitarian policy. The programme will issue its first call for proposals in 2011, with a deadline in the autumn. The programme is being established as a follow-up to the white paper on humanitarian policy (Report No. 40 (2008-2009) to the Storting: Norway's Humanitarian Policy), in which the Government sets out its intentions to increase investment in Norwegian and international humanitarian research and to promote the establishment of a dynamic humanitarian research community in Norway.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is providing the funding for the new research initiative and has asked the Research Council to take on the task of administering the programme. The programme will be organised as a sub-programme under the research programme Norway – A Global Partner (NORGLOBAL). The work programme is due to be completed by July.

"Research under the new humanitarian policy programme will seek primarily to meet knowledge needs in areas of political priority for Norway," says Øystein Lyngroth, Head of Project at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and member of the planning group for the programme. Key thematic areas include:

- Prevention and crisis preparedness in the context of humanitarian disasters
- Protection of civilians
- Women in war and armed conflict situations
- International humanitarian law and humanitarian principles
- Humanitarian disarmament and armed violence
- Challenges for future international humanitarian assistance, including its organisation.

"The issue of sustainability will not be included in the scope of the work programme at this stage, but research on the impact of humanitarian assistance will be incorporated as an overarching thematic focus," Mr Lyngroth explains.

Quelle

→ http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/Research_on_humanitarian_policy/1253966241029?WT.mc_id=nyhetsbrev-ForskningsradetEngelsk

Download

Report No. 40 (2008-2009) to the Storting: Norway's Humanitarian Policy

→ http://www.regjeringen.no/pages/2243145/PDFS/STM200820090040000EN_PDFS.pdf

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Norwegen

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/norwegen

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Norwegen im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Programme im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Two New Flagship Innovation Centres Established

The Research Council's two new Centres for Research-driven Innovation opened in Bergen recently amidst great fanfare. The centres will focus on sustainable fishing methods and service innovation, respectively. Only the most outstanding members of the Norwegian innovation community are granted status as a Centre for Research-based Innovation (SFI). The two new centres will now be provided with a solid funding base over an extended period of time.

The Centre for Research-based Innovation in Sustainable Fish Capture and Processing Technology (CRISP) will conduct research to find more sustainable methods of trawl and net-based fisheries. The centre seeks to promote more environment-friendly capture by reducing fuel consumption, minimising the impact on the seabed and active selection of the fish captured in the trawls.

The Center for Service Innovation (CSI) will produce specific service innovations as well as establish specialist circles and networks focused on service development.

"An increasing number of Norwegian manufacturers of goods sell services as well. At the same time, we see that services often fall outside of the companies' traditional innovation processes," says the centre's director Per Egil Pedersen. "The new centre will help to enhance productivity and encourage higher returns for the companies involved."

"SFI status is confirmation that the two new centres are Norway's leading innovation groups in their fields. We expect that they will be highly visible flagships for long-term, industry-oriented research of internationally recognised quality," says Director General of the Research Council Arvid Hallén.

Facts about the SFI scheme

The Research Council has so far established 21 Centres for Research-based Innovation (SFI). The seven newest centres, including CSI and CRISP, will launch their activities in 2011. The SFI centres bring together high-calibre expertise and strive to be the leaders in their respective fields, regardless of subject area. The overall objective of the SFI scheme is to enhance the ability of the business sector to innovate through cooperation between R&D-performing companies and research institutions. The centre's ability to promote internationalisation is one of the criteria used in the application assessment process.

The overall budget for the 14 SFI centres that were active in 2010 was NOK 439 million. Of this amount, NOK 157 million was allocated by the Research Council. The total budget for all the centres over their lifetime is approximately NOK 5 billion, of which NOK 1.6 billion is being provided by the Research Council.

Quelle

→ http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/New_centres_for_ecofriendly_fisheries_and_enhancing_services/1253966334563?WT.mc_id=nyhetsbrev-ForskningsradetEngelsk

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Fokus Norwegen

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/norwegen

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Norwegen im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

New Division Research Boards at the Research Council

The Executive Board of the Research Council has appointed new division research boards for the four-year period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2015.

The Research Council recently underwent a restructuring, expanding the number of research divisions from three to four. This has in turn led to a corresponding increase in the number of research boards. Nearly one-third of the board members are reappointees from previous boards.

The makeup of the research boards ensures that relevant institutions (e.g. universities, university colleges, independent research institutes, organisations and industry) are adequately represented. Importance has also been attached to achieving balanced regional representation.

"I am very pleased that the new division research boards are now taking shape, and I am looking very much forward to their contributions towards further developing the strategic potential of the Research Council," says Chair of the Executive Board Ingvild Myhre.

The new research boards: Research Board of the Division for Science, Research Board of the Division for Innovation, Research Board of the Division for Energy, Resources and the Environment, Research Board of the Division for Society and Health.

Quelle

→ http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/New_division_research_boards_at_the_Research_Council/1253966327486?WT.mc_id=nyhetsbrev-ForskningsradetEngelsk

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Fokus Norwegen

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/norwegen

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Norwegen im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Starke Förderimpulse für Unternehmen in Forschungskooperationen

Bundesminister für Wirtschaft Reinhold Mitterlehner und Bundesministerin für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie Doris Bures ziehen eine positive Bilanz der jüngsten Ausschreibungsrunde des COIN-Programms (Cooperation & Innovation): "Wir können 20 innovative Netzwerk-Projekte mit insgesamt 7,3 Millionen Euro unterstützen, das gesamte Projektvolumen liegt bei 12,7 Millionen Euro. Durch gezielte Förderungen stärken wir den Innovations-Standort Österreich und lösen neue Wachstumsimpulse aus", betonen Mitterlehner und Bures. COIN ist als gemeinsame FFG-Initiative (Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft) beider Ressorts insbesondere auf KMU ausgerichtet und forciert Kooperationsprojekte zwischen Wirtschaft und Wissenschaft.

In die neuen geförderten Projekte sind insgesamt 90 Unternehmen und mehr als 30 Forschungseinrichtungen (Universitätsinstitute, außeruniversitäre F&E-Einrichtungen, Fachhochschulen, Technologiezentren) involviert. Darunter sind elf internationale Partner, die überwiegend aus Südost- und Osteuropa kommen.

Auf große Nachfrage stoßen auch die zusätzlichen Mittel für Dienstleistungs-Innovationen, die auf Initiative des Wirtschaftsministeriums stärker als bisher unterstützt werden. Unter den 20 Projekten sind neun Dienstleistungs-Projekte, die mit drei Millionen Euro gefördert werden, das Projektvolumen liegt hier bei 4,9 Millionen Euro. "Damit forcieren wir den Strukturwandel und helfen vor allem kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen bei der Erschließung neuer Märkte. Dienstleistungs-Innovationen werden zu einem immer wichtigeren Wettbewerbsfaktor", so Mitterlehner.

„Es ist wichtig, gerade Klein- und Mittelbetriebe noch stärker in das Innovationssystem einzubinden“, betont Infrastrukturministerin Bures. „Diese Unternehmen sind das Rückgrat unserer Wirtschaft, und unser Ziel ist es, die Zahl jener Unternehmen, die eigenständig forschen, Jahr für Jahr um mehrere hundert zu erhöhen.“

Thematisch spannen die jetzt bewilligten Projekte einen breiten Bogen: von Innovationen im klassischen Engineering-Bereich, über innovative Anwendungen der Materialwissenschaften, insbesondere im Bereich Kunst- und Verbundwerkstoffe, bis hin zu Projekten in den Themenbereichen erneuerbare Energien und ökologische Innovationen in der Baubranche.

Quelle

→ http://www.ffg.at/presse/bures-und-mitterlehner-starke-foerderimpulse-fuer-unternehmen-forschungskooperationen

Weitere Informationen

Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie
→ http://www.bmvit.gv.at/

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend
→ http://www.bmwfj.gv.at/Seiten/default.aspx

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Österreich
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/oesterreich

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Österreich im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Ulrike Kunze, Tel. 0228/3821-1483, ulrike.kunze@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Unternehmensforschung wieder auf Wachstumskurs

Die Statistik Austria schätzt, dass im Jahr 2011 rund 8,3 Milliarden Euro für Forschung und Entwicklung aufgewendet werden (5 % mehr als 2010). Besonders erfreulich ist der Anstieg der Unternehmensausgaben mit einem Plus von 5,9 %. „Unsere Strategie hat gewirkt: Mit einem Maßnahmenbündel speziell für kleine und mittlere Unternehmen konnten wir nicht nur einen Einbruch bei den Forschungsaktivitäten verhindern, sondern auch einen kräftigen Anschub für die Wirtschaft geben, jetzt wieder richtig durchzustarten“, so die Geschäftsführer der österreichischen Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG). Die Strategie, die Forschungsbasis in Österreich zu verbreitern, sei aufgegangen. „Wir konnten die Zahl der forschungsaktiven Unternehmen, in den letzten Jahren deutlich stei-

gern. Der Anteil der Forschungs-Newcomer, also der Antragsteller, die zum ersten Mal ein Projekt bei der FFG einreichen, lag in den letzten Jahren deutlich über einem Drittel." Als wirkungsvolle Maßnahme werden insbesondere auch jene Instrumente gesehen, die die Zusammenarbeit von Wissenschaft und Wirtschaft, und damit den Know-how- und Technologietransfer, stärken. „Dadurch versetzen wir Unternehmen in die Lage, neue Entwicklungen rasch in marktfähige Produkte und Dienstleistungen zu übersetzen".

Zudem hat die FFG in den letzten Jahren durch eine Reihe von Verbesserungen bei der Antragstellung und durch die Reduktion der Dauer bis zur Entscheidung ihren Servicecharakter deutlich verbessert. Beim Basisprogramm wird im Regelfall innerhalb von sechs bis acht Wochen entschieden. „Mit diesen Maßnahmen ist die FFG ein starker Partner der innovativen Unternehmen", so die FFG-Geschäftsführer. „Investitionen in die direkte Forschungsförderung zeigen Wirkung, wie die aktuelle Schätzung der Forschungsausgaben beweist."

Quelle

→ http://www.ffg.at/presse/ffg-unternehmensforschung-wieder-auf-wachstumskurs

Weitere Informationen

Statistik Austria
→ http://www.statistik.at/

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Österreich
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/oesterreich

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Österreich im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Ulrike Kunze, Tel. 0228/3821-1483, ulrike.kunze@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Amtsübergabe im Wissenschaftsministerium

Am 21. April 2011 begrüßte Dr. Beatrix Karl am Minoritenplatz ihren Nachfolger Dr. Karlheinz Töchterle, vormals Rektor der Innsbrucker Universität. „Ich gehe mit einem lachenden und einem weinenden Auge", so Beatrix Karl. „Ich hätte im Wissenschafts- und Forschungsministerium noch viel vor gehabt". Sie überreichte Karlheinz Töchterle jene „Landkarte" mit einer Übersicht über den heimischen Hochschulraum, die sie bereits bei ihrem Amtsantritt von Johannes Hahn bekommen hatte. Töchterle betonte, die begonnen Projekte mit eigener Handschrift fortsetzen zu wollen. Für ihn ist die Landkarte „ein Symbol für ein zentrales Projekt in diesem Ministerium, an dem ich engagiert weiterarbeiten möchte: dem österreichischen Hochschulplan".

Quelle

→ http://bmwf.gv.at/startseite/

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Österreich
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/oesterreich

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Österreich im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Ulrike Kunze, Tel. 0228/3821-1483, ulrike.kunze@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Saudi Arabien

Saudi Research Centre to Target Malaria and Dengue

The Middle East will soon have a research centre dedicated to the monitoring and control of insect-borne infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Health has allocated US$ 5.5 million as seed funding for a joint research centre to develop innovative ways to monitor, evaluate and control major diseases transmitted by vectors, with help from the UK-based Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and the Innovative Vector Control Consortium.

Staff recruitment and training will start immediately, and the first project will be to develop an Arabic version of the Malaria Decision Support System – a computer package that tracks the incidence of malaria and helps efforts to control the mosquito vectors.

The project's partners will try to raise an additional US$ 21.5 million, which is needed for infrastructure, education programmes and research activities.

Quelle

→ http://www.scidev.net/en/news/saudi-research-centre-to-target-malaria-and-dengue-1.html

Weitere Informationen

Saudi Ministry of Health
→ http://www.moh.gov.sa
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
→ http://www.lstmliverpool.ac.uk/
Innovative Vector Control Consortium
→ http://www.ivcc.com/index.htm

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Saudi Arabien
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/saudi%20arabien

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Saudi Arabien im Internationalen Büro

Suasanne Ruppert-Elias, Tel. 0228/3821-1487, susanne.ruppert-elias@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Infrastruktur im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Schweden

Swedish Strategy for Arctic Region Adopted

The Government adopted a Swedish strategy for policy in the Arctic region on 12 May 2011, the same day that Sweden formally takes over the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, a cooperation organisation for states with territory and borders north of the Arctic Circle. The Chairmanship runs for a two-year period.

The purpose of the Government's Strategy for the Arctic region is to present Sweden's relationship with the Arctic, together with the current priorities and future outlook for Sweden's Arctic policy, proceeding from an international perspective.

The strategy particularly concerns three areas: climate and the environment, economic development and living conditions for people in the region. This is the first strategy the Government of Sweden has adopted on the Arctic as a whole. The region is in a process of far-reaching change. Climate change is creating new challenges, but also opportunities, on which Sweden must take a position and exert an influence. New conditions are emerging for shipping, hunting, fishing, trade and energy extraction, and alongside this new needs are arising for an efficient infrastructure.

Deeper Nordic and European cooperation means that Sweden is affected by other countries' policies and priorities in the Arctic. It is in Sweden's interest that new emerging activities are governed by common and robust regulatory frameworks and above all that they focus on environmental sustainability. Sweden will also work to ensure that the Arctic remains a region where security policy tensions are low.

Quelle

→ http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/14759/a/168285

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Schweden
→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/schweden

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Schweden im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Internationalisierung im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Schweiz

Schweiz und EU bereiten sich auf Nachfolge des 7. FRP vor

Die Schweiz beteiligt sich erfolgreich als assoziierter Staat an den 7. Forschungsrahmenprogrammen (FRP) der EU. Das diesjährige Treffen des Gemischten Ausschusses Forschung und Euratom zwischen der Schweiz und

der EU in Brüssel stand ganz im Rahmen der Erneuerung der Abkommen, da diese Rahmenprogramme Ende 2011 resp. 2013 auslaufen.

Die Schweiz ist durch ein bilaterales Abkommen ans 7. FRP assoziiert, was Schweizer Forschenden die gleichberechtigte Teilnahme wie ihren europäischen Kollegen an den jährlichen Ausschreibungen ermöglicht. Mit einem Budget von über 53 Milliarden Euro für die Jahre 2007-2013 hat sich das 7. FRP als eine wichtige Quelle von Drittmitteln für Schweizer Forschende etabliert. Aufgrund der Qualität ihrer Gesuche können sie große Erfolge in den kompetitiven internationalen Ausschreibungen verzeichnen. Parallel zum 7. FRP beteiligt sich die Schweiz am 7. Euratom-Rahmenprogramm (2007-2011), für welches eine zweijährige Verlängerung 2012-2013 vorgesehen ist. Euratom unterstützt vor allem Forschung für eine zukünftige Energiegewinnung durch Fusion als Alternative zur heute praktizierten Spaltung (Fission) von Atomen in Kernkraftwerken.

Der Gemischte Ausschuss von Vertretern der Europäischen Kommission und der Schweiz tagte am 5. März 2011 in Brüssel. Unter anderem wurden die jüngsten Zahlen der Schweizer Teilnahme am 7. FRP erörtert; Schweizer Forschende können dabei eine überdurchschnittliche Projektanzahl in mehreren Bereichen verzeichnen, z. B. in den Informations- und Kommunikationswissenschaften, den sog. Marie-Curie-Actions (Mobilitäts-Stipendien für Forschende) und im Bereich der Nanowissenschaften und der Nanotechnologie.

Die meisten Mittel erhielten Forschende von Schweizer Institutionen bisher vom European Research Council (ERC; über CHF 252 Millionen) sowie in den Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien (über CHF 235 Millionen). Die Erfolgsrate von Schweizer Projekteingaben erreicht 26,3 %, womit sich die Schweiz im Wettbewerb aller am 7. FRP teilnehmenden Länder im Vergleich zum Vorjahr noch einmal steigern konnte und nun nach Belgien und Frankreich den dritten Platz belegt.

Ein zentrales Thema des Gemischten Ausschuss war außerdem die nahtlose Assoziierung der Schweiz an die nächste EU-Programmgeneration. Auch eine Assoziierung der Schweiz an das Verlängerungsprogramm von Euratom 2012-2013 wurde diskutiert. Mittel für eine solche Verlängerung sind auf Schweizer Seite bereits seit 2007 weitgehend vorgesehen.

Quelle

→ http://www.admin.ch/aktuell/00089/index.html?lang=de&msg-id=38997

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Schweiz

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/schweiz

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für die Schweiz im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Ursula Henze-Schulte, Tel. 0228/3821-1808, ursula.henze-schulte@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Programme im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-1494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Tschechien

ELI-Beamlines Pillar Approved by the European Commission

On 21 April 2011, the European Commission has signed the approval for funding of the ELI-Beamlines Infrastructure, located in the Czech Republic, with a budget of nearly CZK 7 billion (ca. € 290 million).

ELI (Extreme Light infrastructure) will be a new scientific infrastructure devoted to scientific research in lasers' field, dedicated to the investigation and applications of laser-matter interaction at the highest intensity level (more than six orders of magnitude higher than today's laser intensity).

The ELI project, a collaboration of 13 European countries, will comprise three branches:

- Ultra High Field Science that will explore laser-matter interaction in an energy range where relativistic laws could stop to be valid;
- Attosecond Laser Science designed to conduct temporal investigation of electron dynamics in atoms, molecules, plasmas and solids at attosecond scale (10^{-18} sec.: a billion of billions of a second);

- High Energy Beam Science devoted to the development and usage of dedicated beam lines with ultra short pulses of high energy radiation and particles reaching almost the speed of light (100 GeV).

Quelle

→ http://www.extreme-light-infrastructure.eu/ELI-Beamlines-Pillar-approved-by-the-European-Commission_2_1.php?id=78

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Tschechien

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/tschechien

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Tschechien im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für FuE-Infrastruktur im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de

Internationales Audit von Wissenschaft, Forschung und Innovation

Im Rahmen des Projekts „Internationales Audit von Wissenschaft, Forschung und Innovation in Tschechien und Implementierung der Ergebnisse in strategische Dokumente“ legte die Agentur Technopolis (Großbritannien) im April 2011 den zweiten laufenden Bericht vor. Er fokussierte auf das Management des tschechischen Wirtschafts-, Forschungs- und Innovations-Systems.

Zu den wichtigsten Punkten der Studie gehören laut Mai-Ausgabe von MOE Wissenschaft Aktuell zu Tschechien die Komplexität des Innovationssystems, die ausbaufähige Evaluationskultur in Wissenschaft, Forschung und Innovation sowie die Rolle des Rates für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Innovation. Darüber hinaus empfiehlt die Studie einen längerfristigen Zeitraum für institutionelle Förderungen.

Die Endergebnisse der auf 20 Monate angelegten Technopolis-Studie sollen im Dezember 2011 präsentiert werden.

Quelle

→ http://www.owwz.de/science_news.html?&L=1

Weitere Informationen

Technopolitan, Februar 2011, Nr. 6, S.8

→ http://www.technopolis-group.com/resources/downloads/Technopolitan6.pdf

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Tschechien

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/tschechien

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Tschechien im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Four out of Five Investments Going into Services or Research

Four out of five new investors in the Czech Republic focus on research and development or strategic services; only every fifth new investment is directed to manufacturing. These figures are from the statistics of the CzechInvest agency for 2010. It has contributed towards the creation in the Czech Republic of a total of 209 new investment projects from both Czech and foreign companies worth CZK 16.248 billion (ca. € 0.7 billion).

- Every second investment acquired by the CzechInvest agency last year was directed into services
- Almost 40 % of companies invested into IT and software development
- Last year CzechInvest acquired a total of 209 investments worth CZK 16.25 billion
- Almost 10,000 new jobs were created in total

"The results of the CzechInvest agency for last year reflect long-term changes in the structure of the Czech economy. In 2007 manufacturing projects still domi-

nated in terms of new investment, but this year services and research are already in first place," stated Minister of Industry and Trade Martin Kocourek.

A joint press conference held by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the CzechInvest agency garnered significant interest from journalists. The CzechInvest agency has succeeded in implementing 23 more projects than in 2009, meaning a 10 % better result. "The current trend shows that the world has got over the crisis and interest in the Czech Republic is growing once again," explained CEO of the CzechInvest agency Miroslav Křížek.

The CzechInvest agency contributed last year towards a total of 105 companies deciding to invest in strategic commercial services such as outsourcing of accounting and personnel services or software development. In the area of research and development 65 projects were implemented and 39 in manufacturing.

The largest volume of investment went into manufacturing projects, which are also the most demanding in terms of the size of input capital. Czech and foreign companies invested CZK 13.8 billion into this in total. CZK 1.8 billion was directed into research and development and CZK 652 million into strategic services.

Up to 9,423 new jobs will be created thanks to investments made in 2010, which is a growth of almost 40 % compared to 2009. The majority of the investors are from the Czech Republic; Czech investors prepared a total of 174 projects into which they invested CZK 6.7 billion. Among foreign investors last year the majority were from Germany (8 projects), the USA (4 projects) and from Great Britain and Ireland (4 projects). The highest amounts were invested by Austrians, with two projects worth almost CZK 1.9 billion.

2010 once again confirmed that the Czech Republic is particularly attractive for IT companies, with most investment being focused precisely into this sector. The second-most-common area into which Czech and foreign companies invested last year was engineering. This also attracted one of the largest projects of last year, namely investment by the American company Caterpillar, which will repair gas turbines from all over Europe, Africa and the Middle East in the Triangle industrial zone.

The third most common investment last year was in strategic services projects. The majority of the new jobs will be created in the electronics and electrical engineering sector, followed once again by engineering and then strategic services centres.

The trend of investments into research and development and into services is being helped in the Czech Republic by the fact that in this country these investors can get support from European Union funds. Last year 150 projects received subsidies from the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation; 73 within the framework of the Potential programme focusing on research and development, and 77 through the ICT and Strategic Services programme.

Quelle

→ http://www.mpo.cz/dokument85045.html

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Tschechien

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/tschechien

Fachlicher Ansprechpartner für Tschechien im Internationalen Büro

Dr. Hans-Peter Niller, Tel. 0228/3821-1468, hans-peter.niller@dlr.de

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin für Innovationspolitik im VDI Technologiezentrum

Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-632, stahl-rolf@vdi.de

Impressum

Herausgeber

VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH
Abteilung Grundsatzfragen von Forschung,
Technologie und Innovation
VDI-Platz 1
40468 Düsseldorf

Internationales Büro des BMBF
beim Deutschen Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.
Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1
53227 Bonn

Im Auftrag

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung
Referat 211
53170 Bonn

Redaktion

- Dr. Silke Stahl-Rolf, Tel. 0211/6214-546, stahl-rolf@vdi.de (Themen- und Clustermonitoring)
- Jana Wolfram, Tel. 0228/3821-1113, jana.wolfram@dlr.de (Länderkoordination)
- Dr. Andreas Ratajczak, Tel. 0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de (Gesamtredaktion)

Erscheinungsweise monatlich online unter

ISSN 1869-9596

Die Informationen wurden redaktionell überarbeitet, werden jedoch zur Wahrung der Aktualität in der Originalsprache der Quelle wiedergegeben.

Archiv

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