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Korea and Finland Top OECD's Latest PISA Survey of Education Performance

Korea and Finland top the OECD's latest PISA survey of reading literacy among 15-year olds, which for the first time tested students' ability to manage digital information. The survey, based on two-hour tests of nearly half a million students in more than 70 economies, also tested mathematics and science. The results for 65 economies were released on 7 December 2010. The next strongest performances were from Hong Kong-China, Singapore, Canada, New Zealand and Japan.

Some OECD countries saw strong gains in reading literacy, most notably Chile, Israel and Poland, but also Portugal, Korea, Hungary and Germany. In mathematics, Mexico, Turkey, Greece, Portugal, Italy and Germany saw rapid improvements. In science, Turkey, Portugal, Korea, Italy, Norway, the US and Poland showed the biggest improvements.

Findings include:

- Girls read better than boys in every country, by an average of 39 points, the equivalent to one year of schooling. The gender gap has not improved in any country since 2000, and widened in France, Israel, Korea, Portugal and Sweden. This is mirrored in a decline of boy's enjoyment of reading and their engagement with reading in their leisure time.
- The best school systems were the most equitable – students do well regardless of their socio-economic background. But schools that select students based on ability early show the greatest differences in performance by socio-economic background.
- High performing school systems tend to prioritise teacher pay over smaller class sizes.
- Countries where students repeat grades more often tend to have worse results overall, with the widest gaps between children from poor and better-

off families. Making students repeat years is most common in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain.

- High performing systems allow schools to design curricula and establish assessment policies but don't necessarily allow competition for students.
- Schools with good discipline and better student-teacher relations achieve better reading results.
- Public and private schools achieve similar results, after taking account of their home backgrounds.
- Combining local autonomy and effective accountability seems to produce the best results.
- The percentage of students who said they read for pleasure dropped from 69% in 2000 to 64% in 2009.

Quelle

→ http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en_21571361_44315115_46623628_1_1_1_1,00.html

Download

Deutsche Zusammenfassung der Ergebnisse

→ <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/34/60/46619703.pdf>

Weitere Informationen

Pressemitteilung des BMBF

→ <http://www.bmbf.de/press/3009.php>

PISA2009-Dokumente

→ http://www.oecd.org/document/61/0,3343,en_2649_35845621_46567613_1_1_1_1,00.html

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus OECD

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

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Keeping up Investment in Science and Innovation Key to Long-Term Growth, Says OECD

OECD governments must maintain spending on science and innovation to strengthen their long-term growth in the face of rising global competition, according to a new OECD report. The Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2010 shows that real growth in R&D spending by OECD countries has in fact slowed, with annual growth falling from over 4% in recent years to 3.1% in 2008. But, despite the economic crisis, some countries have increased their spending since 2008. Germany, Korea, Sweden and the US have boosted spending on public research to strengthen long-term innovation.

The OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2010 reviews trends and developments in science, technology and innovation policy in OECD countries and six emerging economies (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, the Russian Federation and South Africa).

Emerging economies continue to increase their spending on R&D. China's real expenditure on R&D in 2008 was equivalent to 13% of the OECD total, up from around 5% in 2001. The Russian Federation's R&D spending in 2008 was equal to 2% of the OECD total, close to the shares of Canada and Italy.

"Investment in science and technology is an investment in the future. At a time of fiscal consolidation, countries must carefully consider the long-term impact of spending cuts on science and technology," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría. "There is also a need to increase the efficiency of this spending. The right governance structures should be in place if countries are to make the most of the resources devoted to science and technology."

Reviewing the different challenges facing OECD countries in fostering innovation, the report says that a number of key issues need tackling urgently. These include:

- Building a new shared system for the governance of international cooperation in science and technology to address global challenges, such as climate change.

- Improving policy support at different stages of the innovation value chain, from basic research to entrepreneurship.
- Improving access to public research data and upgrading ICT infrastructure.
- Co-ordinating policy at regional, national and international levels.

As part of the OECD's 50th anniversary in 2011, this edition of the Outlook also includes a chapter looking at how science and technology have evolved since the 1960s, how the OECD has contributed and the prospects for the 21st century.

Quelle

→ http://www.oecd.org/document/28/0,3343,en_21571361_44315115_46728028_1_1_1_1,00.html

OECD-Zusammenfassung STI Outlook 2010

→ <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/17/45/46679219.pdf>

OECD Summary STI Outlook 2010

→ <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/38/13/46674411.pdf>

Weitere Informationen

OECD STI Outlook

→ <http://www.oecd.org/sti/outlook>

OECD Berlin Centre STI Outlook

→ <http://www.oecd.org/de/stioutlook>

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Global Forum for Health Research Joins COHRED

The Global Forum for Health Research and COHRED – the Council on Health Research for Development – reached an agreement in November 2010 for the

integration of the two organizations which will benefit countries and the global health research community.

The Forum's governing body, the Foundation Council, decided that the future of Global Forum for Health Research will be best served by integrating its programmes and activities with those of COHRED. The integration of the two organisations will be managed by a transition team consisting of members of the governing bodies and senior staff of both organisations.

The board-level discussion saw clear complementarities between the expertise of two organizations, where their integration will mean better synergy and added value for research for health. The integration builds on COHRED's portfolio of services and tools that support countries to strengthen governance and management of research and innovation for health, including its Health Research Web platform; and on the Global Forum's influential international conference on research and innovation for health for development, its tracking of resource flows in health research, and its advocacy skills.

The transition team will develop an agreement on timeline and actions for the complete integration of the Global Forum and COHRED, to be approved by March 2011 at the latest.

Quelle

→ http://www.cohred.org/sites/default/files/COHRED_GFHR_INTEGRATIONpress_release_FINAL.doc

Weitere Informationen

Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED)

→ <http://www.cohred.org>

Global Forum for Health Research

→ <http://www.globalforumhealth.org>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Global

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

EU / Europa

Expertenbericht bestätigt: RP7 leistet „bedeutenden Beitrag“ zur europäischen Wissenschaft

Zehn unabhängige Experten haben das RP7 sechs Monate lang bewertet und heben in ihrem Bericht nun die vielen Erfolge des Programms hervor. Unter anderem loben sie Breite und Umfang des Rahmenprogramms und verweisen insbesondere auf die beeindruckende Zahl der beteiligten Forscher, die geografische Verbreitung der Teams und das Spektrum der abgedeckten Themen. Die Gruppe begrüßt außerdem die Tatsache, dass „der Grundsatz der Exzellenz in der Auswahl der Projekte weitgehend erreicht wurde“. Schließlich gibt es Hinweise, dass die EU-Forschungsprogramme, insbesondere das RP7, einen positiven „Hebeleffekt“ bei der Förderung von Forschungsanstrengungen auf nationaler Ebene und in der Industrie haben.

Trotz dieser Erfolge sehen die Experten aber auch viel Raum für Verbesserungen und formulieren zehn Empfehlungen an die Europäische Kommission für die zweite Hälfte des RP7 und für die Vorbereitung auf das Achte Rahmenprogramm (RP8), das 2014 beginnen wird.

Wenig überraschend umfasst eine der Empfehlungen eine Vereinfachung, obwohl die Experten anerkennen, dass es diesbezüglich im RP7 schon Verbesserungen gab. Trotzdem seien noch viele Verfahren „sperrig oder stehen in keinem Verhältnis zu den sehr marginalen Vorteilen, die sie hinsichtlich der Kontrolle öffentlicher Ausgaben böten“, schreiben die Experten. Vor allem kleine Unternehmen werden durch die komplexen und langwierigen Verfahren von einer Teilnahme am RP7 abgeschreckt.

In finanzieller Hinsicht halten die Experten fest, dass die derzeitige Förderhöhe als Mindestmaß beibehalten werden sollte. Ihnen zufolge muss die EU unbedingt in Forschung investieren, wenn die Ziele der Strategie Europa 2020 für eine intelligente, nachhaltige und integrative Wirtschaft erreicht werden sollen.

Weitere Schritte sind auch erforderlich, um die Fragmentierung in der Forschung zu überwinden, vor allem in Bereichen, in denen die grenzüberschreitende Zu-

sammenarbeit für einen Erfolg unerlässlich ist. Darüber hinaus sollten die als „Grand Challenges“ zusammengefassten zentralen Herausforderungen verstärkt in den Mittelpunkt der EU-Forschungspolitik gestellt werden, angefangen mit dem zweiten Teil des RP7 und fortgeführt im RP8, empfehlen die Experten.

Weiterhin fordert die Gruppe mehr offene Ausschreibungen unter dem Programm „Zusammenarbeit“ für die zweite Hälfte des RP7. Allerdings empfehlen sie auch, keine neuen Instrumente einzuführen, bis die bestehenden angemessen bewertet wurden, um Verwirrung zu vermeiden.

Einige Empfehlungen betreffen Gruppen, die im RP7 derzeit unterrepräsentiert sind. Frauen bilden in der Forschungsgemeinschaft weiterhin die Minderheit und den Experten zufolge sollte die Europäische Kommission „ihren Ansatz zur Förderung weiblicher Wissenschaftler neu beleben“ und „die Mitgliedstaaten wachrütteln, damit diese gegen geschlechtsspezifische Unterschiede vorgehen“.

Forscher in den Ländern, die der EU 2004 und 2007 beigetreten sind, sowie in einigen anderen Mitgliedstaaten sind bei der Beantragung von RP7-Förderung weniger erfolgreich als ihre Kollegen anderswo in Europa. Eine Förderung der Verbindungen zwischen den Forschungsrahmenprogrammen und dem EU-Strukturfonds könnte hier helfen, ebenso wie die Haushaltlinie für Forschungsinfrastrukturen sowie das Programm „Menschen“, mit dem das Forscherpotenzial entwickelt werden soll.

Eine ausgereifte Innovationsstrategie würde die Teilnahme eines breiten Spektrums kleiner und großer Unternehmen, von Hochschulen sowie Forschungs- und Technologieorganisationen stärken, so die Experten.

An anderer Stelle unterstreicht der Bericht die Notwendigkeit zur Entwicklung und Umsetzung hochwertiger Forschungsinfrastrukturen in Europa sowie die Bedeutung der Erforschung neuer Möglichkeiten, wie das RP7 für eine internationale Zusammenarbeit weiter geöffnet werden kann.

Mit Blick auf die Zukunft zählen die Autoren Themen auf, die im RP8 angegangen werden müssen, unter anderem internationale Zusammenarbeit, Koordinierung von Politiken der EU und von Mitgliedstaaten, Exzellenz, Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und – natürlich – Vereinfachung.

Quelle

→ http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=DE_NEWS_FP7&ACTION=D&DOC=14&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=012cc1b4af6f:4411:7f47e189&RCN=32778

Weitere Informationen

Bewertung und Überwachung der EU-Rahmenprogramme

→ http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index_en.cfm

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

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Minister fordern Priorität für Investitionen zur Sicherung von Wachstum und Arbeitsplätzen

Die EU muss Investitionen in Bildung, Ausbildung, (Grundlagen- und angewandte) Forschung, Entwicklung und Innovation sowie Schlüsseltechnologien Priorität einräumen, sofern damit Wachstum und Arbeitsplätze für die Zukunft gesichert werden, so die EU-Minister für Forschung und Industrie. Dies ist nur eine der vielen Empfehlungen in den Schlussfolgerungen aus der Initiative „Innovationsunion“, die die Teilnehmer der letzten Tagung des Rates „Wettbewerbsfähigkeit“ am 25. und 26. November in Brüssel, Belgien, herausgegeben haben. Die Innovationsunion ist eine der Leitinitiativen der Strategie Europa 2020.

In einer weiteren „Schlüsselbotschaft“ rufen die Minister sowohl die EU, als auch die Mitgliedsstaaten dazu auf, einen „strategischen und integrierten Ansatz der Innovation“ zu wählen, indem Methoden, die zur Innovation beitragen sollen, miteinander koordiniert werden. Darüber hinaus betonen die Minister die Wichtigkeit der Stärkung des „Wissensdreiecks“ sowie der Vereinfachung von Kommerzialisierung und Wissenstransfer.

Auf EU-Ebene sollten sich das Rahmenprogramm für Forschung und technische Entwicklung (FTE), das Rahmenprogramm für Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und Innovation (CIP) sowie die Strukturfonds „mehr auf die Prioritäten der Strategie Eu-

ropa 2020 konzentrieren“. Nach Ansicht der Minister könnte auch der Zugang zu diesen Mitteln „radikal vereinfacht werden“. Ein besserer Zugang zu Mitteln für die Finanzierung innovativer Aktivitäten, insbesondere für kleinere und mittlere Unternehmen (KMU), sollte „oberste Priorität haben“.

Die Minister begrüßten die Idee der Europäischen Innovationspartnerschaften (EIP) und betonten, dass diese Strukturen „einen echten Mehrwert schaffen, gesellschaftliche Veränderungen angehen, doppelte Handlungen vermeiden und auf einer flexiblen, einfachen und transparenten Governance der teilnehmenden Mitgliedsstaaten und relevanten Interessensgruppen basieren sollen“. Ferner erwarten die Minister von der Europäischen Kommission die Weiterentwicklung der praktischen Aspekte der EIPs, insbesondere hinsichtlich Finanzierung, Auswahlkriterien, Leitung und rechtliche Fragen.

Die Schlussfolgerungen der Minister zur Innovationsunion enden mit einem Handlungsplan. Unter anderem wird die Europäische Kommission Gespräche über die Standardisierung präsentieren, einen Öko-Innovationsplan, Beratungen über die für die Schaffung des Europäischen Forschungsraums (EFR) notwendigen Maßnahmen sowie Vorschläge darüber, was für einen echten Europäischen Markt für Risikokapital (European Venture Capital Market) nötig ist.

Darüber hinaus sind Kommission, Mitgliedsstaaten und andere dazu aufgefordert, in der zweiten Hälfte 2011 eine jährliche „Innovationskonvention“ ins Leben zu rufen und Kampagnen auf europäischer, nationaler, regionaler und lokaler Ebene zu starten, die das Bewusstsein erhöhen und so das „Innovationsdenken stimulieren“.

Die Mitgliedsstaaten ihrerseits sollen Strategien entwickeln, um ihre nationalen Forschungs- und Entwicklungsziele zu erreichen und die Nutzung des Strukturfonds für Forschung und Innovation zu verbessern.

Quelle

→ http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=DE_NEWS_FP7&ACTION=D&DOC=6&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=012cc1b4af6f:4411:7f47e189&RCN=32810

Weitere Informationen

Europa 2020 Strategie

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



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EU öffnet Zugang zu RP7-finanzierten Forschungsunterlagen

Eines der Hauptanliegen der EU besteht darin, ein starkes Netzwerk für die Koordinierung der Forschung in Europa zu schaffen und zu unterhalten. Dabei helfen soll OPENAIRE („Open access infrastructure for research in Europe“), ein Projekt, das es sich zum Ziel gemacht hat, den freien Online-Zugang zu den Kenntnissen zu ermöglichen, die mithilfe der Unterstützung durch das Siebte Rahmenprogramm (RP7) und den Europäischen Forschungsrat (ERC) von Wissenschaftlern erarbeitet wurden. Ins Leben gerufen wurde OPENAIRE von der Europäischen Kommission am 2. Dezember in Gent, Belgien.

Unter der Koordination der Universität Athen in Griechenland erhielt OPENAIRE Mittel in Höhe von 4,17 Mio. EUR, um Unterstützungsstrukturen für Forscher aufzubauen, eine elektronische Interstruktur für den Umgang mit begutachteten Artikeln zu schaffen und mit den Gemeinschaften an der Archivierung von Forschungsdaten zusammenzuarbeiten.

Die 38 OPENAIRE-Partner werden erheblich zum Fortschritt der Ziele der digitalen Agenda beitragen, die die Stärkung des Europäischen Forschungsraums (EFR) durch den Austausch von Wissen sowie die Verbesserung der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit in Europa beinhalten. Die Forschungsgebiete, denen innerhalb der Agenda eine besondere Bedeu-

Ein wesentlicher Punkt des OPENAIRE-Projekts ist der freie und offene Zugang zu EU-finanzierten Forschungsabhandlungen für Forscher, Unternehmer und Bürger. So werden beispielsweise Wissenschaftler in der Lage sein, die jüngsten Entwicklungen in ihrem Forschungsbereich zu verfolgen, und Patienten mit seltenen Krankheiten erhalten unbeschränkten Zugang zu den neusten Forschungsergebnissen.

tung zukommt, sind u.a. Energie, Umwelt, Gesundheit, Sozial- und Geisteswissenschaften sowie Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien (IKT).

Quelle

→ http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=DE_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=32831

Weitere Informationen

OPENAIRE

→ <http://www.openaire.eu/>

Siebtes Rahmenprogramm (RP7)

→ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_de.html

Europäischer Forschungsrat

→ <http://erc.europa.eu/>

Digitale Agenda

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

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Trade-Related CO₂ Emissions in the Nordic Countries Increasing

In the run-up to COP16 in Mexico, the Nordic countries face increasing CO₂ emissions related to international trade. Emissions go up indirectly due to import of goods and the increase has accelerated from 2001 to 2004. Sweden and Finland have the biggest increase according to a new report from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

All of the Nordic countries experience an increase in CO₂ emissions linked with international trade.

The purchase of light manufactured products like motor vehicles, electronics, toys, and clothing is a key factor increasing the carbon footprint. China and other developing countries are the main countries involved in this trade pattern.

Sweden and Finland have the biggest carbon footprint – the term popularly given to trade related CO₂ emissions, as opposed to emissions from domestic production. Over the last decade, their emissions have gone up 39 and 36% respectively.

There is increasing public, media and policy interest in the concepts of carbon footprints and the emissions associated with international trade. Many wonder if our growing consumption of imported products offsets our gains in climate policy.

The report “Global Carbon Footprints” dispels some myths about carbon footprints and trade-adjusted emission inventories in the Nordic countries.

A review of studies finds large variations between the Nordic countries, but closer inspection shows that many of the variations are due to inconsistent definitions and non-comparable methods. Calculations using a consistent global model provide updated estimates for the Nordic countries in 1997, 2001, and 2004.

The study was carried out by researchers from CICERO and MiSA and was financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Quelle

→ <http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/trade-related-co2-emissions-in-the-nordic-countries-increasing>

Weitere Informationen

→ <http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publications/2010-592>

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

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Nordic Countries: New Funding Backs Globalisation Strategy

Three Nordic networks are to receive funding from the programme “Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation in Nordic Primary Industries”. The focus will be on health and genetic resources.

How can the Nordic countries best prepare for the consequences of climate change for natural resources and food production in the region?

NordForsk and the Council of Ministers are to fund three networks that will tackle the consequences of climate change for natural resources in the region, focusing on animal and plant health, conservation, adaptation and the use of genetic resources.

The programme committee has decided to award funding to three of nine applicants. The funds are from a pool worth a total of NOK 6.54 million. The networks will operate for three years.

The programme is one result of the prime ministers' globalisation strategy, as part of which the countries seek to identify joint solutions to global challenges.

The results generated by the networks will be used to construct a climate policy in the relevant fields.

The new networks are:

- Nordic Forage Crops Genetic Resource Adaptation Network (NO-FOCGRAN), project manager: Odd Arne Rognli, University of Life Sciences (UMB), Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Norway
- Arctic Char; A Species Under Threat and with Great Potential in the Age of Climate Change (NORDCHAR), project manager: Sigurdur Gudjonsson, Institute of Freshwater Fisheries, Iceland
- Nordic Research Network on Animal Genetic Resources in the Adaptation to Climate Change, project manager: Theo Meuwissen, University of Life Sciences (UMB), Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences, Norway

Quelle

→ <http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/new-funding-backs-globalisation-strategy>

Weitere Informationen

→ <http://www.nordforsk.org/text.cfm?path=13,80>

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EU's Marie Curie Programme Funds Its 50,000th Researcher

The European Union's Marie Curie Actions programme, which provides funding for some of the world's best young researchers, celebrated a special milestone on 9 December 2010 with a conference in Brussels to mark its 50,000th beneficiary.

Since its launch in 1996, the Marie Curie programme has supported training for researchers of 100 different nationalities working in 70 countries.

In addition to individual fellowships, the Marie Curie Actions also support doctoral candidates, partnerships between academia and industry, short-term exchanges and the reintegration of researchers returning from abroad.

Of the 50,000 researchers to receive Marie Curie grants to date, 40% were women. Nearly 6,300 universities, research organisations and companies worldwide (including 5,140 in the EU) have participated in the programme since 2007. The budget for the Marie Curie scheme is €4.7 billion for the period 2007-

The Marie Curie Actions are part of the People programme within the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. In 2011, the Marie Curie Actions will have a budget of €772 million and are expected to create 7,000 new jobs.

2013 and 80% of the funding is dedicated to training researchers who are under 35.

The countries hosting the highest number of Marie Curie researchers since the programme's launch are the United Kingdom, followed by Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Italy. However, interest in the programme is increasing all over Europe; the total number of grant applications has increased by 65% in the past three years and the number of Marie Curie researchers is expected to hit 90,000 by the end of 2013.

Quelle

→ <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1690&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Weitere Informationen

Marie Curie Actions

→ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus EU

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

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Progress on Tackling a Human Disease Thanks to EU-Funded Study of Illness in Pet Dogs

An EU-funded research team has discovered a new gene responsible for the development of a human respiratory disease thanks to the study of the same illness naturally occurring in pet dogs. This rare genetic disease, primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD), affects one in 20,000 people and causes chronic respiratory infections. The discovery was made by the LUPA project which aims to improve our understanding of the genetic origin of a wide range of human diseases, by collecting and comparing DNA samples from purebred dogs that are healthy or affected by similar diseases as humans. The study on PCD was led by the University of Liège in Belgium, which is also coordinator of the overall project.

The discovery sheds light on the mechanisms underlying the development of primary ciliary dyskinesia. Several mutations in about ten genes were known to be responsible for the disease. Researchers of the LUPA project identified 15 other mutations in gene *CCDC39* which explain at least 5% of all PCD in the world. This will allow better genetic counselling for affected families and improve the diagnosis of affected people with clinical symptoms. This is also a very encouraging sign for the wider ambitions of the LUPA project, which ultimately aims to gain more insight into at least 18 human illnesses including cancer, heart diseases, epilepsy and diabetes.

The identification of genes which predispose people to particular diseases is difficult due to the complexity of the underlying causes. Using dog models is a promising new approach. Dogs suffer from many of the same diseases as humans – but possible genetic causes are often much easier to trace in dogs. This is because, due to inbreeding, pedigree dogs are much less genetically complex than humans – the number of markers required to carry out entire genome scans on dogs is at least ten times lower than for human patients, leading to a significant reduction of samples required.

Therefore, the LUPA project is based on the principle that genetic analysis of diseases in dogs can sometimes be an easier way for researchers to gain initial insights into the pathways of certain human disorders than attempting much more complex and challenging analysis directly on human gene patterns.

Dogs can also be a good model for assessing the effectiveness of individualised treatment for complex diseases such as cancer because as loved pets they are often given very sophisticated veterinary treatment.

The LUPA project could have a major impact on the future of veterinary medicine in Europe. Researchers of the LUPA project successfully developed a genetic test to detect carriers of the gene mutation to prevent breeding carriers giving birth to potentially affected puppies. No dog was harmed during the study since researchers only collected the DNA.

Quelle

→ <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1689&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Weitere Informationen

LUPA PROJECT

→ <http://www.eurolupa.org>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus EU

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



Großbritannien

Vision for Radical Reform of Skills System to Support Growth

Investing in Sustainable Growth sets out how Government seeks to achieve its objectives through investing strategically in FE and skills over this Spending Review period. Savings will have to be made, but the Government understands the importance of continuing high levels of participation and performance.

The reform of the skills systems includes:

- Expanding the numbers of adult apprenticeships available, so by 2014-15 there will be 75,000 more adults starting than under the previous Government's plans; 200,000 adults will be able to start an apprenticeship. We will invest £605 million in adult apprenticeships in the 2011-12 financial year;
- Improving the apprenticeships package, so that level 3 (A Level equivalent) becomes the level to achieve, and there are clear progression pathways;
- Fully funding training for young adults aged from 19 up to 24 undertaking their first full level 2 (GCSE equivalent) or first level 3 qualification when they do not already have one;
- Fully funding basic skills courses for individuals who left school without basic reading, writing and mathematics;
- Protecting investment of £210 million in adult and community learning, to support personal development, inclusive communities and a route into formal learning for the disengaged;

- Introducing Government-backed loans from 2013-14 for learners aged 24 and over undertaking level 3 or higher qualifications. This will give people access to finance. They will not have to make their contribution to costs of the course until they are reaping the benefits of it and earning a decent wage;
- Initiating a demand-led growth and innovation fund of up to £50 million of government investment a year, to support employer-led initiatives within sectors, such as new professional standards, and to promote leadership and management in small and medium enterprises;
- Replacing Train to Gain with an SME focused programme to help small employers train low-skilled staff;
- Helping people who are on active job-seeking benefits to secure work through labour-market relevant training; and
- Reducing bureaucracy in the sector. We will continue to free colleges and training providers from red tape so they can respond to the needs of employers and learners. We will simplify the complex funding system and from the 2011-12 academic year there will be a single adult skills budget.

Quelle

→ <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=416563&NewsArealD=2>

Download

Skills for Sustainable Growth and Investment for Sustainable Growth

→ <http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/Nov/Skills-for-sustainable-growth/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Großbritannien

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

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R&D Spend of Leading UK Companies Holds up During Downturn

The top one thousand UK companies invested more than £25.3 billion on developing new products, services and productivity in 2009 according to the R&D Scoreboard published today.

Spend by the UK companies listed decreased by 0.6% in 2009, despite the economic downturn. Spending compared favourably with decreases in investment by top companies in the US, France and Germany.

The R&D Scoreboard is an annual investigation of the top 1,000 UK and top 1,000 global corporate investors in research and development.

The decrease was largely due to lower spend by firms in fixed line telecommunications, banking, aerospace and defence sectors, the report found.

Key facts from the latest R&D Scoreboard include:

- The 1,000 UK companies that invested the most in R&D spent £25.3 billion in 2009, down 0.6% year on year.
- 80% of R&D carried out by the 1,000 top-performing companies is conducted by the 100 most active companies.
- Globally, the 1,000 companies most active in R&D spent a combined £344 billion, a decrease of 1.9% year on year. The 50 UK companies in this group also decreased their R&D investment (by 1% overall).
- 78% of global R&D occurs in five countries: the US, Japan, Germany, France and the UK.
- UK sectors that increased their overall R&D investment included automobiles and parts, software and computer services and technology hardware and equipment.

Quelle

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=416751&NewsAreaID=2>

Download

2009 R&D Scoreboard

→ <http://www.bis.gov.uk/randscoreboard>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Großbritannien

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Government Sets First Annual Limit for Non-European Workers

A raft of new measures will strictly control the numbers that can come to the UK and work from outside Europe, the Home Secretary announced on 23 November 2010.

As well as limiting the number of skilled non-European workers that businesses can bring into the country, the Home Office is tightening the intra-company transfer route (which will sit outside the annual limit) and restricting Tier 1 of the points-based system – the ‘highly skilled’ tier – to all but entrepreneurs, investors and people of exceptional talent.

To control those coming here, the government has committed to:

- introducing an annual limit of 21,700 for those coming into the UK under the skilled and highly skilled routes – 20,700 under Tier 2 (General) and 1,000 under the new ‘exceptional talent’ route;
- raising to £40,000 the minimum salary for those coming under the Tier 2 (Intra company transfer) route for more than 12 months;
- restricting Tier 1 to all but entrepreneurs, investors and the exceptionally talented; and
- requiring occupations in Tier 2 (General) to be at graduate level.

The government was determined to make changes to Tier 1 when it was revealed that approximately one-third of those coming through this route were actually doing low-skilled jobs once they were in the UK. Businesses have made it clear that their priority is to fill their specific vacancies through Tier 2.

The new rules will take effect from April 2011. Applicants under Tier 2 will still be required to apply for a visa from the UK Border Agency through the points-based system, will have to be of graduate level, be sponsored by an employer and will be awarded points based on scarcity of skills and salary. However, they will be competing against other applicants for a visa to enter the UK and, in months when the limit is oversubscribed, those with the most points will qualify for one of the certificates of sponsorship available each month.

Separately, businesses can bring in their own employees through the Tier 2 (Intra company transfer) route – but they must be earning more than £40,000 to stay more than 12 months, and their stay will be restricted to five years.

A consultation will be launched before the end of the year focusing on Tier 4 of the points-based system – the student route – which currently accounts for two-thirds of migrants entering the UK each year. By introducing a system that is more selective and more robust, the government is aiming to stamp out abuse while continuing to attract the top students to our top universities.

The consultation, which will run for eight weeks, will seek views on a range of measures to reduce the number of students that can come into the UK, such as:

- for adult students, focusing Tier 4 on higher-level courses and those offered by Highly Trusted sponsors;
- introducing tougher entry criteria such as English language competence;
- ensuring that students wishing to extend their studies show evidence of academic progression;
- limiting the student's entitlements to work and sponsor dependants; and
- improving the accreditation process for education providers, alongside more rigorous inspections.

Quelle

→ <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/nov/78-first-annual-limit>

Download

Home Secretary's oral statement on the immigration limit

→ <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/oral-statement-imm-limit.pdf>

Weitere Informationen

Annual limit for Tier 1 and Tier 2 visa applications

→ <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/35-t1-t2-annual-limits>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Großbritannien

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

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Italien

University Reform Bill Passes amid Protests

A controversial university reform bill was passed in the Italian parliament (30 November 2010) despite high profile protests around the country. Key points of the reform to have made the final vote include:

- Limits of six-year single mandates for rectors.
- Meritocratic tenure-tracks for academics, including a maximum of six years of fixed term contracts for entry-level assistant professors who must either obtain tenure during this time or leave the academy. Also, obligatory national certification for candidates applying for academic positions.
- A ban on relatives working in the same university.

- The creation of 4,500 new positions for assistant professors over three years.
- Tighter financial controls for university administrations including greater transparency in budget management and adoption of an ethical code of practice with a maximum limit of 12 faculties per institution.
- Provision for the private sector to have a role on university boards of directors with a minimum of three non-university representatives on a board of 11 directors, who have the power to initiate and eliminate courses.

The bill goes to a final vote in the Senate before becoming law, but the vote has been postponed until after 14 December, when Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right coalition faced a critical confidence vote.

Quelle

→ <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101203214835252>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Italien

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

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Japan

Weniger Japaner studieren im Ausland

Nach einem Bericht des Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) ist die Zahl im Ausland studierender Japaner im dritten Jahr in Folge zurückgegangen und lag 2007 bei 75.156 Personen. Der stärkste Rückgang ist in den USA zu verzeichnen, dem beliebtesten Ziel japanischer Studierender. Nach Angaben des Institute of International Education (IIE) studierten im Jahr 2008 29.264 Japaner in den USA, d.h. ca. 40% weniger als

1997, dem Jahr, in dem seit Beginn der Untersuchung im Jahr 1954 der bisherige Spitzenwert von 47.073 Personen erreicht wurde.

Im Fiskaljahr 2009 bot die Funai Foundation for Information Technology erstmals Stipendien für Japaner an, die auf dem Gebiet der Informationstechnologie an Graduiertenschulen im Ausland forschen wollen. Doktoranden erhalten einen Betrag von max. 20 Mio. Yen (176.880 Euro), der nicht zurückgezahlt werden muss. Nach Angaben von Tahashi Masuda, dem geschäftsführenden Direktor der Funai Foundation, beträgt das Verhältnis von Bewerbern zu Stipendien nur 1:1. Eine Ursache sieht er im Umfeld der Studierenden. Japanische Universitäten würden versuchen, zur Belegung ihrer Studienplätze Studierende an sich zu binden, und Lehrkräfte würden talentierte Studenten ungern gehen lassen. Masuda befürchtet, dass bei einer derartigen Abschottung japanischer Universitäten weniger ausländische Studenten in Japan studieren möchten.

Laut einer Untersuchung des IIE von 2008 sind unter den ausländischen Studenten in den USA 103.000 Inder, 98.000 Chinesen und 75.000 Südkoreaner. Japan belegt mit weniger als 30.000 Studierenden den fünften Platz. Experten sagen voraus, dass Japan langfristig unter einem Rückgang der internationalen Präsenz und der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit leiden wird.

Nach einer vom MEXT u.a. durchgeführten Studie hielten sich 2007 insgesamt 118.498 ausländische Studierende in Japan auf. Die Regierung hofft, diese Zahl bis 2020 auf 300.000 zu erhöhen.

Quelle

→ <http://www.jsps-bonn.de/index.php?id=1325>

Weitere Informationen

Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

→ <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/>

Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (JUSEC)

<http://www.fulbright.jp/eng/index.html>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Japan

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/japan>



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Japan von Platz 1 beim Zitierungsindex für Asien verdrängt

Nach Angaben des Unternehmens Thomson Reuters Corporation lag die Zitierungshäufigkeit japanischer wissenschaftlicher Publikationen in den letzten fünf Jahren unter dem weltweiten Durchschnitt. Das Unternehmen hat 11.000 internationale wissenschaftliche Zeitschriften danach untersucht, wie häufig wissenschaftliche Artikel darin publiziert oder zitiert wurden. 2009 gab es 78.500 Publikationen aus Japan, ein Anteil von 6,75% an der Gesamtzahl aller Publikationen. Während die Zahl der wissenschaftlichen Publikationen in anderen asiatischen Ländern zunimmt, ist Japans Anteil im Vergleich zum Jahr 2000 um 2,7% gesunken. Die Zitierungsrate aus Japan betrug 0,98%, der weltweite Durchschnitt lag bei 1%. Unter den asiatischen Ländern nahm Singapur mit 1,01% den Spitzenplatz ein und verdrängte Japan von dieser Position.

Quelle

→ <http://www.jsps-bonn.de/index.php?id=1329>

Weitere Informationen

Thomson Reuters: Introducing citation indexing

→ http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/academic/citation_indexing

Zahl wissenschaftlicher Publikationen schrumpft in drei Jahren um 10%

→ <http://www.jsps-bonn.de/index.php?id=1328>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Japan

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/japan>

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Regierung prüft Aufhebung der Visumpflicht für Wissenschaftler aus Asien

Die japanische Regierung prüft die Einführung einer Visumfreiheit für asiatische Wissenschaftler. Das Kabinettsbüro befasst sich in Zusammenarbeit mit den zuständigen Ministerien und Behörden, u.a. dem Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), mit den entsprechenden Regelungen. Diese werden in der neuen Wachstumsstrategie im „Konzept für eine asiatische Wissenschafts- und Technologieregion“ enthalten sein. Die Befreiung von der Visumpflicht soll für asiatische Wissenschaftler gelten, die für einen Kurzaufenthalt von bis zu 90 Tagen nach Japan einreisen. Zurzeit beschränkt sich die Visumfreiheit, z.B. für die Teilnahme an einer wissenschaftlichen Tagung, auf Wissenschaftler aus Europa, den USA und Korea. Wissenschaftler aus China oder Südostasien benötigen für die Genehmigung eines Visumsantrages in der Regel fünf Tage.

Durch einen Austausch auf personeller Ebene (z.B. Wissenschaftleraustausch) sowie in den Bereichen Handel und Finanzen in der asiatischen Region will die Regierung zur Belebung im Bereich Wissenschaft und Technologie beitragen.

Quelle

→ <http://www.jsps-bonn.de/index.php?id=1330>

Weitere Informationen

Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

→ <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Japan

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/japan>

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Kanada

Government of Canada Invests in Research on the Digital Economy

The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announced on 22 November a federal investment to increase the understanding of the state of knowledge on the digital economy.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) has awarded 25 Knowledge Synthesis Grants on the Digital Economy to scholars at 15 different universities across Canada, for a total investment of \$562,000. The grants will enable these experts to bring together the knowledge available on public policy issues key to advancing the digital economy agenda, as well as to identify knowledge gaps in areas that are critical for Canada – from building digital skills to creating Canada’s digital content advantage.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) is an independent federal government agency that funds university-based research and graduate training through national peer review competitions. SSHRC also partners with public and private sector organizations to focus research and aid the development of better policies and practices in key areas of Canada’s social, cultural and economic life.

The projects funded address digital economy topics identified in the consultation paper, “Improving Canada’s Digital Advantage: Strategies for Sustainable Prosperity, and include”:

- the university e-textbook – Gérard Boismenu, Université de Montréal;
- digital scholarship for sustainable culture – Susan Brown, University of Guelph;
- improving Canada’s digital advantage: building the digital talent pool and skills for tomorrow – Wendy Cukier, Ryerson University;
- computer games and Canada’s digital economy – Sean Gouglas, University of Alberta;

- digital media and national innovation: Canadian strategies and international lessons – Carin Holroyd, University of Waterloo;
- protecting privacy rights in the emerging digital economy – Lesley Jacobs, York University;
- barriers and opportunities for engaging rural and remote communities in Canada’s digital economy – Robert McLeman, University of Ottawa;
- an aboriginal connectivity strategy – Richard Smith, Simon Fraser University; and
- writing the digital economy: shifting contexts, practices and beliefs – Sean Wiebe, University of Prince Edward Island.

Quelle

→ http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/news_room-salle_de_presse/press_releases-communiqués/2010/digital_economy-economie_numerique-eng.aspx

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Kanada

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/kanada>

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Government of Canada Celebrates the Canada Research Chairs Program

The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announced on 24 November that the Government of Canada has made a major investment in the Canada Research Chairs Program, enabling Canada to strengthen its position as a world leader in university research and development. During a speech to kick off a two-day conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the program, the Minister announced an investment of \$275.6 million to fund 310 new or renewed Canada Research Chairs at 53 Canadian universities.

The investment announced today also includes \$13.4 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for research infrastructure associated with the new Chair awards. The partnership between the CFI and the Canada Research Chairs Program helps ensure that Canada preserves its most critical resource in the knowledge economy – intellectual capital.

The 310 chairholders included in the announcement will conduct research across a range of important fields, including water security, molecular neuroscience and globalization. The results of their research will hold the potential to benefit all sectors of Canadian society.

Over the past 10 years, the program has been integral to funding research excellence in Canada and attracting and retaining renowned international experts at Canadian universities. The program has helped build world-class research centres across the country, propelled Canadian research leadership onto the world stage, and enhanced the education and training of thousands of domestic and foreign students. In 2000, the Government of Canada created a new permanent program to establish 2000 research professorships – Canada Research Chairs – in universities across the country.

Quelle

→ <http://www.chairs-chaire.gc.ca/media-medias/releases-communications/2010/november-novembre-eng.aspx>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Kanada

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/kanada>

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Russland

New Antarctic Research Plan for Russia

Tom Parfitt reports on *ScienceInsider*, that Russia is planning to launch five new

polar research ships as part of a \$975 million effort to reassert its presence in Antarctica over the next decade.

Parfitt adds, that according to a government strategy document that lays out priorities for development around the South Pole until 2020, Moscow will also reconstruct five research stations and three seasonal bases there. The document identifies improved monitoring of climate change, increased geological and geophysical study of mineral and hydrocarbon resources, extension of the GLONASS satellite navigation system, and assessment of fisheries as key objectives. The development strategy to 2020 also includes construction of an airstrip and commissioning of an Il-114-100T aircraft with a wheel-ski undercarriage.

Quelle

→ <http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/11/new-antarctic-research-plan-for.html>

Download

Russia's Antarctic Research plan (Russisch)

→ <http://government.ru/media/2010/11/8/36454/file/1926.doc>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Russland

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Major New Investment in Higher Education

The Russian government is to allocate up to 137 billion rubles (US\$4.1 billion) to the development of education from 2011-15 under a new federal target programme. Most of the money is expected to be spent on strengthening universities.

On the cards for higher education under the new programme, approved on 22 November, is the introduction of new technologies, improving the quality of teaching staff, and upgrading the material and technical infrastructure of the country's largest federal universities. The government believes that implementation of the new programme will help to reduce universities' current financial dependence on public funds.

Andrei Fursenko, the Minister of Education, said most of the funds for the programme would be allocated from the federal budget as well as from regional budgets and the remainder, an estimated 17 billion rubles (US\$500 million), would come from extra-budgetary resources.

Many Russian universities continue to rely totally on state funding and have no stimulus for further development. Unlike Western universities, many institutions also experience a lack of well-equipped research laboratories and scientific development, and are still unable to raise revenues that could stimulate the whole educational process.

“As part of the target programme we are planning to implement a public-private partnership, which is expected to allow universities to reduce their dependence on state funds,” Fursenko said.

In addition, significant funds will be allocated to increased salaries for teaching staff and scholarships for students, which will rise by an average of 6.5%. Increased salaries are expected to help to solve a serious problem for Russian education – corruption. Average salaries for Russian teachers and professors are up to US\$800-\$1,000 per month and are among the lowest in Europe, contributing to the growth of corruption, especially during entrance and traditional examinations.

Quelle

→ <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101203214126744>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Russland

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

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USA

PCAST Energy Report Released

The new “Report to the President on Accelerating the Pace of Change in Energy Technologies Through an Integrated Federal Energy Policy” released by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) provides specific and practical recommendations on how the Nation can transform its current carbon-based economy into a safer, more sustainable, and economically advantageous energy ecosystem. It calls for significant changes in the way the Federal government coordinates the complex job of fulfilling America’s energy needs across multiple agencies and programs – changes that promise to increase economic competitiveness, enhance environmental stewardship, and strengthen national security.

The report also calls for significantly increasing Federal investments in energy-related research and development and suggests new revenue options that could support the development of more efficient energy technologies. It calls upon the Federal government to craft a government-wide Federal energy policy and update it regularly with strategic Quadrennial Reviews similar to those produced regularly by the Department of Defense. It recommends realistic approaches to increasing the Nation’s investment in clean-energy technologies by about \$10 billion per year. And it calls for a review of current legislative energy subsidies and incentives – including preferred tax treatment and trade restrictions – with the goal of better aligning them with evolving priorities as specified in the Quadrennial Energy Review.

The report got quick support from the American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC) – a group of America’s top business executives including Bill Gates, chairman and former chief executive of Microsoft; Norm Augustine, former chairman of Lockheed Martin; Ursula Burns, chairman and chief executive of

Xerox; John Doerr, partner at Kleiner Perkins; Chad Holliday, chairman of Bank of America and former CEO of DuPont; Jeff Immelt, chief executive of GE; and Tim Solso, chairman and chief executive of Cummins.

Quelle

→ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/blog?page=1>

Download

Report to the President on Accelerating the Pace of Change in Energy Technologies Through an Integrated Federal Energy Policy

→ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast-energy-tech-report.pdf>

Weitere Informationen

President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)

→ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/pcast>

American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC)

→ <http://www.americanenergyinnovation.org/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus USA

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

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NIH to Create Translational Science Center

Jocelyn Kaiser reports on *ScienceInsider* that National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins said on 7 December 2010 that he is moving ahead with a plan to create a new center focused on translational science – his biggest initiative yet. The center could be up and running a year from now, despite concerns that it may mean dismantling another NIH center. According to Kaiser, the proposal came from the Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB), a panel of outside scientists and NIH institute directors whose task is to find ways to streamline NIH's structure. An SMRB working group on translational medicine

and therapeutics concluded in a draft summary in November that NIH needs to do more work in this area.

Kaiser adds, that the center would house several existing programs at NIH, including the \$113 million Molecular Libraries screening program, a \$25 million effort called Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases, and NCR's Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA). It would also fold in the Cures Acceleration Network, a drug-development program created by the health care reform bill but not yet funded.

Quelle

→ <http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/12/nih-to-create-translational-science.html>

Download

Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB): Präsentation der „Translational Medicine and Therapeutics Working Group“ vom 10. November 2010

→ http://smrb.od.nih.gov/meetings/nov_meeting/ATTACHMENT7_TMATPresentationNov102010.pdf

Weitere Informationen

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

→ <http://www.nih.gov>

Creating One NIH Center Might Entail Dissolving Another

→ <http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/12/creating-one-nih-center-might.html>

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Howard Hughes Medical Institute to Launch Labs of New Investigators Abroad

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) launched on 1 December 2010 an international competition to select up to 35 early career scientists working at academic institutions in 18 countries on five continents with the goal of helping these talented individuals establish independent research programs.

The Institute has committed \$24 million for the International Early Career Scientist Program and will award each scientist who is selected a total of \$650,000 over five years. The competition is open to scientists who have trained in the US, run their own labs for less than seven years, and work in one of 18 eligible countries. Those countries are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hungary, India, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, and Turkey.

This competition is designed to give a boost to international scientists who return to their home country to do research after training in the United States. If successful, this pilot project could form the basis for a larger international endeavor.

Quelle

→ <http://www.hhmi.org/news/intlearlycareer20101201.html>

Download

International Early Career Scientists Program Announcement

→ http://www.hhmi.org/news/pdf/IECS_program_announcement.pdf

Weitere Informationen

HHMI's International Program

→ <http://www.hhmi.org/research/international/>

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

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Partnership for Cybersecurity Innovation

On 6 December, Obama Administration officials released a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the Department of Commerce, the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS/S&T), and the Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council (FSSCC). The goal of the agreement is to speed the commercialization of cybersecurity research innovations that support the Nation's critical infrastructures.

The agreement establishes a framework for collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Financial services – banking and credit card transactions, insurance, trading and funds management, and many other business and consumer financial activities – are increasingly provided online. These services are essential in the daily lives of citizens, critical for the fast-paced conduct of modern business, and required for the healthy pulse of eCommerce, locally to globally. As a result, threats to these services are threats to individuals, companies, and the Nation. Ensuring these online services are reliable, accurate, safe, and secure against threats is a shared responsibility of the public and private sectors alike. Many of the innovations emerging from the partnership will extend beyond financial services to online health services, the Smart Grid, and the Nation's water, transportation, and other critical infrastructures.

This agreement will accelerate the deployment of network testbeds for specific use cases that strengthen the resiliency, security, integrity, and usability of financial services and other critical infrastructures' functions, processes, and people by:

- Facilitating coordination and cooperation among Federal agencies and the financial services sector in the development and delivery of innovative cybersecurity technologies and processes; and
- Establishing clear processes for the implementation of specific use cases.

The strengths of this partnership lie in the unique capabilities of its members.

The FSSCC – whose participants include banks, credit unions, insurance companies, payment services, trading firms, and others – supports research and development initiatives to protect the physical and electronic infrastructure of the banking and finance sector and to protect its customers by enhancing the sector's resilience and integrity.

NIST advances the state of the art in information technology and cybersecurity through innovations in mathematics, statistics, and computer science and conducts research to develop the measurement and standards infrastructure for emerging information technologies and applications. Working with industry, other government agencies, and academia, the Institute accelerates the development and deployment of IT systems that are reliable, usable, interoperable, and secure.

The Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) is the Department of Homeland Security's research and development arm. Among its priorities, S&T conducts – in cooperation with other Federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, universities, and private industry – cybersecurity research and development to secure the Nation's current and future cyber and critical infrastructures.

Quelle

→ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/12/06/partnership-cybersecurity-innovation>

Download

Memorandum of Understanding

→ http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/FSSCC_DHS_NIST_MOU_12062010.pdf

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China

China Hopes to Boost Basic Research as Overall R&D Spending Soars

Hao Xin reports on *ScienceInsider*, that China's science spending is rising fast and on track to meet a 2010 target to spend 2% of its gross domestic product (GDP) on research and development, according to a report released in November. But development represents the lion's share of the overall R&D budget and is growing more rapidly than basic and applied research.

According to Xin, last year, China's total R&D spending reached 580 billion yuan (\$85 billion), or 1.7% of GDP. Measured by current-price yuan (not taking inflation into account), R&D spending has increased 23% per year on average since 2000, according to a survey of R&D resources led by the National Bureau of Statistics in Beijing. The survey was carried out to help the Chinese government prepare for the next five-year economic development plan and to monitor the implementation of the country's mid-to-long-term science and technology plan for 2006-2020.

Quelle

→ <http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/11/china-hopes-to-boost-basic-research.html>

Weitere Informationen

National Bureau of Statistics of China

→ <http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus China

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/china>

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Dänemark

Drive to Boost Study Abroad

The Danish Ministry for Science, Technology and Education has launched a campaign to substantially increase the number of Danish students studying abroad. Charlotte Sahl-Madsen, Minister for Science, Technology and Development, said she wants studying abroad to become the rule rather than the exception.

“It is important that as many Danish students as possible study abroad. At the same time I wish to attract talented foreign students to study in Denmark – and hopefully work here, upon completing their studies,” she said.

In 2008, only 2.7% of Danish students awarded a degree had studied abroad as a part of the degree. The number taking a full degree abroad has fallen by 25% since 2002-03. Data just published by the ministry for 2008-09 show that 8,466 Danish students were studying outside Denmark, while 16,657 international students came to Danish institutions. The number of foreign doctorate students has increased 80% in three years.

“I have just launched the campaign Grib Verden (Catch the World) which focuses on inspiring Danish students to go abroad,” Sahl-Madsen told University World News. “At the same time we are marketing Denmark as a great place to live and study through. I am currently discussing with relevant parties in parliament how to alleviate some of the bureaucratic barriers that Danish students encounter when they wish to study abroad.”

The campaign is being fronted by a prominent Danish television personality, Clement Kjersgaard, and the website features interviews with him and the well-known designer Stine Goya who have both studied abroad as part of their training.

“The website is planned as a motivational and inspirational portal, where the young can see how a global view and experiences from abroad are rewarding both personally and professionally,” Sahl-Madsen said. “Companies are increasingly looking for candidates with an international competence, so if the young

are to be equipped for the work place of tomorrow, such an element in their educational experience is important.”

Danish students are able to take abroad the money allocated for their study place in Denmark and use this to pay for tuition fees.

John Edelsgaard Andersen, director of international affairs at Copenhagen University, said: “All study programmes shall have a mobility window, where there is room for studies abroad that will be recognised at Copenhagen University. Through attractive exchange agreements we can offer our students places at, for instance, New York University, University of California, Columbia University and so on.”

He said his university had not yet got the balance right. “We still have 1,000 more incoming students than we send out, and that creates a balance problem. We are glad that Copenhagen University is attractive abroad, and we are intensifying our work in having our Danish students going abroad,” he said. Four out of five exchange students in Denmark come from another European country, but only 49% of Danish exchange students are studying at European institutions – 28% went to the US, Canada and Australia. Of the incoming 5,634 students funded by the European Union exchange programme ERASMUS, half came from Spain, France, Germany and Poland.

Sahl-Madsen writes a blog to communicate directly with Danish students. But it sparked a heated debate, with 83 comments, many reporting difficulties in planning studies abroad. Many also report difficulties in finding work in Denmark on returning with a degree from another country, and some have emigrated.

Quelle

→ <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101105222243715>

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Fokus Dänemark

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/daenemark>

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Room for More International Students

The Ministry of Education has decided to rent out a building to Copenhagen International School, making way for an additional 260 international students.

In August 2011, Copenhagen International School (CIS) will move its 9th graders and upper secondary classes to the premises formerly housing Østre Borgerdyd Upper Secondary School. This means a further 260 students can attend the school.

The decision is made in order to meet the demands of those who come to Denmark from abroad and want their children to go to an international school.

Minister for Education, Tina Nedergaard, emphasises the importance of international schools as a way of attracting skilled foreign labour. "Denmark must be able to attract and keep skilled, foreign labour. It is therefore important that we can offer international schooling to children of employees coming to Denmark, if that is what they require. Right now, there is not enough room at CIS so I am very pleased that the Ministry's building now can be used as an international school," says Tina Nedergaard.

The building will be rented out to CIS for four years with the option of an additional year. Work to expand CIS is in the pipeline but the agreement with the Ministry means the school can increase its capacity as early as next school year.

Quelle

→ <http://eng.uvm.dk/Aktuelt/News/Eng/2010/Nov/101125%20Room%20for%20more%20international%20students.aspx>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Dänemark

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/daenemark>

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Denmark Signs Funding Agreement with UNESCO

Denmark and UNESCO have agreed a new two-year Funding Agreement. The deal includes 40 million Danish Kroner for special focal areas. On 19 November, UNESCO ambassador for Denmark, Poul Erik Kristensen, and Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, shook hands on a bilateral agreement involving additional funds for the organization from 2010 to 2011.

In total, 40 million Danish Kroner is being earmarked for work on areas in which Denmark and UNESCO share an interest. For example:

- Education for All (EFA)
- Human rights
- Intercultural dialogue
- External evaluation of the organization.

Denmark's contribution remains at the same level as in 2008-2009.

Quelle

→ <http://eng.uvm.dk/Aktuelt/News/Eng/2010/Nov/101126%20Denmark%20signs%20collaboration%20deal%20with%20UNESCO.aspx>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Dänemark

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Finnland

Five Finnish Researchers Receive Substantial ERC Funding

Five researchers working in Finland have received substantial Starting Independent Researcher Grants for young researchers from the European Research Council (ERC). The maximum amount of the funding for a project is €1.5 million for five years. The funding is targeted to individual researchers for setting up a research team to carry out the proposed project.

The Finnish ERC Starting Grant winners are Patrik Jones (University of Turku), Hannes Lohi (University of Helsinki), Atte Moilanen (University of Helsinki), Alberto Sanz (University of Tampere) and Hanna Vehkamäki (University of Helsinki). The Finnish ERC grantees have also been successful in national competitions for research funding and they have a strong link with the Academy of Finland, which has funded their research through, e.g., research posts as Academy Research Fellow, Postdoctoral Researcher's projects and general research grants. Several of the Finnish ERC grant winners are also working within Finnish Centres of Excellence in research appointed by the Academy of Finland.

The ERC has two types of grants: ERC Starting Grants for early-career top researchers and ERC Advanced Grants for top research leaders with significant research achievements. In its competition for Starting Grants, the ERC awarded a total of €580 million to 427 projects. Compared with the other Nordic countries, Finland came second after Sweden. Sweden received ERC funding for 20 researchers, Denmark for four and Norway for three researchers.

Quelle

→ <http://www.aka.fi/en-gb/A/Academy-of-Finland/Media-services/Newsletter/Academy-of-Finland-Newsletter-December-2010/#erc>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

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Nordic Research Collaboration Expected to Provide Solutions to Climate and Energy Issues

Nordic research collaboration is expected to contribute to responding to challenges in future energy solutions and the management of climate change. Finnish research teams are therefore strongly represented in the new Nordic Centres of Excellence and research projects of the Top-level Research Initiative (TRI) launched by the Nordic prime ministers.

The Initiative, which is jointly funded by Nordic research funding agencies and ministries, will focus on research on climate change and energy issues. It comprises six sub-programmes, two of which will focus on climate change research and four on energy research. In Finland, the Initiative is funded by the Academy of Finland and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.

Three new Nordic Centres of Excellence (NCoEs) will be funded within the TRI sub-programme "Effect Studies and Adaptation to Climate Change"; one of these is headed by Lauri Oksanen from the University of Turku and Finnmark University College (Norway). In his project, Oksanen and his team will investigate how to preserve the tundra in a warming climate. The NCoE also involves research teams from the Universities of Turku and Lapland and the Finnish Meteorological Institute. These teams are headed by Pekka Niemelä (University of Turku), Bruce Forbes (University of Lapland), Jouni

The themes of the sub-programmes within climate change research are effect studies and adaptation to climate change, and the interaction between climate change and cryosphere. The cryosphere is the term which collectively describes the portions of the Earth's surface where water is in solid form. It is a predominant feature of the arctic and subarctic regions and large parts of the North.

Pulliainen (University of Eastern Finland), Erkki Korpimäki (University of Turku) and Jukka Käyhkö (University of Turku).

Two Finnish research teams are participating in the new NCoE “Climate Change Effects on Marine Ecosystems and Resource Economics”, headed by Erik Bonsdorff (Åbo Akademi University) and Marko Lindroos (University of Helsinki). Lasse Peltonen’s research team from Aalto University is involved in the NCoE “Nordic Strategic Adaptation Research”.

Three new NCoEs will also be funded within the sub-programme “Interactions between Climate Change and the Cryosphere”; one of these is headed by Markku Kulmala from the University of Helsinki. Kulmala’s project will focus on the role played by short-lived pollutants and aerosol-cloud interactions and their linkages with cryospheric changes and the climate. The project involves teams from the Universities of Helsinki and Eastern Finland and the Finnish Meteorological Institute. Besides Kulmala, the teams are also headed by Ari Laaksonen (University of Eastern Finland) and Gerrit de Leeuw (University of Eastern Finland).

The other NCoEs focusing on the interaction between climate change and the cryosphere will study changes in ice sheets, glaciers and permafrost. The teams researching ice sheets and glaciers are headed by Thomas Zwinger (CSC – IT Center for Science), Heikki Järvinen (University of Eastern Finland) and John Moore (Arctic Centre/University of Lapland). The teams studying permafrost are headed by Pertti Martikainen (University of Eastern Finland) and Timo Vesala (University of Helsinki).

The TRI sub-programmes focusing on energy research will investigate how to improve energy efficiency by means of nanotechnology, how to support wind power development and how to produce sustainable biofuels. The research on energy efficiency will develop environmentally friendly, paper-based batteries and nanocoatings with improved conductivity properties, for instance. The Finnish researchers involved in these projects are Maria Smolander and Lasse Makkonen from VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and Harri Lipsanen from Aalto University. VTT also participates in projects within the sub-programme focusing on biofuels. Together with the Strategic Centre for Science,

Technology and Innovation CLEEN Ltd, VTT is also involved in one of the projects that will investigate wind power. The project aims to improve the predictability of winds, waves and ice formation. Further, one sub-programme will investigate carbon capture and storage.

Quelle

→ <http://www.aka.fi/en-gb/A/Academy-of-Finland/Media-services/Newsletter/Academy-of-Finland-Newsletter-December-2010/#erc>

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Indien

A Global Higher Education Magnet

Universities from Europe, the United States and Canada are beating a path to India hoping to collaborate with Indian higher education institutions – even though legislation to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India has yet to be passed. Many analysts said the education collaborations announced in November with visiting university delegations from the UK, US and Canada were not just about education, but were strategic and economic as well.

As a result of US President Barack Obama’s three-day official visit to India in November, the two countries announced their first-ever higher education summit to be held in India in 2011, promising more joint projects and the possibility of involving the higher education sector in policy-level initiatives (*ITB infoservice berichtete, s.u.*). Obama’s visit also coincided with a visit by a delegation of US higher education government officials and high-level administrators from 10 US colleges and universities, visiting India as part of the International Academic

Partnership Program, funded by the US Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

Following their American counterparts, Canada sent their biggest ever delegation of 15 university presidents on a seven day mission to India. The Canadian universities announced funding for a series of India-specific initiatives valued at over CAD\$4 million (US\$4 million). These include the new Globalink Canada-India Graduate Fellowship to provide up to 51 scholarships valued at more than CAD\$3.5 million for Indian students. Both countries have agreed to collaborate on research in science and technology – a priority area for many of the countries interested in collaboration with universities in India.

India's Education Minister Kapil Sibal and David Willetts, Britain's minister for universities and sciences at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, also signed an agreement on 12 November 2010 launching the second phase of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative. Starting in April 2011, the new phase will comprise four strands of education collaboration – innovation and partnerships, skills development, leadership development, and student mobility and quality assurance.

Quelle

→ <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101113055738847>

Weitere Informationen

Obama's India Visit Generates Science Collaborations (ITB infoservice 11/10 vom 19. November)

→ http://www.kooperation-international.de/fileadmin/public-downloads/itb/info_10_11_19.pdf

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Fokus Indien

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Mexiko

Key Centre Launches International Drive

The Center for Higher and Technical Education (CETYS) in Mexico recently launched a long-term plan to internationalise its curriculum and reach out to institutions in developing countries to forge multilateral approaches to common challenges in higher education.

The initiative, CETYS 2020, aims for the university based in Baja to reach global benchmarks for quality, competitiveness, expanding the learning community and sustainability. Some of the objectives will be to boost the numbers of students studying abroad and to partner with schools around the world, according to Dr Fernando León-García, CETYS' president. In addition, its goal is to achieve full accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the US-based accreditation body.

CETYS will invest almost US\$12 million in establishing three centres of excellence and recruiting national and international professors in three fields: competitiveness, design and innovation, and human and social development. A capital campaign aims to raise \$120 million to support its long-term plans.

Student exchanges and short-term sessions involving groups of students accompanied by a faculty member are taking place with, for example, law and business students in Chile. Faculty visits and exchanges between Mexico and India are also part of the plan. In 2011, CETYS will be seeking to broaden collaboration and establish a relationship with China.

Quelle

→ <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=201012032123582>

Weitere Informationen

CETYS 2020 (Spanisch)

→ <http://www.cetys.mx/2020/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Mexiko

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/mexiko>



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Norwegen

Norwegian Government Report: Adapting to Climate Change via Research

A new government report documents Norway's vulnerability to climate change and discusses adaptation measures. The committee behind the report emphasises that research must be a prioritised means of addressing climate challenges.

“The report validates the national Klima21 strategy approved earlier this year,” says Arvid Hallén, Director General of the Research Council. “The new report supports the strategy's recommendations in terms of both research needs and the need for funding climate research.”

Entitled “Adapting to a changing climate”, the report deals with the full range of climate-related challenges facing society. The committee that prepared the report based its work on three climate projections which, together, provide a risk picture of potential impacts during this century:

- Annual average temperatures in Norway are projected to rise 2.3°C to 4.6°C. The largest increases will occur in wintertime and in Northern Norway, the smallest in summertime and in Western Norway.
- Annual precipitation is expected to increase by 5 to 30% by the year 2100, but with large seasonal and regional variations. More days with heavy precipitation are also expected.
- Ocean temperatures will rise along the entire Norwegian coastline and in the North Sea. Ocean acidification will worsen, likely dropping in pH value by 0.5 units.

- By the year 2100, sea levels could rise 50-100 cm along Norway's southern and western coastlines, 40-90 cm in Northern Norway, and 20-70 cm in the Oslo Fjord and Trondheim Fjord.

The committee recommends that impacts and response measures be assessed on the basis of the projection(s) that pose the greatest challenges for the various sectors.

The report states that the need for a regularly updated knowledge base is not adequately met through ordinary research programmes and projects of a relatively short-term nature. The committee therefore supports the Klima21 strategy's recommendation to establish large-scale, long-term research programmes that specifically address the climate system and the impacts of, and adaptation to, climate change. It also recommends that the Research Council establish a strategic research programme for the construction industry with a primary focus on the impacts of climate change on that industry.

Existing monitoring programmes must be shored up and new programmes must be developed, particularly relating to the natural environment and natural hazards. The committee also advises strengthening the monitoring of wind and short-term precipitation.

The report gives high priority to the dissemination of research-based knowledge to the public administration and trade and industry. There is a great need for downscaled and specially prepared climate projections, and for data from monitoring, mapping and climate modelling in formats that are comprehensible to users in sectors and technical circles that do not possess expertise in meteorology or hydrology.

Arvid Hallén Dr Hallén expressed disappointment over how little mention the committee made of social science research, which he says could provide valuable insight into how to implement the proposed measures. Dr Hallén would also welcome a stronger focus on the indirect impacts on Norway of the major climate change occurring in far more vulnerable places around the world. “Because Norway's economy is tightly integrated with the global economy, we need much more knowledge about how these global changes will affect our nation socially and economically.”

Quelle

→ http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/Adapting_to_climate_change_via_research/1253963115433?WT.mc_id=nyhetsbrev-ForskningsradetEngelsk

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Norwegen

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

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Research Council of Norway Budget Proposal 2012

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) is seeking a budget increase of NOK 1.2 billion in connection with the national budget for 2012. According to the Council's budget proposal, 60% of this amount should be distributed among four specific priority areas.

The four areas are:

- energy and environmental technology,
- climate research,
- open research arenas and
- infrastructure.

The task of ensuring an adequate energy supply while at the same time achieving significant reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions entails a major challenge. Renewable energy and new environmental technology will play an increasingly important role in solving these problems. At the same time, society will remain dependent on oil and gas for several more decades in order to ensure that the global population has adequate access to energy. Norwegian research and trade and industry are well positioned to make a major contribution in the areas of offshore wind energy, solar energy, bioenergy, carbon capture and storage (CCS), energy efficiency, new transport solutions, more effective

petroleum technology and environmental technology. Greater investment in energy and environmental technology will lay the foundation for a greener business sector in Norway. The Research Council has proposed an increase of NOK 200 million for energy and environmental technology in 2012.

There is a great need for more research-based knowledge on the climate system and climate change. Research is necessary for developing more reliable climate scenarios that can provide insight into the impacts of climate change on nature and society. Industry, the public administration and society at large need a fundamental understanding of these impacts in order to adapt to the changes, prevent negative consequences and exploit new opportunities that may arise. More knowledge about political instruments and incentives is also needed to help society adapt more quickly. The Research Council has proposed an increase of NOK 150 million for an initiative on climate change and climate policy in 2012.

The Research Council has two open competitive arenas – one for grants to the highest quality basic research and the other for grants to companies wishing to invest more in research and innovation. Under both of these, funding is allocated to the best researchers and companies regardless of the thematic area/ branch of industry or type of institution/ company and irrespective of whether there are other, more targeted initiatives and programmes related to the relevant subject area/ thematic area/ branch of industry. These arenas are designed to enhance quality, diversity, innovation and recruitment throughout the entire range of Norwegian research to better equip the business sector and society at large to face the challenges of tomorrow. The Research Council has proposed an increase of NOK 100 million for the Programme on User-Driven Research-Based Innovation (BIA) and NOK 140 million to the open arena for research grants to independent projects in 2012.

Modern scientific equipment and databases are essential to addressing complex research and social challenges and attracting the best researchers. Research infrastructure is a key instrument for structuring research and increasing cooperation, ensuring targeted distribution of tasks and enhancing efficiency in Norwegian research. The Norwegian Roadmap for Research Infrastructure indicates that further investments are needed in the areas of health, climate,

environment and energy. Norway's participation in European equipment constellations also requires additional resources. A new funding initiative for research infrastructure was established in 2009, and the increase in investments has generated new opportunities for Norwegian research. The Research Council has proposed an increase of NOK 140 million for research infrastructure in 2012.

Quelle

→ http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/Four_main_priority_areas_and_a_budget_increase_of_NOK_12_billion/1253963135659?WT.mc_id=nyhetsbrev-ForskningsradetEngelsk

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

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Integrating EU Cooperation into all Research Council Activities

The national budget for 2011 signals a need for the Research Council to strengthen its efforts to include participation in the EU Framework Programmes in its activities across the board.

The Government has urged the Research Council to place greater focus on integrating participation in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development into the Research Council's own programmes and initiatives. At the same time there are indications that the EU is about to launch a campaign to bring more companies into an integrated research and innovation initiative. "We are taking these signals very seriously," says Arvid Hallén, Director General of the Research Council.

"Participation in European research activities is more about providing good networking opportunities, ensuring quality and promoting knowledge-sharing

than about financial gain," says Mr Hallén. "The Research Council is already engaged in a broad-based effort to promote increased participation in EU research activities and to create better synergies between this and our other activities. Each field has its own national contact person (NCP), who acts as a liaison between the EU arena, the research programmes and our users. We see also that we can do more to promote regional-level applications and are now taking steps to increase competency among our regional representatives all over the country. In the future we must also give more thought to how tasks are divided between national initiatives and EU-led research," says Mr Hallén.

Ensuring the participation of trade and industry in European research cooperation has been an important aim. Efforts to achieve this are now being strengthened through a number of new initiatives.

Norway's involvement in European research collaboration has been extremely successful in several fields, with participation particularly high in the fields of environmental and energy research. Overall Norway lies above the European average in terms of the number of projects involving Norwegian participation. However, some have questioned whether the return that Norway receives is sufficient in relation to its investment in the form of membership fees.

"The most important new development is the introduction of the Innovation Union," says Simen Ensby, Director of the EU RTD Department at the Research Council. This initiative was recently launched by the leadership of the European Commission and encompasses a number of measures designed to promote alliances between public and private actors, both to enhance competitiveness and employment, and to solve key social challenges.

"The Innovation Union must be seen as part of the effort towards developing the next framework programme for research. The Commission's Directorate-General for Research has already been reorganised, with greater emphasis placed on innovation, and Máire Geoghegan-Quinn as Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science. The Innovation Union will open up a significant arena for trade and industry and we expect the results and new standards to benefit the participants. It is crucial that Norwegian companies are on the ball, ready to seize the opportunities on offer," says Mr Ensby.

“The new Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI) will also have a strong focus on innovation, with companies playing an active role in the programmes. The Joint Programming Initiative is a positive development, but should also be seen as a sign that a greater proportion of national research funding will be allocated through international competition in the future. This will enhance the quality of research, lead to better utilisation of resources and generate more knowledge in a European perspective, but it also presents a major challenge for national research communities,” Mr Ensby concludes.

Quelle

→ http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/Greater_focus_on_Norwegian_participation_in_EU_research/1253963178687?WT.mc_id=nyhetsbrev-ForskningsradetEngelsk

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

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Österreich

Neue EU-Initiative „Fit for Health“ bietet Unterstützung für KMU und ForscherInnen

Die Initiative „Fit for Health“ unterstützt forschungsintensive Hightech-KMUs und ForscherInnen im Gesundheitsbereich bei der Teilnahme am 7. Forschungsrahmenprogramm. Das europaweit agierende, von der Österreichischen Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG) koordinierte Netzwerk bietet Hilfestellung mit maßgeschneiderten Aktivitäten von der Projektidee bis zur erfolgreichen Verwertung der Forschungsergebnisse.

Quelle

→ http://rp7.ffg.at/RP7.aspx_param_target_is_422969.v.aspx

Weitere Informationen

Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH (FFG)

→ <http://www.ffg.at/>

Fit for Health

→ <http://www.fitforhealth.eu>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Österreich

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/oesterreich>

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Tirol ist bei der Grundlagenforschung das Bundesland Nummer 1

Die Stärkung des Wissenschafts- und Forschungsstandortes Tirol stand am 9. Dezember 2010 im Mittelpunkt eines Treffens von Wissenschaftsministerin Beatrix Karl, Tirols Landeshauptmann Günther Platter und Wissenschaftslandesrat Bernhard Tilg in Innsbruck.

„Tirol ist bei der Grundlagenforschung das Bundesland Nummer 1“, verwies die Bundesministerin Karl auf die Qualität der Forschung und die Leistungen der Universitäten in Tirol. Knapp 30% aller Investitionen in Forschung und Entwicklung fließen in Tirol in die Grundlagenforschung. „Tirol bekennt sich ganz klar zu Forschung und Innovation. Hier gibt es auch keinen Sparkurs. Mit jährlich knapp 400 Mio. Euro wird am Standort Tirol in die Hochschulen und damit in die Köpfe insbesondere der jungen Tirolerinnen und Tiroler investiert“, erläuterte Landeshauptmann Platter.

Sehr zufrieden zeigte sich die Ministerin über die Entwicklung der Krebsforschung am Standort Innsbruck. „Durch die Unterstützung seitens des Wissen-

schaftsministeriums und dem Wissenschaftsfonds FWF konnte sich Tirol zu einem erfolgreichen Hotspot in der Krebsforschung entwickeln.“

Quelle

→ http://bmwf.gv.at/startseite/mini_menue/presse_und_news/news_details/cHash/d895b6e26f8e9d44b04725ae3d9ce80c/article/beatrice-karl-tirol-ist-bei-der-grundlagenforschung-das-bundesland-nummer-1-foto/

Weitere Informationen

Österreichisches Wissenschafts- und Forschungsministerium

→ <http://bmwf.gv.at/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Österreich

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/oesterreich>

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Im Rahmen der ersten Ausschreibung 2009 konnten sieben Projekte genehmigt werden, auch in der zweiten Ausschreibung wurden nun sieben Projekte bewilligt.

Quelle

→ http://bmwf.gv.at/startseite/mini_menue/presse_und_news/news_details/cHash/88a2649b2ce25319aec7c165ddaae535/article/beatrice-karl-weitere-starke-impulse-fuer-die-kuenstlerische-forschung/

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Weitere starke Impulse für die künstlerische Forschung

Das Programm zur Entwicklung und Erschließung der Künste (PEEK) hat der künstlerischen Forschung in Österreich neuen Aufschwung gegeben. Bei der Kuratoriumssitzung des Wissenschaftsfonds FWF wurden sieben Projekte bewilligt. „Mit diesen Projekten werden weitere starke Impulse für die künstlerische Forschung gesetzt“, so Wissenschafts- und Forschungsministerin Dr. Beatrix Karl. Das Wissenschaftsministerium stellt für diese Projekte, die im Rahmen der zweiten Ausschreibung ermöglicht werden, insgesamt rund 1,7 Mio. Euro zur Verfügung.

Künstlerische ForscherInnen bekommen mit PEEK die Möglichkeit, innovative Projektideen im Rahmen einer FWF-Förderung umzusetzen. Ziel des Programms ist die Förderung hochqualitativer Forschung, bei der die künstlerische Praxis eine wesentliche Rolle spielt. „Mit PEEK wurde in der heimischen Landschaft ein mutiger und erfolgreicher Schritt gesetzt. Das Programm ist europaweit einzigartig und hat auch in anderen Ländern für Denkanstöße zu ähnlichen Initiativen geführt“, so Beatrix Karl zu ähnlichen Bestrebungen in Schweden, der Schweiz und Deutschland.

Two Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellows in Central European Studies

The Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellowships in Central European Studies enable each year two outstanding scholars to conduct research on important issues related to Central Europe at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C. Each year the Center and the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation identify several themes of particular interest. For 2011-12, the Center is particularly interested in receiving applications that deal with any of the following:

- The evolving nature of political parties in Central Europe
- The roles and relationships of big and small member states in the European Union
- The role of foreign direct investment in Central Europe
- Serbia's European future

Quelle

→ <http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/news/show?id=105>

Weitere Informationen

Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation

→ <http://www.marshallplan.at/about/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Österreich

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/oesterreich>

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Weitere Informationen

Seoul S&T Forum

→ <http://www.sstforum.org/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Südkorea

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/index.php?country=119&topic=0>

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Republik Korea (Südkorea)

2010 Seoul S&T Forum Held

The 2010 Seoul S&T Forum was held for two days on 18-19 November 2010 at The Shilla Seoul Hotel. It was hosted by KRCF, organized by KIST and STEPI, and sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), Presidential Committee on Green Growth (PCGG) and The Korea Economic Daily.

More than 300 heads and officials of 71 public research institutes from 35 countries attended forum. Under the theme "International Cooperation of Public Research Institutes for Green Growth," the role of public research institutes and international cooperation concerning the topic of green growth were discussed. On the first day, presentations and discussions on how to position PRIs in global green growth and PRIs role as S&T entrepreneurs were administered. The second day focused on ways for global sharing of existing green technologies, developing new technologies together, and establishing a global green network of PRIs.

Quelle

→ http://www.swissinnovation.org/enews/201012/ST_NewsK_November_2010.pdf

Schweden

20 Top Researchers from Sweden Receive Money from ERC

The European Research Council (ERC) is awarding 427 top researchers in its third prestigious ERC Starting Grant competition with an estimated total budget of €580 million. 20 of the top awardees will perform their research in Swedish institutions.

The ERC Starting Grant aims to enabling the very best researchers to establish themselves as research leaders in Europe. In total 2,873 proposals were submitted to this call (StG 2010). The success rate in this call is approximately 15%, compared to 3% in the first call (2007) and 10% in the second call (2009). The average age of the StG 2010 grantees is 36 years, and 26,5% are women.

Quelle

→ <http://www.vr.se/inenglish/fromus/news/newsarchive/news2010/news2010/20topresearchersfromswedenreceivemoneyfromerc.5.4da1d17512b4b7a738380008006.html>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Schweden

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/schweden>



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Swedish Research Council: Grants Allocated in 2010 Main Call

This year's main call is now completed. All decisions were made in October and November. This year a total of SEK 2.7 billion was allocated. SEK 1.1 billion of this went to natural and engineering sciences, SEK 843 million to medicine, SEK 175 million to educational science, SEK 379 million to humanities and social sciences, SEK 18.9 million to artistic research and development and SEK 221 million to Research infrastructure.

A total of 4,388 applications were received, 840 of which were granted. This is a grant rate of about 19%. The grant rate for women was 15.9% and 20.9% for men. As regards project applications, 1,190 applications were received from women and 2,286 from men, which makes a total of 3,476 applications. The grant rate for women was 17.4% and for men 22.9%. The aggregate grant rate for project grants was 21%.

Funding was granted for a total of 51 junior research positions. The grant rate for men was 9.6% and 8.2% for women. Lund University tops the list of institutions receiving the most research funding, followed by the Karolinska Institute and Uppsala University. The greatest amount of funding went to natural and engineering sciences, followed by medicine and health. The highest grant rate was found in artistic research, at 37.5%, although the application pressure was somewhat weaker than last year. In medicine and health and in natural and engineering sciences, the corresponding figures were around 25%. The lowest grant rate was in educational science, where about one application in ten was granted.

In humanities and social sciences young women researchers were successful applicants. "Young researchers, particularly women, asserted themselves well in

the competition, which is something that was repeated from previous years. This is gratifying," says Arne Jarrick, Secretary General of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The greatest differential in the grant rate between men and women regarding project grants was found in artistic research and development.

Quelle

→ <http://www.vr.se/inenglish/researchfunding/fundinggranted/generalcallforapplications.4.ead945b11f699b5085800028099.html>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Schweden

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/schweden>

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Südafrika

Whatever Happened to the Pan-African University?

Plans for a university that will stretch across Africa and be a "flagship institution of higher education" will go ahead, despite political problems with two of its five planned centres, African Union commissioner and steward of the project, Jean-Pierre Ezin has insisted. One of the main difficulties has been reaching agreement over which countries, and which institutes within those countries, will host its five nodes, as the regional hubs are to be called. The five nodes were originally supposed to be operating from September this year, but the disputes have caused the deadline to slip.

The University of Lagos in Nigeria has been chosen as the West Africa node, specialising in earth and life sciences. Kenya will host the East Africa node, covering basic sciences, technology and innovation, at a university yet to be announced.

A Central Africa hub in Cameroon will specialise in social and human sciences and governance, and may be based at the University of Yaounde II, where a Pan-African Institute of University Governance already exists.

The Pan-African University (PAU), which was proposed by the African Union (AU) in 2008, is expected to offer advanced graduate training and postgraduate research opportunities for “the cream of the crop” of African students, according to a draft concept note produced at the time.

But the site of the Southern Africa node remains disputed, and a political tussle has broken out over the North Africa node, which was originally awarded to Algeria, but now Libya – the African Union’s largest donor – is staking a claim.

A particular difficulty is the Southern Africa node, which was originally slated for South Africa. The AU unofficially designated Stellenbosch University as the hub, focusing on space science. But some members of the 15-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) have since contested this. Sources said that some SADC countries are lukewarm about space science, which they see as less relevant to their region’s needs than other sciences. In particular, they are interested in hosting the still-disputed water and energy node, and Botswana and Zimbabwe have offered to host a Southern Africa node specialising in water, diplomats say.

But Southern Africa is not the only problem area. The North Africa hub has also started to create problems. “We were supposed to start with the institute in Algeria this year. Then Libya entered the game and things are not going well,” Ezin, the AU Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, admits.

Another problem to be tackled is finance. According to the AU formula, the nodes will be one-third funded by the host country, one-third by the AU – mainly in the form of fellowships – and one-third by the so-called lead partner. The lead partner for funding the Kenya node has already emerged as Japan, and Germany has indicated a willingness to support the North Africa node. Cameroon may be funded by Sweden, Ezin says, and, in a major development for South-South cooperation, India has emerged as a likely lead partner for the Nigeria-based node. But no lead partner has emerged with funding commitments for the Southern Africa node.

Quelle

→ <http://www.scidev.net/en/features/whatever-happened-to-the-pan-african-university-.html>

Weitere Informationen

African Union

→ <http://www.africa-union.org>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen Kooperation international

Fokus Südafrika

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/suedafrika>

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Türkei

A Loan of €450 Million for Turkish and Research Capacity

Turkish Government and European Investment Bank (EIB) have signed an agreement in order to boost scientific and technological research and development activities in Turkey. With the agreement which will be implemented in 2010 and 2011, TÜBİTAK Headquarters and TÜBİTAK Research Institutes will receive €300 million and €150 million respectively. The EIB funds will co-finance the national Turkish contribution to science and technology programmes implemented by TÜBİTAK and finally the agreement provides €1 billion to actors of Turkish Research Area.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the European Union's financing institution. Its shareholders are the 27 Member States of the Union, which have jointly subscribed its capital. The EIB's Board of Governors is composed of the Finance Ministers of these States. The EIB's role is to provide long-term finance in support of investment projects.

Quelle

→ <http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sid/0/pid/0/cid/20967/index.htm>



Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Türkei

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/tuerkei>

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First Series of “Destination Turkey” Was Held in Boston

“Destination Turkey: European and National Funding Opportunities for Brain Circulation, R&D Cooperation and Research Career” as the first series of workshops was held on 30 November 2010 by TÜBITAK within the cooperation of European Commission, National Science Foundation and TURBO at Northeastern University in Boston, USA. The workshop aims at creating awareness on Career Integration Grants (International Reintegration Grants) as well as International Incoming Fellowships of the FP7 Marie Curie Actions and TÜBITAK programmes by gathering researchers from all nationalities carrying out any kind of research in the USA. During the event TÜBITAK has made a call that Turkish researchers, who have been leading their research in USA, are able to return Turkey thanks to FP7 funds.

Almost 200 Turkish researchers, who are conducting the research and education activities in the major universities of the world like Harvard and MIT, have attended the first series of workshops of which TÜBITAK has been arranging the preparations for months. This workshop is addressing further opportunities provided by European Commission funds allocated to R&D activities. By benefiting from EU FP7 Marie Curie Programme Actions, researchers in the US can return to Turkey and contribute to their country.

While many representatives from significant Turkish universities have underlined the current developing research and development capacities of Turkey, some of the largest Turkish industrial organizations and enterprises have informed the researchers on new R&D opportunities available in their corporations. Furthermore, the researchers who have attended the workshop stated that they have had good impressions about the current level of Turkey’s research potential and the amount of R&D funds allocated to researchers in Turkey.

In this workshop, the researchers who had returned to Turkey via benefiting from these programmes, have also shared their experiences with the participants. They pointed out that the developments on Turkey’s R&D activities have been on the rise in recent years. While they notably have identified that thanks to this organization they are encouraged to carry on their research activities in Turkey, they also set forth TÜBITAK has a significant role on that.

Quelle

→ <http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sid/0/pid/0/cid/21375/index.htm?jsessionid=ACF3A3F0294864FD290BBAF005BA3F29>

Weitere Informationen

Destination Turkey Initiative

→ <http://www.fp7.org.tr/destinationturkey>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Türkei

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/tuerkei>

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