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Competition and Collaboration in the Global Transformation of Higher Education

The 21st century is witnessing a global reorganization of higher education, in which campus boundaries are giving way to global systems – sometimes guided by a competitive race for market share, sometimes by collaborative efforts at mutual development, and sometimes by the ever-expanding reach of wikis, tweets, and distance learning. The 2011 AIEA Annual Conference (20-23 February 2011, San Francisco) provided a forum to reflect on the relationship between internationalization and these broader changes. The conference theme asks us to think about the global impact of our work and invites us to consider the power of partnerships and the promise of information technology for moving forward together. Panels that create a conversation among speakers from more than one nation are especially invited. Under this general umbrella, the following special subthemes were especially encouraged:

- The emerging reorganization of higher education: what major changes are occurring in higher education on a global scale, why are they happening, where are they headed, how are they manifested in different parts of the world, and how do such trends affect the meaning and goals of internationalization?
- Global citizenship on an institutional level: What might global citizenship look like for academic institutions? How do institutional actions reverberate beyond their own boundaries? What are their responsibilities in this regard? What role should international education leaders play in shaping these discussions?
- Strategies of international partnership and exchange: What new forms are emerging and what have been their effectiveness and significance? What are the challenges in developing and sustaining such collaborations? How has the increasing importance of international partnership changed the work of international offices?

- Consortia and networks: What are the various forms of multi-institutional alliance and how much impact have they had? What can all of us learn from the Bologna process? What makes such consortia work? What makes them fail?
- Information technology and international collaboration: What does the world of open access and wiki-knowledge mean for higher education? What are the promises and the pitfalls of distance learning? What about global imbalances in access to IT? How can IT advance collaboration?
- Joint degrees and off-shore operations: What are the various forms, as well as the pros, cons, and impact of each? When are such programs collaborative; when are they not? What principles should guide them? How might they navigate national differences in regulations, requirements, and expectations?
- Rankings: What are the pros and cons of existing international systems for ranking institutions of higher education? Is there room for multi-dimensional rankings and/or rankings that recognize differences in institutional missions? How do these affect the goals of internationalization?

Quelle

→ <http://www.aieaworld.org/events/conf2011.htm>

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2011 AIEA Annual Conference Presentations

→ <http://www.aieaworld.org/events/2011-conf-presentations.htm>

Weitere Informationen

Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)

→ <http://www.aieaworld.org>

2011 AIEA Annual Conference

→ <http://www.aieaworld.org/events/conf2011.htm>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Global

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

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Virologists Form Global Virus Response Network

Gwyneth Dickey Zakaib reports on *The Great Beyond* that leading medical virologists from around the world signed up to join a new Global Virus Response Network (GVRN) – a first-of-its-kind international scientific alliance that aims to be a leading global authority on viral disease. Two days of organizational meetings at the Italian Embassy in Washington, DC, culminated in a signing ceremony on 3 March during which the roughly 38 scientists in attendance signed a Declaration of Participation and Support.

According to Zakaib, scientists discussed strategies for tackling known and endemic diseases such as measles, influenza and polio as well as the need for a fast, coordinated approach to new viral threats.

Acting as global first-responders to dangerous viruses, the GVRN will operate as an international clearinghouse to educate, inform and disseminate critical information to governments, health organizations, healthcare practitioners and the public-at-large. Of equal importance, the GVRN will work to overcome the critical shortage of trained medical virologists world-wide.

The GVRN is comprised of a cohesive world-wide network of preeminent medical virologists from the following countries:

- Argentine Republic
- Canada
- Commonwealth of Australia
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Italian Republic
- Kingdom of Spain
- Kingdom of Sweden
- People's Republic of China
- Republic of India

- Republic of Ireland
- Russian Federation in association with Georgia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Estonia, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine
- Scotland
- State of Israel
- Republic of South Africa
- United States of America

Quellen

→ http://blogs.nature.com/news/thegreatbeyond/2011/03/virologists_form_global_virus.html

→ <http://www.ihv.org/news/GVRN.doc>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Global

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

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New OECD-Book: Skills for Innovation and Research

Innovation holds the key to ongoing improvements in living standards, as well as to solving pressing social challenges. Skilled people play a crucial role in innovation through the new knowledge they generate, how they adopt and develop existing ideas, and through their ability to learn new competencies and adapt to a changing environment.

This book seeks to increase understanding of the links between skills and innovation. It explores the wide range of skills required, ranging from technical to "soft", and the ability to learn; it presents data and evidence on countries' stocks and flows of skills and the links between skill inputs and innovation outputs. Given the importance of meeting the demands of knowledge-based economic activi-

ty, the book investigates the issues of skill supply, education, workplace training and work organisation. It highlights the importance of enabling individuals to acquire appropriate skills and of optimising these at work.

Quelle

→ http://www.oecd.org/document/30/0,3746,en_2649_33703_47151838_1_1_1_1,00.html

Download

Executive Summary: Skills for Innovation and Research

→ <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/40/22/47164461.pdf>

Weitere Informationen

Skills for Innovation and Research - Übersichtsseite

→ http://www.oecd.org/document/30/0,3746,en_2649_33703_47151838_1_1_1_1,00.html

OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry

→ http://www.oecd.org/department/0,3355,en_2649_33703_1_1_1_1,00.html

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Fokus OECD

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

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The first step is to "identify existing research capacity in Iraq", Samir Raauf, a senior official at the Ministry of Science and Technology, told SciDev.Net. This will be done by bringing together existing research papers and reports, including research not yet completed that has been carried out by special committees.

Raauf said the aim of the initiative, which was launched last month, was to assess the existing research capacity in Iraq and use the information to meet the country's urgent needs, outlined in the Ministry of Planning's five-year plan.

With about USD 212,000 from the Japanese government, the initiative will establish a network of national and international government experts, scientists, academics and businesses to articulate policy priorities over a 12-month period. Scientists will be linked to Iraqi government bodies and organisations that can benefit from their work.

Research priorities differ in each Iraqi regions. The task of identifying them will be part of a national dialogue on the role of science and technology in spurring economic growth and improving the quality of life in Iraq.

Government priorities for research over the next four years in five main categories – human capacity building, information technology, agriculture, environment and water resources, and renewable energy – will be based on this work.

Quelle

→ <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/unesco-to-help-iraq-develop-science-policy.html>

Weitere Informationen

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

→ <http://www.unesco.org>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus UNESCO

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

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UNESCO to Help Iraq Develop Science Policy

A UN initiative backed by Japan has been launched to help rebuild Iraq's research infrastructure and begin the transition towards a knowledge-based economy. The initiative, announced in Erbil in December 2010 at a meeting between UNESCO (the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and senior officials from Iraq's ministries for scientific research and higher education, will draw up a comprehensive national policy for science, technology and innovation.

Council Authorises Enhanced Cooperation on Creation of Unitary Patent Protection

The Council authorised the launch of an enhanced cooperation among EU member states for the creation of a unitary patent title (5538/11 and 6524/11 and 6524/11 ADD1).

The use of an enhanced cooperation has been requested by 25 out of 27 EU member states with the aim of establishing a single patent that will be valid across the territory of the participating member states. The European Parliament gave its consent for using this procedure on 15 February.

All EU member states except Italy and Spain are supportive to use enhanced cooperation. The main obstacle to agreeing by unanimity on the creation of an EU patent is the number of languages in which the future unitary patent will be valid, hence the recourse to the enhanced cooperation.

The language regime for the future unitary patent system would be based on the language regime of the European Patent Office (EPO), where the official languages are English, French and German.

The already existing European patent requires validation of the granted patent separately in each and every EPO member state, as well as a full translation of the patent in the official language(s) of that member state. The future unitary patent would be automatically valid throughout the territory of the EU member states participating in the enhanced cooperation in the (EPO) language in which it has been granted.

The enhanced cooperation would remain open for non-participating countries, and access to the unitary patent on the territory of participating Member States would also be available to businesses from non-participating Member States.

Quelle

→ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/119732.pdf

Download

Legislative acts and other instruments (5538/11)

→ <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st05/st05538.en11.pdf>

Note (6524/11)

→ <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st06/st06524.en11.pdf>

Addendum to the note (6524/11 ADD1)

→ <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st06/st06524-ad01.en11.pdf>

Background: Towards a unitary patent protection in Europe

→ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/119665.pdf

Weitere Informationen

European Patent Office (EPO)

→ http://www.epo.org/index_de.html

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Fokus EU

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

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CAFF Signs Memorandum of Understanding with APECS

The Arctic Council recognizes in the Tromsø declaration that education, outreach, scientific research and capacity building are major tools via which to address challenges in the Arctic. And on 3 February, during the XIII CAFF Biennial meeting in Akureyri Iceland, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to strengthen cooperation between the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group of the Arctic Council and the Association of Early Polar Career Scientists (APECS). The memorandum was signed by Aevar Petersen CAFF Chair and Sigmar Arnarsson on behalf of APECS Chair Allen Pope.

The objectives and activities of both APECS and CAFF complement one another in that CAFF as a Working Group of the Arctic Council provides a vehicle for knowledge and action in the Arctic region while APECS seeks opportunities for early career researchers to learn from and become engaged in international science and policy projects and programmes. Both parties will benefit from the

participation of APECS members in CAFF policy and expert meetings on Arctic biodiversity. APECS members will gain valuable experience while also contributing scientific, innovative, and fresh perspectives to CAFF initiatives.

The aim is to create a means via which early career scientists can have the opportunity to participate in and gain experience in the circumpolar initiatives undertaken by CAFF as it works towards a more comprehensive understanding of Arctic biodiversity and its status and trends. Within CAFF activities, emphasis is placed upon regional cooperation that is based upon cooperation between all the Arctic countries and indigenous organizations as well as with international conventions and organizations. CAFF will at the same time benefit from the input of new ideas and participation by young scientists and help to attract and stimulate interest in Arctic biodiversity and help stimulate outreach/communication with the education sector.

APECS will help to inform its members and partner organizations about the activities of CAFF and its associated partners to help broaden the understanding, representation, and input into CAFF activities through participation of APECS members in CAFF projects including policy and expert meetings. CAFF welcomes this new partnership and foresees a fruitful cooperation with APECS as a representative of the next generation of polar scientists.

Quelle

→ <http://arcticportal.org/news>

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

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New Action Plan to Promote Cultural Cooperation in the High North

Cultural cooperation promotes cross border understanding, but also spurs innovation and growth in the entire region. That was the conclusion of participants at the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum in Tromsø on 22 February.

A new action plan for cultural cooperation between the countries in the high north is underway.

“Culture and creative industries are crucial to our economy. And the cooperation established in the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture can enhance developments in this area throughout the region”, said Icelandic MP Olina Thorvardardottir, President of the West Nordic Council, at the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum in Tromsø on February 22nd.

The Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture is one of four areas of cooperation within the Northern Dimension, The others are environmental issues, transport and logistics, plus health and social well-being.

The action plan will guide the efforts of the cultural partnership over the next two years, where the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture will be hosted by a new Secretariat under the Nordic Council of Ministers.

“With this new plan in hand, we can begin the practical political work of promoting cultural cooperation in the high north”, said Danish MP, Bente Dahl, Vice-President of the Culture and Education Committee of the Nordic Council.

She added also that it is important to promote culture and cultural activities in their own right, as means to connect people across borders, and not just look at the business aspects of cultural affairs.

The Northern Dimension partnership was established in 2006 between the governments of Norway, Iceland, Russia and the EU Commission. Belarus, Canada and the United States participate as observers.

The first Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum was held in the European Parliament in 2009. It includes in addition among others the Nordic Council, the

West Nordic Council, the Baltic Assembly and the Barents Parliamentary Conference. The aim of the forum is to support and further the partnership process in the four areas involved.

Quelle

→ <http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/new-action-plan-to-promote-cultural-cooperation-in-the-high-north>

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

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Strategic Use of Public-Private Cooperation in the Nordic Region

The Nordic welfare states are facing significant demographic challenges now and in the future. At the same time life expectancy of the citizens is increasing. Thus more senior citizens need to be cared for by still fewer young people of taxable age. This development undermines the financial sustainability of the Nordic welfare state and presents a major medium to long-term challenge for the Nordic countries, if the high welfare service levels are to be sustained in the decades to come.

One of the solutions to this challenge could be the implementation of new welfare technologies and innovative solutions which can increase efficiency of service providers and deliver more value for money.

The aim of the project is to increase knowledge about public-private partnerships in the five Nordic countries; Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland, with a focus on the welfare sectors in these countries. Focus is on the following sectors: children and youth; elderly and handicapped; disease prevention, education; treatment and rehabilitation.

The overall objective is to increase understanding of approaches, effects and perspectives in the use of public-private partnerships, in particular public-private innovation partnerships. This includes the use of public-private partnerships as a strategic tool for new business development for welfare solutions in the Nordic region.

Quelle

→ <http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publications/2011-510>

Download

Strategic use of public-privat cooperation in the Nordic region

→ http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publications/2011-510/at_download/publicationfile

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Nordic Energy – More Different Than Similar

As European Union leaders agreed this month to complete the bloc's internal energy market in 2014 in order to cut dependency on foreign oil and gas, the Nordic countries are facing important political decisions on how to plan for the future of their national energy supplies. Climate change, geopolitical issues, the global economic crisis and rising oil prices all have an impact on the Nordic politicians' proceedings at the national, Nordic and European level. Analys Norden takes a look at the energy issues in the Nordic region.

The Nordic countries successfully opened their electricity markets to each other in the mid-1990s. The Nordic move became a model for regional co-operation in the European Union. Despite this harmonisation, the state and the future plans of the energy markets in the Nordic countries are very diverse.

In Denmark, the country's no-nuclear power plant policy, and its diminishing oil and gas reserves, are seen as a golden opportunity to boost its renewable energy sources. Green energy seems to be the only alternative for Danish energy needs and there is wide political agreement on such a move. Copenhagen has for years focused on wind power, biomass energy and on improving energy efficiency to stem the country's growing energy demand. Denmark has also set its sights on "breaking the green code" and to be a global leader in renewable energy. Such a goal is seen to be perfectly feasible and lucrative, but costly to obtain. And that is a problem when the world economic crisis has been a setback also for the Danish economy.

For Iceland – rich in natural resources of energy – the 2008 economic crash has dramatically changed the way Iceland wants to exploit its energy reserves. Experts argue that greed, impatience and short-sightedness dominated decisions on the country's energy planning before 2008. Now, a recent report, commissioned by the country's Department of Industry, argues that a new energy policy for Iceland should prioritise profitability, sustainability and national gain. Energy is seen as the key to Iceland's welfare. The Atlantic island's natural energy reserves include hydro and geothermal power. However, a large amount of the energy produced is sold cheaply to heavy industry – mainly aluminium plants – much to the discontent of the Icelandic population who are still struggling to recover economically after 2008. Even aluminium plants in Africa pay more for the energy they use, than the plants on Iceland. Similar discontent among the Icelandic people recently pushed the Icelandic government to expropriate a power plant from a Canadian company. In the immediate aftermath of the economic crash, the rights to exploit the geothermal reserves on a peninsula in south-western Iceland for the next 65 years were sold at a giveaway price to the Canadian company. One-sixth of the nation – led by the singer/songwriter Björk – called on Reykjavik to take back the rights for the economic benefit of the nation as a whole.

Norway, despite being rich in oil and gas, feeds much of its electricity demands with hydropower. One of the main energy discussions at the moment, however, is still whether or not to give the go-ahead for new oil and gas exploitation at sea in northern Norway. The area is an important spawning ground for cod and

therefore crucial for Norway's large fishing industry. So far, the current three-party government coalition has been unable to find a balance between two of the country's main industries – fishing and petroleum.

Finland and Sweden, on the other hand, are looking at building new nuclear power plants. In Finland, for example, Helsinki recently took two major decisions on shaping the country's energy for the future: Firstly, to increase the country's domestic renewable energy sources; and secondly, to construct new nuclear power plants.

The motivation behind those two political decisions was the increasing global warming and the wish for self-sufficiency in energy and employment. For Finland, energy independence is an all-important factor when Helsinki makes new energy policies. Despite the open Nordic electricity market, Finland aims to keep the production of most of the energy used within the country. If not, the Finnish fear it could become dependent on energy from Finland's eastern neighbour, Russia.

Across the border in Sweden, a thirty-year-old ban on the building of new nuclear reactors was recently reversed – a move that divided the Swedish population. Building new nuclear power plants will increase Swedish production of domestic energy. Fifty per cent of Sweden's energy comes from 10 nuclear power plants which are around 30-40 years old and which, at the moment, only work at 63 per cent of their capacity. Furthermore, Swedish hydropower is also one of the country's big energy sources. But the amount of hydroelectricity depends on the rainfall. Hence, when rainfall is scarce, coupled with a high energy demand, Sweden must buy energy at higher prices – sometimes from abroad – leaving consumers and energy intensive industries with soaring energy bills. But Stockholm is also looking at introducing more renewable energy into the Swedish electricity grid – mainly in the form of wind power. More than 1000 wind power plants will be built in Sweden over the next few years at the price of 70 billion Swedish kronor.

European Union members, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, have agreed to diverse EU energy initiatives which involve increasing the share of renewable energy, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and creating a free market of energy

in the EU. Such policies aim to mitigate climate change and increase Europe's energy security by limiting the bloc's dependence on energy from Europe's neighbours.

Swedish electricity consumers, however, are slightly wary about the fact that Sweden has to adjust to the EU's open electricity market this autumn. By then Sweden will no longer be able to decide when to hold on to its energy or when to sell. Neither will Swedish electricity consumers know if their energy comes from Finnish nuclear power or Dutch coal fired electricity plants.

The Norwegian government sees Europe's liberalised energy market as an opportunity. The country's hydroelectricity is easily adjustable and can adapt to variation in demand – which is good for exporting to the European Union. Moreover, if Norway finally decides to exploit its northern shores, such a move could be of interest to the EU energy market. Buying oil and gas from Norway could result in a decrease of the bloc's energy dependence on countries to the east and south of the union affected by political instability or undemocratic rulers.

Iceland has also mentioned the possibility of entering the competitive European energy market, despite the country's geographical distance from the continent. Iceland's new director for public hydropower plants, Hörður Arnarson, has even mentioned the idea of laying an undersea cable to take some of Iceland's renewable energy to Europe.

Finland, though, may face a challenge with European plans of increasing the share of renewable energy in Europe's energy network. Finland's share of the EU renewable goal is currently 38 % by 2020. However, nuclear energy does not count towards renewable energy in EU statistics and neither do some of Finland's other energy sources, such as peat. Helsinki still has to make large investments in developing different types of renewable energy, such as wind power and bio-energy. So far, new wind power parks have been planned for offshore and near the mountains. But the plans are still only on paper as there are problems with the profitability of the projects.

Nordic energy experts advocate that the Nordic region could save over one billion euros annually by 2020, if the Nordic capitals harmonise the way they

fund their renewable energy production. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have each their different strengths within the production of renewable energy. But there are also differences between each nation's funding systems for green energy, which makes it harder to co-operate across the borders. In an attempt to make renewable energy more economically effective, the Nordic governments are now considering carrying out a thorough analysis of the possibilities to integrate the funding schemes for sustainable energy in the Nordic countries. However, despite regional collaboration on the Nordic electricity market since the 1990s, the political decisions being taken in the Nordic capitals are still very different from each other – both in their motivations and in their goals for their future energy resources.

Quelle

→ <http://www.norden.org/da/analys-norden/tema/energisamarbejde-i-norden-noed-eller-lyst/nordic-energy-2013-more-different-than-similar>

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Nordic Countries: New Strategy for Green Growth and Welfare

“Knowledge for Green Growth and Welfare” is the Nordic Council of Ministers for Education and Research's strategy for 2011–2013. The strategy, published on 3 March 2011, provides an overview of the priorities and targets for Nordic co-operation on research and education.

The strategy will form the framework for the work of the Council of Ministers for Education and Research in the period 2011–2013 and make an overall contribution to:

- The development of effective, cross-border Nordic partnerships on education, training, research and innovation so that the Region remains at the forefront of skills enhancement and high-quality research.
- The further development of the comparative advantage of a highly educated workforce.
- Providing an effective and flexible joint Nordic labour market that guarantees access to skilled labour.
- The promotion of Nordic competitiveness, including the long-term promotion of green growth.
- The promotion of Nordic participation and influence in global arenas.
- The further development of the shared values that underpin the Nordic languages, cultural identity and social models.

Nordic co-operation is one of the world's most extensive forms of regional collaboration, involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and three autonomous areas: the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland.

Quelle

→ <http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publications/2010-795>

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Fokus EU/Europa

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

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Frankreich

Vergleich der Exzellenzinitiativen in Deutschland und Frankreich

Das Wissenschaftsreferat der Deutschen Botschaft Paris hat einen Fachbericht über die Exzellenzinitiativen in Deutschland und Frankreich veröffentlicht. Der Bericht erläutert die nationalen Initiativen zur Förderung von Hochschulen und Forschung und vergleicht diese miteinander.

Deutschland und Frankreich haben Mitte des letzten Jahrzehnts mit Exzellenzinitiativen auf das schlechte Abschneiden der nationalen Universitäten in diversen Hochschulrankings reagiert. Die beiden Kernländer der EU haben dabei allerdings unterschiedliche Wege eingeschlagen. Während sich die deutsche Initiative auf drei thematisch unabhängige Förderlinien beschränkt (Graduiertenschule, Exzellenzcluster, Zukunftskonzepte), vereint die französische Förderlinie eine Vielzahl thematischer und institutioneller Elemente. Beide Konzepte werden in dem Fachbericht des Wissenschaftsreferats der Deutschen Botschaft Paris vorgestellt und - soweit möglich - miteinander verglichen.

Deutschland verabschiedete 2005 die "Exzellenzinitiative des Bundes und der Länder zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Forschung an deutschen Hochschulen". Ziel der Initiative ist die nachhaltige Stärkung des Wissenschaftsstandorts Deutschland, die Verbesserung seiner internationalen Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und die Herausbildung von (internationalen) Spitzen im Universitäts- und Wissenschaftsbereich. Außerdem soll die Zusammenarbeit von Hochschulen und außeruniversitären Forschungseinrichtungen intensiviert werden. In den ersten beiden Förderrunden wurden 39 Graduiertenschulen, 37 Exzellenzcluster und neun Zukunftskonzepte mit Zuschüssen in Höhe von fast zwei Milliarden Euro gefördert.

Die französische Bildungs- und Forschungslandschaft ist größeren Umwälzungen unterworfen. Eine nationale Forschungsagentur (ANR) wurde gegründet und die Evaluation des Hochschulwesens in einer Institution (AERES) vereint.

Weiterhin schließen sich Hochschuleinrichtungen zu Lehr- und Forschungsclustern (PRES) zusammen.

Das 2007 erlassene Gesetz zur Freiheit und Verantwortung der Universitäten erweitert die Kompetenzen und Verantwortungen der französischen Hochschulen. Dies gilt bspw. erstmals für die Bereiche Budget und Personalrekrutierung. Im Februar 2008 startete außerdem die "Opération Campus", durch die Geld für französische Exzellenzcampus akquiriert wurde. Die fünf Milliarden Euro fließen in zwölf Projekte, die 46 Universitäten, 40 andere Einrichtungen mit Hochschulstatus und alle wichtigen staatlichen Forschungseinrichtungen umfassen.

Quelle

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/frankreich/themes/nc/info/detail/data/54222/>

Download

Vergleich der Exzellenzinitiativen in Deutschland und Frankreich

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/frankreich/themes/nc/info/detail/data/54221/>

Weitere Informationen

Deutsche Botschaft Paris

→ <http://www.paris.diplo.de/Vertretung/paris/de/Startseite.html>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Frankreich

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

Grenoble / Lyon High Tech Cluster

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/frankreich/themes/international/clusterlist/grenoble-lyon-high-tech-cluster/>

Pôle Mer Bretagne

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/frankreich/themes/international/clusterlist/pole-mer-bretagne/>

Region Paris - Île de France

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/frankreich/themes/international/clusterlist/region-paris-ile-de-france/>

Sophia Antipolis

→ <http://www.kooperation-international.de/frankreich/themes/international/clusterlist/sophia-antipolis/>

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Großbritannien

DFID and Gates Foundation Partner to Support Agricultural Research

The Department for International Development (DFID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation today announced a coordinated effort to reduce hunger and poverty in developing countries by supporting agricultural research projects to help small farmers increase their yields and incomes. DFID and the foundation will work together to identify the projects, and the foundation's Agricultural Development initiative will manage them.

The collaboration will focus on dealing with the most serious threats to food production in the developing world – such as crop diseases, pests, poor soil quality, and extreme weather – and tackle these threats from multiple angles to develop long-term, sustainable solutions.

Scientific research that helps farmers produce more and better food using fewer resources is critical for combating hunger. Farmers also need access to new tools, better training, reliable markets, and supportive policies. However, insufficient attention and resources have been given to supporting this key poverty- and hunger-reducing research.

Through this new collaboration, Cornell University is receiving US\$ 40 million (£ 25 million) to continue its work to develop wheat varieties that are resistant to emerging strains of stem rust disease, such as Ug99, which are spreading out of East Africa and threatening the world's wheat supply. Because wheat represents approximately 30 % of the world's production of grain crops and nearly half of that production will be harvested in developing countries, protecting wheat supplies is critical to global food security.

A second grant of US\$ 3 million (£ 1.9 million) was awarded to Diagnostics for All (DFA). DFA will develop inexpensive diagnostic tests that small farmers can use to improve the quantity and quality of milk produced by their cows and the safety of cereal grains. The new tests, which will cost only pennies, will check for bovine pregnancy, milk quality, and a common toxin found in grain. Small farmers across Africa depend on livestock to supplement their food and income. By eliminating the high cost of these tests, and making them more accessible to small farmers, these technologies will make livestock more productive. Farmers will be able to improve their own food security and make more money by allowing cows to produce more milk each year.

DFID is contributing approximately US\$ 32 million (£ 20 million) over the next five years to this partnership, and the foundation is providing US\$ 70 million (£ 44 million). Funding will support efforts that quickly put new technologies into the hands of small farmers, such as new seeds and robust, low-cost diagnostic tools; advance existing efforts by researchers, crop breeders, and development programs to help small farmers manage crop diseases and grow more nutritious crops; and support agricultural research that promotes cutting-edge scientific innovations.

Quelle

→ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Press-releases/2011/UK-Government-and-Gates-Foundation-Partner-to-Support-Agricultural-Research/>

Weitere Informationen

Department for International Development (DFID)

→ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk>

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

→ <http://www.gatesfoundation.org>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Großbritannien

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

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DFID Rates UNESCO 'Unsatisfactory', Threatens to Pull Out

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) has threatened to pull out of the UN's principal science-supporting organisation, UNESCO, following the former's review of more than 40 global development agencies.

DFID rated UNESCO (the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) 'unsatisfactory' and placed it under 'special measures', meaning that it needs urgent improvements without which around £ 15 million (US\$ 24 million) of funding (7 % of its regular budget) will be withdrawn in two years' time.

In the review, published last week (1 March), DFID said UNESCO should be more transparent; produce a more focused, evidence-based programme; and control its costs. DFID also called for management of the organisation to be based more on results.

UNESCO has until the next assessment, in autumn 2012, to improve.

Quelle

→ <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/dfid-rates-unesco-unsatisfactory-threatens-to-pull-out.html>

Download

Multilateral Aid Review: Assessment of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

→ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/mar/unesco.pdf>

Weitere Informationen

Department for International Development (DFID)

→ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk>

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

→ <http://www.unesco.org>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Großbritannien

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

Fokus UNESCO

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



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- the creation of the Vehicle and Equipment Financing Partnership, which will expand financing options and reduce red tape for small and medium-sized finance and leasing companies; and
- the new Red Tape Reduction Commission, which will review federal regulations in areas where reform is most needed to reduce the compliance burden, especially on small businesses, while safeguarding the health and safety of Canadians.

Kanada

Harper Government Announces Renewed Investment in Small Business Internship Program during Year of the Entrepreneur

The Honourable Rob Moore, Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism), announced on 7 March that the Government of Canada has renewed its investment of \$ 3.5 million to create hundreds of internships for post-secondary students across Canada through Canada's Small Business Internship Program (SBIP).

The SBIP creates opportunities for post-secondary students in small business by giving them first-hand experience with successful businesses and encouraging their entrepreneurial spirit. It is a collaborative effort between Canadian small businesses, post-secondary institutions and non-government organizations that offers post-secondary students valuable experience working on e-commerce projects.

The SBIP is just one example of how the Harper Government is acting on its commitment to small and medium-sized businesses. Year two of Canada's Economic Action Plan has introduced numerous measures to assist small businesses in the short term, while positioning them for long-term growth, including:

- the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Innovation Commercialization Program, to support small business innovation;
- keeping taxes low for Canadian entrepreneurs;

Industry Canada has selected 17 organizations from across Canada to act as delivery agencies for the SBIP. They are responsible for selecting businesses to participate in the program. The funding will be divided between the agencies based on the size of the population they serve.

The program provides financial support to qualified SMEs so that they can hire a student intern for a 12-week period. Each intern helps the hiring business to adopt ICTs to increase its productivity and competitiveness. The federal government reimburses a participating SME up to 75 % of its wage and benefit expenses for the internship.

The SBIP is a component of the federal Youth Employment Strategy and helps young Canadians acquire on-the-job experience while earning funds to continue their post-secondary education. The SBIP supports Industry Canada's mandate by helping Canadian SMEs become more competitive in the knowledge-based economy.

The program will receive \$ 17.5 million in funding through 2014 as part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy. About 400 students benefit from 420 hours of full-time employment through the program annually. About 400 SMEs a year will benefit from improved ICT capacity. The internships may vary based on wage rates in different parts of the country.

Quelle

→ <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ic1.nsf/eng/06375.html>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Kanada

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

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FY12: Budget Overview

President Barack Obama's FY12 budget request includes fewer ambitious proposals related to Tech-Based Economic Development (TBED) than his previous budgets, but his new request offers increases for many R&D programs and several new efforts to promote high-tech development at the regional level. The proposed budget eschews most of the savings measures proposed by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform last November (see the 17 November 2010 issue of the Digest), which would have eliminated several agencies and reduced research funding. Instead, the Administration has proposed increases for research, particularly clean energy and renewable fuels research, and focused on reorganizing existing programs to achieve savings through efficiencies.

Since the federal government is currently operating under a continuing resolution and no budget has been enacted for FY11, this year's Federal Budget Special Issue will not compare funding levels to the previous year's enacted budget. Instead, FY10 actual funding will be used as the basis for these comparisons. Where FY10 actual levels are unavailable, we have used FY10 enacted levels. All comparisons should be assumed to be from FY10 actual funding, unless noted otherwise. While we are aware that this will likely lead to some confusion, our decision is based on the use of FY10 actual levels in the White House budget request, available at the Office of Management and Budget website.

Highlights among the items of interest to the TBED community:

- Federal science agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), stay on track to double their budgets.
- All of DOE's Office of Science programs would receive increases, with the exception of Fusion Energy Sciences. Funding for Basic Energy Science would grow by 22.1 % over FY10 actual levels.

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) would receive \$ 32 billion, a 3.4 % increase over FY10 actual levels.
- Funding for the Department of Health and Human Service's (HHS) Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority would nearly double over FY10 actual levels to \$ 665 million. A \$ 100 million public-private venture capital fund for companies developing medical countermeasures is also proposed.
- The Research and Experimentation (R&E) tax credit would be expanded by 20 % and would be made permanent.

Quelle

→ <http://www.ssti.org/Digest/digest.php?page=2011/021611>

Download

Detailed write-up in a special pdf report on the FY12 budget proposal

→ <http://www.ssti.org/Digest/2011/fy12budget.pdf>

Weitere Informationen

The White House: Office of Management and Budget

→ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget>

State Science & Technology Institute

→ <http://www.ssti.org>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus USA

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

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New Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education Committee Launched

On Friday, March 4th, OSTP hosted the first meeting of the National Science and Technology Council's new Committee on Science, Technology, Engineer-

ing, and Mathematics (STEM) Education. Co-Chaired by Associate Director for Science Carl Wieman and National Science Foundation Director Subra Suresh, the Committee – which is comprised of representatives from 11 Federal agencies – discussed how to lay the strategic groundwork for ensuring that the Nation's STEM education investments are producing highly effective teachers and motivated students along with ongoing, measurable improvements in capabilities throughout the educational system.

Nancy-Ann DeParle, White House Deputy Chief of Staff, talked about how important STEM Education is to the President, and how improvements in this arena can have a transformative effect on the Nation. Tony Miller, Department of Education Deputy Secretary, emphasized that getting STEM Ed right means not only getting more students interested and enthusiastic about science and engineering but also boosting retention rates in STEM programs by keeping those interest levels high, year after year.

The group discussed how best to create a detailed inventory of STEM Ed programs and a 5-year Strategic Plan for STEM Ed, as called for by Congress in the America COMPETES Act. Members also discussed how assessments can be used to ensure the quality and cost effectiveness of programs, especially in this time of tough budget choices.

President Obama has noted that winning the future depends on being able to out-innovate, out-build and yes-out-educate our competitors, and that the development of a tech-savvy workforce starts in the classroom. The STEM Ed Committee looks forward to supporting these important Administration goals.

The purpose of the Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education (CoSTEM) is to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of STEM education. The CoSTEM will:

1. Review STEM education activities and programs, and the respective assessments of each, throughout Federal agencies to ensure effectiveness;
2. Coordinate, with the Office of Management and Budget, STEM education activities and programs throughout Federal agencies; and
3. Develop and implement through the participating agencies a 5-year STEM education strategic plan, to be updated every five years.



Quelle

→ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/03/04/new-science-technology-engineering-and-math-education-committee-launched>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus USA

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

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Energy Department Announces New Advance in Biofuel Technology

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today congratulated a team of researchers at the Department's BioEnergy Science Center (BESC) who have achieved yet another advance in the drive toward next generation biofuels: using bacteria to convert plant matter (cellulose) directly into isobutanol, which can be burned in regular car engines with a heat value higher than ethanol and similar to gasoline. This research is part of a broad portfolio of work the Department is doing to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and create new economic opportunities for rural America.

"Unlike ethanol, isobutanol can be blended at any ratio with gasoline and should eliminate the need for dedicated infrastructure in tanks or vehicles," said Liao, chancellor's professor and vice chair of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science and a partner in BESC. "Plus, it may be possible to use isobutanol directly in current engines without modification."

Secretary Chu said that "This is a perfect example of the promising opportunity we have to create a major new industry – one based on bio-material such as wheat and rice straw, corn stover, lumber wastes, and plants specifically

developed for bio-fuel production that require far less fertilizer and other energy inputs. But we must continue with an aggressive research and development effort."

Secretary Chu added that: "America's oil dependence – which leaves hardworking families at the mercy of global oil markets – won't be solved overnight. But the remarkable advance of science and biotechnology in the past decade puts us on the precipice of a revolution in biofuels. In fact, biotechnologies, and the biological sciences that provide the underlying foundation, are some of the most rapidly developing areas in science and technology today – and the United States is leading the way. In the coming years, we can expect dramatic breakthroughs that will allow us to produce the clean energy we need right here at home. We need to act aggressively to seize this opportunity and win the future."

Quelle

→ [http:// www.energy.gov/news/10163.htm](http://www.energy.gov/news/10163.htm)

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus USA

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

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Ägypten

A Science Visionary Heads Egypt's New Interim Cabinet

Mohammed Yahia posted an article at the *Nature* blog *House of Wisdom* about the new situation in Egypt. Yahia reports that people on the Tahrir Square in Cairo were jubilant at the announcement that Essam Sharaf, founder and CEO of Age of Science, an NGO with a clear science promotion agenda, will head the new cabinet. In his post Yahia answers the questions "Who is Sharaf?" and "Is there reason to be excited about the announcement?":

"In 2004 he became minister of transport, but resigned two years later in objection to the corruption in the cabinet and formed his Age of Science NGO, with support from Nobel Laureate chemist Ahmed Zewail and remote sensing expert Farouk El-Baz. In fact, a march by university faculty against Mubarak during the revolution was led by Sharaf himself, chanting with the people against the very regime that he resigned from due to its corruption. No wonder he has large 'street cred' with the people in Tahrir!"

"A scientist with postgraduate degrees from Purdue University and West Lafayette school in the US, Sharaf has always stressed the importance of science for the development of Egypt. In an interview in August 2010, he repeatedly argued 'that scientific research should be an issue of national security in Egypt because without it, we won't find basic necessities of food and water in the near future.' This was the main reason behind setting up the Age of Science NGO when he left the ministry. Sharaf has often made it clear he is against normalisation of ties with Israel, even in science and scientific research, until the Israel-Palestinian conflict is resolved."

Quelle

→ http://blogs.nature.com/houseofwisdom/2011/03/a_science_visionary_heads_egyp.html

Weitere Informationen

Introducing: The Age of Science

→ http://blogs.nature.com/houseofwisdom/2010/07/presenting_the_age_of_science.html

Egyptian cabinet reshuffle sees science focus

→ http://blogs.nature.com/houseofwisdom/2011/03/egyptian_cabinet_reshuffle_see_1.html

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Ägypten

<http://www.kooperation-international.de/aegypten>

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Australien

Long History of International Higher Education

Australia has a long history of international higher education. From humble beginnings, today Australia is one of the world's top study destinations, international education is worth AU\$ 19 billion (US\$ 19.3 billion) annually and it is the country's third largest industry after coal and iron ore, placing it far ahead of others such as tourism.

The nation's elite universities, political stability and vibrant cultural offerings have made its international education industry a force to be reckoned with. But a spate of violent attacks in 2009 against Indian students in Melbourne and Sydney cast a pall on this success story. The attacks, coupled with the global recession, a strong Australian dollar and lack of government regulation, has led to a significant drop in international student enrollment. Dubbed 'the perfect storm' by universities, the crisis led to the first drop in foreign student enrollment since 1994, from 630,633 in 2009 to 619,119 in 2010, according to Australia Education International. The number of Indian students, previously one of the largest demographics, dropped by 85 %.

The response to the crisis was swift and far-reaching. Several initiatives were launched, such as a national student safety campaign, ministerial task-forces on international education and the closure of low quality private colleges. The higher education sector also dismantled its original internationalisation strategy, which was mostly focused on international student recruitment, and took a more multi-faceted approach, emphasising quality and diversity, in part to quell concerns about the attacks on Indian students.

The internationalisation of Australia's education system can be traced back to 1950, when the Colombo Plan, an intergovernmental organisation aimed at strengthening social and economic development in the Asia-Pacific region, was implemented. "Australia's international engagement was built off this aid relationship," said Mark Darby, education counsellor at the Australian embassy, at

the AIEA conference. In the 1960s, Australian universities engaged with emerging institutions in the region to help develop curricula and research labs.

Fast forward to 1986, when the Australian government opened its doors to international students and allowed universities to accept full-fee paying foreigners. A massive recruitment and marketing drive followed, leading to 2,000 % growth in international students from 1986 to 2006. Universities undertook sweeping initiatives, which included dedicated student services, the introduction of two or three semesters to facilitate international student enrollment, and the expansion of academic programmes to cater to a more diverse student body.

Another pressing challenge is the country's difficult and expensive student visa system. An Australian student visa can take up to 12 weeks to be processed and costs \$ 550, compared to a US student visa, which is generally processed within 2 to 10 days and costs only \$ 140, according to a 2010 report by the Australian Technology Network of Universities.

Now Australia is encouraging a global outlook across a range of activities broader than international student recruitment. Universities are engaging in more global university and professional networks, as well as undertaking research that will have a far-reaching global impact, in areas such as climate change and sustainable energy and environments. The aim is also to nurture global citizens, something that international students can play a significant part in.

Despite the drop, students still appear to have a positive view on studying 'down under': 86 % of a sample said they were satisfied with their study experience in Australia, according to a 2010 national survey of international students – though clearly the study conducted by Universities Australia had an interest in portraying a positive view.

There are currently 1.1 million students in Australia, and roughly 600,000 of them are international students, according to Australia Education International's 2010 report. International students make up a substantial 3 % of the country's total 22 million population.

Quelle

→ <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110305121304874>

Weitere Informationen

Australian Education International (AEI)

→ <http://www.aei.gov.au>

Australian Technology Network of Universities

→ <http://www.atn.edu.au>

Student visa program review

→ <http://www.immi.gov.au/students/student-submissions/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Australien

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

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Brasilien

Cuts Its Science Budget

Brazilian scientists are concerned by an unexpected 23 % cut to Brazil's 2011 science budget announced by the president, Dilma Rousseff, last month (9 February). In an attempt to reduce public spending and control inflation, Rousseff vetoed the Ministry of Science and Technology's 2011 budget of US\$ 4.9 billion (BRL 8.1 billion), which had already been approved by Brazil's Congress, cutting it to US\$ 3.84 billion – 18 % below the 2010 level.

Science and technology experienced a boost under former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Last year Lula approved a 2010 science national budget of BRL 7.8 billion (around US\$ 4.1 billion), almost a third higher than the 2009 budget and the first time the country's core science budget was not cut during the approval process. This rise was expected to continue under Dilma Rousseff, who took office on 1 January. However, she was planning general budget cuts. Brazil's science and technology minister, Aloizio Mercadante, said that cuts could be "softened" with loans from the Brazilian Development Bank.

Brazil's scientists campaigned to avoid or reduce budget cuts. In December 2010, an open letter signed by the presidents of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the Brazilian Association for the Progress of Science stated: "Science is a factor in the development of nations, and Brazil is heading that way. In just 20 years, Brazil's participation has risen from 0.62 % to 2.4 % of world scientific output which puts Brazil in 13th place in the world ranking."

"This evolution of Brazilian science arose from a state policy that made continued and increasing investment for several decades – and especially in recent years – in the training of human resources for higher education and research and knowledge production," they added.

Forschungsminister Kim Carr besucht Deutschland

Im Rahmen einer Europareise war der australische Minister für Innovation, Forschung und Wissenschaft, Kim Carr, vom 15. bis 16. März 2011 in Deutschland. Auf dem Programm standen Besuche bei der Fraunhofer Gesellschaft und der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft in München sowie Gespräche mit dem BMBF, dem BMWi und der Helmholtz Gesellschaft in Berlin. Anlässlich des Besuchs von Minister Carr hat das Deutsche Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR) ein Memorandum of Understanding zur Kooperation im Bereich der erneuerbaren Energien mit dem Australian Solar Institute (ASI) unterzeichnet.

Quelle

→ [Internationales Büro des BMBF](#)

Weitere Informationen

Australia and Germany Strengthen Solar Researcher Ties

→ <http://minister.innovation.gov.au/Carr/Pages/AUSTRALIAANDGERMANYSTRENGTHENSOLARRESEARCHTIES.aspx>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Australien

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

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Quelle

→ <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/brazil-s-budget-cut-dismays-scientists.html>

Weitere Informationen

Ministry of Science and Technology

→ <http://www.mct.gov.br/index.php/content/view/323883.html>

Science safe in Brazil elections

→ <http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100929/full/467511b.html>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Brasilien

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

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Chile

Chile Hopes Tax Breaks Will Help Double R&D Spend

Chile is set to increase industry's contribution to research and development (R&D) funding by almost 50 % through a new tax incentives law. The new bill would see private sector contributions rise to 65 % of the country's overall R&D investment – the average for countries of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and up from the current 44 % – by 2018. According to a survey, Chile's investment in R&D is only 0.4 % of gross domestic product (GDP), compared with the 2.3 % of GDP average for OECD countries.

The new bill intends to replace a law enacted in 2008, which gives companies a tax credit of 35 % of their R&D spending. The current law only provides the benefits if the private company partners with an external research centre or university certified by the Chilean Economic Development Corporation (CORFO), a government agency. This was part of the former government's effort to boost the relationship between the private and academic sectors. Also, maximum tax benefits were capped at US\$ 390,000 per year. Between 2008 and 2010, 33 private

projects have benefited, with a total state investment through tax benefits of US\$ 5.4 million.

But with the new bill "the government estimates a state investment through these tax incentives will rise to US\$ 23.8 million by 2014 and US\$ 85.2 million by 2018", Tomás Flores, deputy minister of the economy, said. The new bill reduces the tax credit to 30 %, but triples its maximum yearly allowance to US\$ 1.2 million. The benefits of the bill also apply to investment in new infrastructure, equipment and protection of intellectual property – items not covered by the current law.

Quelle

→ <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/chile-hopes-tax-breaks-will-help-double-r-d-spend.html>

Weitere Informationen

Ministry for the Economy, Development and Tourism

→ <http://www.economia.cl>

Chilean Economic Development Corporation

→ <http://www.corfo.cl>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Chile

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

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China

New President for Chinese Academy of Sciences

The Chinese State Council appointed Prof. BAI Chunli the next president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Prof. BAI Chunli, a well-known chemist and leading scientist in nano-science, succeeded Prof. LU Yongxiang as the new leader of China's major think-tank and research institution.

Prof. BAI Chunli has been Executive Vice-President of CAS since 2004. He has also served as Vice-President of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), President of the Graduate University of CAS (GUCAS), Director of the Academic Division of Chemistry and Member of the Executive Committee of the Presidium of the Academic Divisions of CAS.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is a leading academic institution and comprehensive research and development center in natural science, technological science and high-tech innovation in China. It was founded in Beijing on 1 November 1949 on the basis of the former Academia Sinica (Central Academy of Sciences) and Peiping Academy of Sciences.

Prof. BAI graduated from the Department of Chemistry, Peking University in 1978 and received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the CAS Institute of Chemistry in 1981 and 1985 respectively. From 1985 to 1987, he worked with the California Institute of Technology, U.S.A., in the field of physical chemistry as a post-doctorate associate and visiting scholar. After he returned to China in 1987, he continued his research at the CAS Institute of Chemistry. From 1991 to 1992, he worked as a visiting professor at Tohoku University in Japan.

His research areas include the structure and properties of polymer catalysts, X-ray crystallography of organic compounds, molecular mechanics and EXAFS research on electro-conducting polymers. In the mid-1980s, he shifted his research to the fields of scanning tunneling microscopy and molecular nanotechnology.

Prof. BAI has a long list of scientific publications and has won more than twenty prestigious awards and prizes for his academic achievements. Because of his academic achievements, he was elected a Member of CAS and Fellow of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) in 1997. He is also a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and Foreign Member of Russian Academy of Sciences, Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and Honorary Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, and honorary doctor or professor of several foreign universities. Prof. BAI also serves as the Chief Scientist for the National Steering Committee for Nanoscience and

Technology and was the Founding Director of the China National Center for Nanoscience and Technology.

Prof. BAI is also the Vice President of TWAS, Member of the Executive Committee of IUPAC (2008-2009), and Member of the International Editorial Advisory Board of JACS, Angewandte Chemie, Advanced Materials and Chemical Physics Letters.

Quelle

→ http://english.cas.cn/Ne/CASE/201103/t20110308_66117.shtml

Weitere Informationen

Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)

→ <http://english.cas.cn>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus China

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

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Dänemark

Science Minister Visited Brazil

Science Minister Charlotte Sahl-Madsen visited Brazil to strengthen the ties between Danish and Brazilian research and education. A number of concrete agreements were signed, including an exchange agreement and a new research attaché post was created. The Brazilian economy has grown rapidly in recent years, not least in the fields of research and innovation.

To ensure Denmark maintains a strong cooperation with Brazil in the future, Science Minister Charlotte Sahl-Madsen visited the country from February 16th to 19th. Together with a delegation of representatives from Danish universities,

the minister approved a number of education and research agreements with Brazilian institutions. The minister has decided to post a research and technology attaché at the General Consulate in Sao Paulo in south-east Brazil. The attaché will assist Danish researchers and businesses with networking opportunities in the region, which is particularly noted for its research and innovation environment.

“Brazil is a rapidly developing country and we must get involved and create strong ties of cooperation so that Danish research and businesses may benefit from the input of international knowledge, which is crucial to our future”, says Science Minister Charlotte Sahl-Madsen.

During the visit the minister also met her counterparts, Brazilian Education Minister Fernando Haddad and Science Minister Aloizio Mercadante to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the R&D field. The agreement will make it easier for Brazilian institutions to finance collaborative projects and seek approval for exchange agreements with Denmark.

Meanwhile, Rector of Aarhus University Lauritz Holm-Nielsen signed a student exchange agreement with the rector and dean of Sao Paulo University. The visit to Brazil will also act as a catalyst for concrete research cooperation, such as resulting in a joint call for Danish-Brazilian food research projects. The Danish Council for Strategic Research has supported the effort with DKK 10 million for 2011.

Quelle

→ <http://en.vtu.dk/press/2011/science-minister-visits-brazil>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Dänemark

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

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Ministry of Education: Organizational Reshuffle to Improve Task Fulfilment

On 1 March 2011, the Ministry of Education’s new structure came into force. The aim is to secure better task fulfilment and provide enhanced support for educational institutions. A high level of professionalism will still be the hallmark of the Danish Ministry of Education. But support for educational institutions and cross-organizational cooperation must be strengthened. These are the motives behind the organizational reshuffle.

"In a nutshell, the new structure is meant to ensure a better fulfilment of the Ministry’s tasks for the benefit of all associated with the Ministry. Although we have fewer resources at our disposal, we must continue striving to create world class education. We must also continue to support the educational institutions so they can deliver good education programmes for our society. But we have to get even better at all these things," says the Ministry’s Permanent Secretary, Sophus Garfiel.

As part of the changes, two new agencies see the light of day. This leads to the abolishment of The Danish Education Support Agency and The Danish School Agency.

"I see it as a given that the Ministry’s high level of professionalism will be carried on in the new organization, and that we will remain as reliable as ever. At the same time we must get more proactive and able to foresee the challenges that lie ahead. This means close cooperation across the organization is pivotal, and the new structure is designed to see to that," says Sophus Garfiel.

Quelle

→ <http://eng.uvm.dk/Aktuelt/News/Eng/2011/Marts/110303%20Organizational%20reshuffle%20to%20improve%20task%20fulfilment.aspx>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Dänemark

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

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Finnland

Government R&D Funding Close on 2.1 Billion Euro in 2011

The total funding of research and development in Finland goes up to EUR 2,065 million in the 2011 Government Budget. According to Statistics Finland, R&D funding will grow by EUR 76 million from the previous year, which corresponds to nearly 4 %. The increases will focus on universities' research funding. The proportion of funds allocated to R&D activities of overall government spending exclusive of debt servicing is 4.3 %.

The administrative sector of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture receives 46 % of Government R&D funding and that of the Ministry of Employment and the Economy 36 %. R&D funding by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture is set to increase by EUR 79 million to nearly EUR 950 million. The Academy of Finland operates within the Ministry's administrative sector. Nearly two-thirds of the increase in funding by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture comes from growing research funding for universities. Of the Academy of Finland's research funding, awarded on a competitive basis, a total of 84 % is granted to universities.

The Academy's funding accounts for 17 % of public research funding and totals EUR 350 million. Funding by the Academy grows by a good EUR 30 million. R&D funding by Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, totals EUR 590 million and its proportion of public research funding is just under 29 %.

In total, EUR 105 million of the R&D funding paid from different items in the Budget is allocated to international operators. Of this, EUR 80 million is awarded to European research organisations and programmes.

Quelle

→ <http://www.aka.fi/en-GB/A/Academy-of-Finland/Media-services/Newsletter/Academy-of-Finland-Newsletter-March-2011/#finnish>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Finnland

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

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Chemistry Research Scores High Marks

Chemistry research in Finland is of a very high standard, with some research units placed at the international cutting edge of their respective subfields of chemistry. The research conducted by the units covers all significant aspects of chemistry and caters well to the Finnish chemical industry. These are among the findings of an international panel of experts, commissioned by the Academy of Finland to evaluate the level of Finnish research in the field of chemistry.

The panel evaluated 41 chemistry units in Finland as to their research quality, funding, infrastructure and international engagement. One unit belongs to a large governmental research institute while the remaining units are research groups, laboratories or departments from nine universities. The panel also looked at the social impact of the units' research. Covering the years 2005–2009, the evaluation was also focused on the quality and performance of the different subfields of chemistry.

Quelle

→ <http://www.aka.fi/en-GB/A/Academy-of-Finland/Media-services/Newsletter/Academy-of-Finland-Newsletter-March-2011/#chemistry>

Download

Chemistry Research in Finland 2005-2009

→ http://www.aka.fi/Tiedostot/Tiedostot/Julkaisut/1_11_Chemistry%20Research%20in%20FinlandUUSI.pdf



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Fokus Finnland

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

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Social Optimism During Studies Supports School-to-Work Transition

Students' social skills and behaviour in social situations during their university studies contribute to their success in the transition to work. The social strategies adopted during university studies also have an impact on work commitment and early-career coping with working life. These results have been uncovered in a research project investigating the relationship between the social strategies students show at university and how well they cope with work-related challenges. The research has been carried out with funding from the Academy of Finland.

“The higher the initial level of social optimism and the bigger the increase during university studies, the greater the level of early-career work engagement, dedication and career-related commitment,” explains Professor Katariina Salmela-Aro, the principal investigator of the research project, from Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. Work engagement is defined as a positive, motivating work-related state of mind characterised by vigour, enthusiasm and dedication. The results of the research project also suggest that social withdrawal and avoidance during university studies are indicative of a distant attitude towards work and an increased likelihood of exhaustion and burnout after the transition to working life.

The longitudinal study spanned 18 years and involved a sample of 292 students at the University of Helsinki, investigating the social strategies young adults adopt and how they make the transition to adulthood. The study is part of the ongoing Helsinki Longitudinal Student Study (HELSS). Little research has been carried out on the role of social strategies adopted during university studies in

coping at work and work burnout. “Our findings indicate that social optimism during university studies translates into a high level of work engagement up to 10-15 years after the study-to-work transition. On the other hand, pessimism and social avoidance seem to increase the likelihood of work burnout and exhaustion during the 10-15 years after the studies,” says Salmela-Aro. According to Salmela-Aro, the ways in which people deal with social situations may have far-reaching implications for future life success. “Good interpersonal skills, an active social approach and a sense of community and involvement can equip students with the personal resources necessary in making the transition to everyday work and the competitive world of career-making.”

The results of the study suggest that more attention should be paid to students' community engagement and the development of their social competence, since these are factors greatly facilitating a successful study-to-work transition. The results will be published in an article in the Journal of Vocational Behavior: Salmela-Aro, K., et al., Social strategies during university studies predict early career work burnout and engagement: 18-year longitudinal study, Journal of Vocational Behavior (2011).

Quelle

→ <http://www.aka.fi/en-GB/A/Academy-of-Finland/Media-services/Releases1/Social-optimism-during-studies-supports-school-to-work-transition/>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Finnland

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

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Indien

Research Boost Overlooks Agriculture and Renewables

India's science has received a 14 % boost in the 2011-12 budget presented on 28 February by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee. But renewable energy and agriculture research saw cuts of 24 % and 6 % respectively. The total allocation for scientific research in 2011-12 across eight key science-related departments and ministries, science and technology, agriculture, atomic energy, defence, earth sciences, health, renewable energy and space, is INR 355 billion (US\$ 7.9 billion), up by 14 % from last year's US\$ 6.9 billion. As with previous budgets the three strategic research sectors – defence, nuclear and space – received the major chunk, and more than half this year, of the science allocation.

Funding for the Ministry of Earth Sciences received a 23 % increase over last year, including a boost in funds for coastal research and the development of a multi-hazards early warning support system.

Although funds for the new and renewable energy sector increased by 20 %, most will go towards rolling out renewable energy projects, while funds for research, design and development declined by almost a quarter (US\$ 9.4 million). Funds for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), which oversees crop research, were cut by 6 % in the budget.

Quelle

→ <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/indian-research-boost-overlooks-agriculture-renewables.html>

Download

Key Features of Budget 2011-2012

→ <http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2011-12/bh/bh1.pdf>

Weitere Informationen

Government of India: Union Budget and Economic Survey

→ <http://indiabudget.nic.in>

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

→ <http://dod.nic.in>

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

→ <http://www.icar.org.in>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Indien

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

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Budgetary Boost to Space Research and Atomic Energy

India's atomic energy and space programmes received handsome increases in their annual allocation of around 31 % and 43 % respectively, over the previous year in the budget for 2011-12 presented by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee. The department of space (DOS) got a sum of INR 57 billion for 2011-12 as against the revised estimates of INR 40 billion. For department of atomic energy (DAE), the budget estimate for next fiscal is INR 100 billion, up from the revised estimates of INR 76 billion for 2010-11. The budget estimate for the year 2010-11 was INR 82 billion while the actual amount spent for the year 2009-10 was INR 65 billion. The science and technology ministry got a budgetary allocation of INR 57 billion for the next fiscal – an increase of 18 % over the previous year's revised estimate of INR 48 billion. A large amount of the money will go as assistance to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's national laboratories and for multidisciplinary research in frontier areas of science and technology. The budgetary allocation for the department of biotechnology under the ministry of science and technology saw an increase of INR 14 billion this year from INR 12 billion last year.

Quelle

→ <http://www.southasianews.com/631769/Budgetary-boost-to-space-research-atomic-energy-.htm>

Download

Key Features of Budget 2011-2012

→ <http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2011-12/bh/bh1.pdf>

Weitere Informationen

Government of India: Union Budget and Economic Survey

→ <http://indiabudget.nic.in>

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

→ <http://dod.nic.in>

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

→ <http://www.icar.org.in>

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Fokus Indien

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Niederlande

New Director General of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

The Governing Board of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) has appointed J.H. de Groene as Director General of NWO with effect from 1 May 2011. He will succeed Dr Cees de Visser, who will retire in May. NWO chair Prof. Jos Engelen: "Hans de Groene is a manager with considerable experience in the public sector. He will serve the interest of the entire spectrum of scientific research for Dutch society with considerable fervour."

Hans de Groene (1960) studied economics at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. In 1985 he started his career at the Ministry of Economic Affairs where he occupied various policy and management positions within the Directorate of General

Economic Politics. In 1993 he became the deputy director and in 1997 director of the Spatial Economic Policy directorate. In 2001 he became director and deputy director general for the area of innovation policy. Since 2004 he has been Director of Innovation and Deputy Director General for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (since October 2010 within the newly formed Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation – EL&I).

De Groene has been closely involved in the major changes to innovation policy over the past few years. He has an extensive network in The Hague, the world of knowledge, industry and within Europe. His approach and style are characterised as decisive and focussed on cooperation. Hans de Groene: "Over the past few years I have worked intensively with NWO and have come to know the organisation as a particularly fascinating body that is extremely professional. NWO has an important role to play in further strengthening the Netherlands' position as a knowledge economy. I am really looking forward to making a contribution to this."

From within his position at EL&I, Hans de Groene has worked together with NWO on projects such as the funding of Technology Foundation STW and the realisation of the Knowledge Workers Regulation. He has contributed to the renewal of NL Agency's contracting role and was active in the interdepartmental policy development on knowledge and innovation. For example, he was the chair of interdepartmental committees for the distribution of the FES funds for knowledge and innovation, for space research and development, and for nanotechnology. He was also head of the Dutch delegation to the Board of the European Space Agency ESA and was responsible for the preparations of the Dutch contribution to the European research and innovation policy.

Quelle

→ http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOP_8EJFN4_Eng?open&nav=NWOP_5V2HTN

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Niederlande

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

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Norwegen

New Centres of Excellence to Be Selected

The funding period for the first 13 Norwegian Centres of Excellence (SFF) is drawing to a close. Now the Research Council is calling for proposals for new SFF centres. In this round the Research Council is announcing funding for about the same number of new SFF centres as those now being concluded. The application deadline is 8 June 2011. If all goes as planned, the selection process will be completed in September 2012, and the new centres will start up in 2013.

What happens to the existing centres?

The host institutions are responsible for deciding the future of the existing centres when their SFF funding and status cease. "The institutions must decide for themselves what is best for the individual centre," says Ms Helgesen, adding that nobody is served by dissolving solid research groups and that the investments made in the centres must be safeguarded.

The Executive Board of the Research Council has indicated clearly that the centres to be granted SFF status must demonstrate a clear focus on scientific renewal. Thus, the funding announcement is not targeted towards prolonging the lifetime of established centres, although no institutions or research constellations will be prevented from submitting proposals.

Changes in procedure

This time the Research Council has changed some procedures prior to the selection process.

"Instead of a single, multidisciplinary committee, we will now use three separate scientific committees in the prequalification round," Gro Helgesen, Special Adviser at the Research Council who administers the SFF scheme, explains. "Pro-

posals in the humanities and social sciences, natural sciences and technology, and the biosciences will be assessed separately."

"Moreover, this time we will ask the three referees who assess the grant proposals to cooperate on a virtual panel and prepare a joint statement. We will also allow applicants to comment on the referees' statements so that a limited dialogue is possible between the applicants and the referees. In the final round we will also conduct interviews with the potential SFF centre directors as part of the assessment process."

Well-integrated centres

The 2010 evaluation of the SFF scheme shows that launching the centres has enabled the institutions to develop strong research communities and recruit highly qualified researchers. The allocations from the Research Council have triggered a substantial amount of funding from other sources. As a result, support from the Research Council comprises on average only 20 % of the budgets of the individual centres.

"In the start-up phase it appeared that the centres might end up as exclusive research groups working in relative isolation. That has not been the case. On the whole, the centres have become well integrated into the institutions and they have had a lot of contact with students. The centres have also helped to boost researcher recruitment at the institutions in general," Ms Helgesen says.

In 2009, 24 % of the researchers at the SFF centres came from countries outside of Norway.

Seeking a greater proportion of women

The RCN wants to increase the proportion of women among the key researchers at the Norwegian Centres of Excellence.

"In the second funding round in 2005, we implemented measures to increase the proportion of women among the key researchers at the centres and to raise awareness about the recruitment of women in fields with a relatively few number of female research recruits. These measures will be continued under the third funding announcement," Ms Helgesen concludes.

The Norwegian Centres of Excellence (SFF) scheme

- The Centres of Excellence (SFF) scheme is the Research Council's foremost funding instrument for promoting quality in Norwegian research.
- Establishing centres with generous, long-term financing gives the institutions an opportunity to restructure their research community and develop new collaborative relationships to enhance their position on the international research front. Important secondary objectives of the scheme are to strengthen researcher recruitment and expand international cooperation.
- A host institution is responsible for the activities at each centre. The host institution may choose to affiliate itself with partner institutions or companies through binding consortium agreements.
- The maximum period of SFF funding and status is 10 years.
- Thirteen SFF centres were established at the end of 2002/beginning of 2003. Mid-term evaluations of the centres were conducted in 2005, and all 13 of them had their funding extended for a second five-year period.
- A second funding announcement was issued in 2005, and eight new centres were established in 2007. Midterm evaluations of these centres will be conducted in 2011.

Quelle

→ http://www.forskingsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/New_Centres_of_Excellence_to_be_elected/1253965029886

Download

Requirements and guidelines - the Norwegian Centres of Excellence scheme (SFF) SFF Call for proposals 2011

→ <http://www.forskingsradet.no/servlet/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobheadervalue1=Content-Disposition%3A&blobheadervalue1=+attachment%3B+filename%3D110301-SFFRequandguidelines%5B1%5D.pdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1274468572738&ssbinary=true>

Weitere Informationen

Norwegischer Forschungsrat (RCN)

→ <http://www.forskingsradet.no>



SFF Call for proposals 2011

→ <http://www.forskingsradet.no/en/Funding/SFF/1253964991338>

SFF Website

→ <http://www.forskingsradet.no/servlet/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1224067001813&p=1224067001813&pagename=sff%2FHovedsidemal>

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: Proposed Increase of NOK 1.2 Billion for Research

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) has identified four priority areas for funding in 2012: open competitive arenas for basic research and research and innovation in industry, energy and environmental technology, equipment and infrastructure, and research for tackling climate-related challenges. In its budget input to the ministries, the Research Council proposes an increase of NOK 1.2 billion from 2011 to 2012. 60 % of this amount should be distributed among the priority areas as follows:

- Open competitive arenas for basic research and research and innovation in industry. Programme for User-driven Research-based Innovation (BIA): NOK 100 million. Independent projects: NOK 140 million.
- Energy and environmental technology: NOK 200 million.
- Climate change and climate policy, and follow-up of the Klima21 strategy: NOK 150 million.
- Scientific equipment and research infrastructure, and implementation of the national strategy for research infrastructure 2008-2017: NOK 140 million.

The proposed NOK 730 million increase in funding in the specified priority areas targets five of the goals set out in the Government white paper on research: meeting global challenges, knowledge-based industry in all regions, industrial research in strategic areas, a well-functioning research system, and high-quality research.

Expansion of the open competitive arenas and increased investment in equipment and infrastructure will lead to greater breadth, higher quality, new recruitment and stronger internationalisation in Norwegian research.

The two thematic priority areas related to energy, the environment and climate illustrate the key role that research will play in solving social challenges in the years to come.

Quelle

→ http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/Proposed_increase_of_NOK_12_billion_for_research/1253965049740?WT.ac=forside_nyhet

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Norwegen

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

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Österreich

New Plan Set to Bring Back Tuition Fees

All the experts appointed to formulate recommendations for a new Austrian Higher Education Plan by Beatrice Karl, the Minister of Higher Education and Research, favour the reintroduction of tuition fees. The plan will cover the ramping up of research infrastructure and a rethink on funding. The experts have been drawn from Switzerland and Germany, and have been charged by Karl with a focus on potential in higher education.

Austria, with 8.4 million inhabitants, had an overall student population of 332,624 in the winter semester of 2009-10, and numbers appear to be on the increase.

A tool is being developed to define how many study places are to be publicly funded and where resources are to be allocated. Here, initial concepts could already be presented by early spring.

A research infrastructure plan is to coordinate the construction of new large-scale facilities for basic research. Concepts are to be developed for the use of such facilities both by universities and by extra-university institutions. Detailed proposals will be put forward by the end of the year.

Also, the basics of a university construction plan are to be ready by late 2011, as well as the framework for a coordinating committee for higher education comprising higher education institutions and other major stakeholders. The committee is to cooperate with the ministry on the development of coordinating measures.

Hans Sünkel, the president of Uniko, Austria's Conference of Universities, welcomed the launch of the process.

Quelle

→ <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110305092243920>

Weitere Informationen

Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung (BMWF)

→ <http://www.bmwf.gv.at>

Österreichische Universitätenkonferenz

→ <http://www.reko.ac.at>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Österreich

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

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Bundesregierung präsentiert FTI-Strategie

"Der Weg zum Innovation Leader" - unter diesem Motto steht die Strategie der Bundesregierung für Forschung, Technologie und Innovation (FTI), die am Dienstag im Ministerrat beschlossen und im Anschluss von Infrastrukturministerin Doris Bures, Wissenschaftsministerin Beatrix Karl, Wirtschaftsminister Reinhold Mitterlehner und Bildungsministerin Claudia Schmied präsentiert wurde. Österreichs Ziel ist es, von der Gruppe der "Innovation Follower" in die Gruppe der "Innovation Leader" vorzustoßen und damit zu den innovativsten Ländern der Europäischen Union zu zählen.

"Österreichs Forschungssystem braucht eine Vision, und dazu die handfesten, praktischen Maßnahmen, wie man sie verwirklicht", so Bures. Mit der FTI-Strategie ist die Vision der Verbesserung der Struktur, Organisation und Zusammenarbeit festgelegt und dafür muss auch die Forschungsquote steigen, von derzeit 2,76 % auf 3,76 % im Jahr 2020. Wesentlich ist dafür eine noch stärkere Beteiligung der Wirtschaft, mit dem Zielwert von einem Drittel öffentlich und zwei Dritteln privat bei den Mitteln für Forschung und Entwicklung (F&E). Für den Bereich der angewandten Forschungsförderung heißt das "Konzentration auf das Wesentliche", wie die Infrastrukturministerin ausführte.

Daher hat Bures in ihrem Bereich mit Verkehr und Mobilität, Energie und Umwelt, Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien (IKT) und Produktionstechnologien klare Schwerpunkte gesetzt – und zwar dort, wo die großen gesellschaftlichen Herausforderungen anstehen, Stichworte Klimawandel, Ressourcenknappheit oder demografischer Wandel. Und die Ministerin betont: "Bei der angewandten Forschungsförderung bleiben wir auf dem Wachstumspfad." Heuer investiert das Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie dafür 420 Millionen Euro, um 20 Millionen mehr als im Vorjahr. Dank dieser zusätzlichen Mittel stehen 2011 für den neuen Schwerpunkt Produktionstechnologien ("smart production") 50 Millionen Euro zur Verfügung. Bei diesem Schwerpunkt geht es darum, die Sachgütererzeugung in Österreich technisch zu optimieren und die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit zu stärken.

Quelle

→ <http://www.bmvit.gv.at/presse/archiv/0309fitstrategie.html>

Weitere Informationen

Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft

→ <http://www.ffg.at/presse/ffg-begruesst-die-beschlussfassung-der-forschungsstrategie-im-ministerrat>

Download

Strategie der Bundesregierung für Forschung, Technologie und Innovation: „Der Weg zum Innovation Leader – Potenziale ausschöpfen, Dynamik steigern, Zukunft schaffen“

→ http://www.bmvit.gv.at/innovation/downloads/fti_strategie.pdf

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Österreich

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

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Republik Korea (Südkorea)

National R&D to Top Record KRW 52.5 Trillion in 2011

South Korea's R&D spending is expected to reach a record KRW 52.5 trillion (US\$ 46.5 billion) this year, mainly due to more money being invested by the private sector, a government report showed. The report by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology showed that investments by both the government and private businesses is forecast to rise 11.2 % compared to 2010. If R&D spending takes place as planned, this year will mark the first time that the total has exceeded the KRW 50 trillion mark.

Quelle

→ http://www.investkorea.org/InvestKoreaWar/work/ik/eng/nr/nr_01_read.jsp?no=60830001&l_unit=90202&bno=103020001&page=1&sort_num=4585

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Südkorea

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



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Schweden

Sweden's Schools Get a Boost

A good school system is a prerequisite for giving everyone, regardless of background, a good foundation to stand on. A good school system is also fundamental in order for our society to deal with the trials and challenges we face. Unfortunately, we have seen results in Sweden's schools worsen since the 1990s. Swedish schools need to become better. The Government has therefore initiated a major reform agenda. The objective is to improve pupils' results and well-being and to provide the conditions for school heads and teachers to once again make the Swedish school system world-class.

Changes take time in the school world. The Government devoted the last electoral period to drawing up and preparing reforms that are now being launched. 2011 will be a historic year for the Swedish school system. A new Education Act, a new upper secondary school, new curricula and a new grading system are just some of the reforms entering into force this year. In addition to this, the Government has introduced a reading-writing-arithmetic initiative that has provided extra help with basic knowledge to many of the youngest school pupils, and a special Boost for Teachers that has helped many thousands of teachers to take part in continuing professional development and take new strides.

If schools' requirements are clear and pupils' knowledge is monitored and evaluated, more pupils will have the chance to obtain the knowledge to which all children are entitled. Earlier national tests in more subjects will help teachers to identify at an early stage which pupils need a little extra support. For the same

reasons, and because the intermediate level of compulsory school needs to become more knowledge-oriented, as of next year pupils will be given grades from year six. This focus on knowledge also entails a new grading scale, with more levels. A new programme for special needs teachers has been introduced. More special needs teachers in schools will mean more pupils receiving the support they need.

This autumn sees the start of the new teacher education programme. Improved quality, greater specialisation and more in-depth subject study than previously will raise the status of the education programme and the teaching profession. At the same time, the new Boost for Teachers will carry on providing continuing professional development for teachers wishing to complement and broaden their knowledge. The Government has also proposed the introduction of a new teacher accreditation. It will be proof that the teacher has completed a teacher education programme and that the teacher has shown during an induction period that he or she is suited to teaching.

Pupils who feel secure, seen and appreciated at school have a greater capacity to learn. In the new Act the Government has therefore included stricter requirements that all pupils are to be guaranteed a secure school environment. The Government has also increased requirements concerning school health and welfare services. All pupils must have the opportunity, where necessary, to see both a school doctor and a social worker or psychologist. In order to further reinforce school health and welfare services, the Government will, in the coming years, implement an initiative in this area.

Some pupils want to continue studying after upper secondary school, whereas others want to start working straight away. We are now removing the requirement that everyone who goes to upper secondary school must obtain eligibility for higher education. This means that pupils on vocational programmes will have more time for their vocational subjects. It will of course still be possible for them to obtain eligibility. A new apprenticeship training programme will offer the option of taking part in practical vocational education and training at a workplace and an introduction to the labour market when the time comes to start applying for jobs.

We are now boosting schools by raising the status of teachers, increasing the focus on knowledge and a calm school environment for pupils, and introducing a new upper secondary school with apprenticeship training programmes. A good school system is important for the whole of Sweden.

Quelle

→ <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/14471/a/161842>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Schweden

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

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Schweiz

Forschung in die Öffentlichkeit tragen

Mit dem neuen Förderungsinstrument „Agora“ möchte der Schweizerische Nationalfonds (SNF) den Dialog zwischen Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft intensivieren. Der SNF weist den Forschenden eine Schlüsselrolle zu und finanziert ihre Projekte für die Wissenschaftskommunikation mit der Öffentlichkeit. „Agora“ steht Forschenden aus allen Disziplinen offen. Die erste Ausschreibung erfolgt Mitte Mai 2011.

Dass sich Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft verstärkt austauschen sollen, ist eines der strategischen Ziele des Schweizerischen Nationalfonds. Dabei geht es nicht nur um die Verbreitung neuer Forschungsergebnisse, sondern auch darum, dem Publikum Einblicke in die wissenschaftliche Arbeitsweise zu gewähren und die gesellschaftliche Bedeutung der Forschung zu diskutieren.

Spitzenforschung zu betreiben, heisst, sie auch vermitteln zu können. Deswegen erwartet der SNF von den Forschenden, die er unterstützt, dass sie am

Dialog mit der Gesellschaft teilhaben, ja sogar eine Schlüsselrolle in diesem Dialog einnehmen. Dafür steht ihnen jetzt ein neues Instrument zur Verfügung: Mit „Agora“ fördert der SNF Projekte für die Wissenschaftskommunikation mit der Öffentlichkeit. Für die Ausschreibung 2011 liegt ein Budget von einer Million Franken bereit.

Drei Standbeine

Für einen anhaltenden Dialog ist eine langfristig angelegte, konzertierte Politik gefordert. Die Finanzierung von Kommunikationsprojekten von in der Schweiz tätigen Forschenden ist dabei nur eines von drei Standbeinen. Des Weiteren möchte der SNF die von Forschenden betriebene Öffentlichkeitsarbeit als wichtigen Bestandteil ihres Lebenslaufs besser anerkennen. Schliesslich lädt er die Forschenden zu Kommunikationsschulungen ein und unterstützt sie, ihre Kommunikationsfähigkeiten weiter auszubauen.

Grosser kreativer Freiraum

Bei „Agora“ können Forschende ihre Projekte gemeinsam mit den universitären Stellen für Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, Museen, Journalisten oder Künstler planen und durchführen. „Agora“ sieht einen grossen kreativen Freiraum vor und setzt bezüglich Inhalt und Form der Projekte keine Grenzen. Allerdings müssen die Vorhaben eine Anbindung an qualitativ hochstehende Forschung aufweisen und ausserdem Anstoss geben zu einem echten Dialog mit der Öffentlichkeit, an dem sich die oder der Forschende aktiv beteiligt. Ausgenommen sind Projekte, die Marketingaktionen oder institutionelle Kommunikations- und Medienarbeit zum Gegenstand haben. Nach Möglichkeit sollte sich das Projekt in einen regionalen, nationalen oder internationalen Rahmen einfügen, wiederverwertbar und von dauerhaftem Interesse sein.

Quelle

→ <http://www.snf.ch/D/Medien/Medienmitteilungen/Seiten/2011.aspx?NEWSID=1341&WEBID=705D0BF9-BC95-43E6-BF65-F8B316A4D74E>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Schweiz

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



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Dritte Verhandlungsrunde zwischen Schweiz und EU über Kooperation bei der Satellitennavigation

Die Schweiz und die EU haben eine dritte Verhandlungsrunde über eine zukünftige Zusammenarbeit bei den europäischen Satellitennavigationsprogrammen Galileo und EGNOS (GNSS) geführt. In einem bilateralen Abkommen sollen neben dem gleichberechtigten Zugang zu den Signalen der beiden Satellitenprogramme insbesondere auch die Interessen der schweizerischen Raumfahrts- und Dienstleistungsindustrie bei der Auftragsvergabe berücksichtigt werden.

Die Schweiz und die EU haben im September 2010 Verhandlungen zum Abschluss eines Abkommens im Bereich der Satellitennavigationsprogramme aufgenommen. Bei der jüngsten Verhandlungsrunde, die in Brüssel stattfand, wurden unter anderem Aspekte der finanziellen Beteiligung der Schweiz an den Kosten von GNSS diskutiert. Ferner wurden vertiefte Gespräche über die Ausgestaltung weiterer Abkommensbereiche geführt, die für den Technologie- und Industriestandort Schweiz von Bedeutung sind. Mit einem Abkommen bezweckt die Schweiz die vertragliche Absicherung einer optimalen Ausgangslage für die schweizerische Raumfahrts- und Dienstleistungsindustrie bei der Auftragsvergabe von GNSS-relevanten Gütern und Dienstleistungen sowie einen gleichberechtigten Zugang zu den Signalen der Satelliten.

Die beiden europäischen Satellitennavigationsprogramme Galileo und EGNOS wurden Ende der 1990er Jahre von der EU und der Europäischen Weltraumorganisation ESA gemeinsam lanciert. Die Schweiz war bis anhin über ihre Teilnahme an den entsprechenden ESA-Programmen in beide Projekte eingebunden. Die Gesamtleitung für Galileo soll in Zukunft an die EU übergehen, bei EGNOS ist dieser Schritt zur Übertragung der Eigentumsrechte von der ESA an

die EU bereits im Februar 2009 erfolgt. Ein bilaterales Abkommen mit der EU soll es der Schweiz ermöglichen, sich auch an den unter EU-Verantwortung stehenden Programmphasen umfassend zu beteiligen.

Quelle

→ <http://www.evd.admin.ch/aktuell/00120/index.html?lang=de&msg-id=38033>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Schweiz

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Spanien

Spain Limits PhD Fellowships for Foreign Students

Michele Catanzaro reports on *The Great Beyond* that only students already resident in Spain will be allowed to apply to one of the country's two main PhD fellowship programmes this year. And no more than 50 of the roughly 950 fellowships will go to non-European students.

In his article Catanzaro wrote, that the FPU programme, run by the Ministry of Education, finances about one third of the PhD students who receive funding from Spain's national government, according to data from the ministry. Another third are supported by the FPI programme, run by the Ministry of Science and Innovation, and the rest comes from other institutions. In the last call, 102 fellowships were issued to non-Spanish students (42 of them to non-Europeans), out of a total of 949.

According to Catanzaro Spain's scientific community is upset about the barriers to foreign students, and the lack of warning. The call for applications including the restrictions was launched at the end of January, and the deadline for applications was 14 February.

Quelle

→ http://blogs.nature.com/news/thegreatbeyond/2011/02/spain_limits_phd_fellowships_f.html

Weitere Informationen

Ministry of Education

→ <http://www.educacion.es>

Programa de Formación del Profesorado Universitario (FPU)

→ <http://www.educacion.es/horizontales/servicios/becas-ayudas-sbvenciones/para-estudiar/grado/fpu.html>

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

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Ungarn

Ungarische Akademie der Wissenschaften beteiligt sich an EU-Schlüsselprojekt zur Biodiversität

Ungarn gehört zu den fünf EU-Ländern, die im Januar den Startschuss für die Umsetzungsphase des LifeWatch-Projekts gaben. Vertreter aus Ungarn, Italien, Niederlande, Spanien sowie Rumänien unterzeichneten am 19.1.2011 in Amsterdam das Memorandum of Understanding für den Beginn des Infrastrukturaufbaus. Nach Ende der zweijährigen Vorbereitungsphase arbeiten Organisationen aus diesen Ländern zusammen an der Erstellung der informationstechnologischen Grundlagen. Von ungarischer Seite beteiligt sich die Akademie der Wissenschaften (MTA) über ihr Institut für Ökologie und Botanik.

Im Rahmen des LifeWatch-Projekts wird eine europäische Forschungsinfrastruktur für Monitoring von Biodiversität und Ökosystemforschung aufgebaut. LifeWatch gilt als Schlüsselprojekt der europäischen Biodiversitätspolitik und ist

eines der in der ESFRI-Roadmap (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) verankerten europäischen Vorhaben zum Aufbau von EU-Forschungsinfrastrukturen.

Die LifeWatch-Infrastruktur wird der Sammlung und Systematisierung von Biodiversitätsdaten aus unterschiedlichen Quellen dienen und so die Basis bieten für gezielte Kooperationen zu Verständnis und Erhalt von Biodiversität und Ökosystemen in Europa.

Quelle

→ http://mta.hu/news_and_views/has-institute-to-participate-in-biodiversity-project-126924/

Weitere Informationen

LifeWatch

→ <http://www.lifewatch.eu>

MTA-Institut für Ökologie und Botanik

→ <http://www.obki.hu/en/index.shtml>

Ungarische Akademie der Wissenschaften

→ <http://mta.hu/english>

Informationen zur ESFRI-Roadmap

→ http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=esfri-roadmap

Ausführliche Länder- und Themeninformationen bei Kooperation international

Fokus Ungarn

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

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