



## Internationale Forschungs-, Technologie- und Innovationspolitik

**Info-Service**

**17. Oktober 2005**

### **Berichterstattung zu strategischen Entwicklungen auf den Politikfeldern des BMBF in führenden Industrieländern**

#### **Global**

##### **Spitzenpositionen für skandinavische Länder in WEF-Wettbewerbsrangliste**

Das Weltwirtschaftsforum (WEF) hat Finnland im dritten Jahr in Folge den Spitzenplatz in seiner Wettbewerbsrangliste eingeräumt. Auch Schweden und Dänemark rangieren unter den ersten Fünf. Im Bericht zur weltweiten Wettbewerbsfähigkeit 2005 erhält Finnland hinsichtlich der Qualität seiner öffentlichen Einrichtungen Bestnoten. Die hohen Steuern in den Ländern haben Bildungseinrichtungen von Weltniveau, ein umfassendes Netz an sozialer Sicherheit und hoch motivierte und qualifizierte Arbeitskräfte hervorgebracht. Darüber hinaus zeige der Privatsektor eine hohe Bereitschaft, neue Technologien einzusetzen und eine Innovationskultur zu fördern.

Die Vereinigten Staaten konnten dank ihrer technologischen Überlegenheit und ihrer starken Innovationskultur ihren zweiten Platz verteidigen. Irland konnte sich um vier Plätze auf Rang 26 der Gesamtwertung verbessern, Polen um neun Plätze auf Rang 51, und Estland kam zum zweiten Mal auf Platz 20. Europas größte Volkswirtschaften - Deutschland, Frankreich und Großbritannien - büßten im Vergleich zum Vorjahr mehrere Plätze ein.

[http://icadc.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?CALLER=DE\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=24531&DOC=1&QUERY=2](http://icadc.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?CALLER=DE_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=24531&DOC=1&QUERY=2)

#### **Frankreich**

##### **Gilles de Robien presents French Pact for research**

French Minister for National Education, Higher Education and Research Gilles de Robien, presented a new bill on the future national research programme on 5 October, the 'pact for research'. The French Government has decided to engage in an ambitious regeneration of the national system of research and innovation, in cooperation with stakeholders, with the aim of contributing to the development of the European Research Area (ERA) and increasing Europe's investment in research and development (R&D) to three per cent of GDP by 2010.

Mr de Robien diagnosed the organisational problems of French research and the need to adapt French research programmes to the changing global situation in international research. The pact for research will address these issues by focusing on five goals:

- reinforcing French capacities of strategic orientation and definition of priorities;
- building a unified, coherent and transparent system for research assessment;
- facilitating cooperation between research stakeholders;
- offering attractive and progressive scientific careers;

- intensifying the dynamics of innovation and developing closer links between public and private research.

According to the minister, the bill means that the total budget devoted to research and higher education will need to reach 24 billion euro by 2010, which means an increase close to 26 per cent with respect to 2004. He qualified as 'an unprecedented effort'.

<http://www.pactepourlarecherche.fr/>

## Großbritannien

### Nanotech panel urges cautious use, but no ban

A British 'citizen's jury' has recommended that public funding in nanotechnology should prioritise long-term solutions to health and environmental problems. The 'jury', known as NanoJuryUK, had been asked to address the potential benefits of costs of nanotechnology, and was sponsored by four British organisations, including the environmental group Greenpeace UK, a research centre at the University of Cambridge and a bioethics research centre at the University of York. Its conclusions were based on evidence presented to a series of hearings held earlier this year, at which a range of witnesses were cross-examined about the potential benefits of nanotechnology in fields ranging from healthcare to defence, as well as its potential dangers.

<http://www.scidev.net/News/index.cfm?fuseaction=readNews&itemid=2382&language=1>

## EU / Europa

### Potocnik welcomes debate on international cooperation and European research

Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik opened a two-day conference in Brussels entitled 'the international dimension of the Europe of Knowledge - a com-

mon interest to Europe and to the world'. The production of knowledge is in itself a contribution to other goals, said the Commissioner, and a new approach is replacing the former role of science and technology as a support to other policies. The EU has responded to globalisation by increasing the internationalisation of its research instruments, and is developing actions for closer collaboration at three levels:

- between the EU and specific countries;
- at a regional level among Mediterranean countries or with Latin America, for example;
- at a global level through such initiatives as the 2002 Earth Summit.

The rise of China and the smaller relative size of the European economy in the world, means that a new international co-operation strategy is needed, involving close coordination with Member States and dialogue with partners. International scientific and technological cooperation is a high priority, building strategic partnerships, attracting the best researchers to Europe for exchanges of knowledge and later return, and identifying projects of mutual benefit. Enhancing cooperation with developing countries is also a priority, emphasised the Commissioner, as science and technology are one of the essential engines of social and economic growth and sustainable development.

<http://www.cirad.fr/en/presse/communique.php?id=126>  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/index\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/index_en.cfm)

### Europäische Kommission leitet Initiative PRO INNO Europe ein

Die Europäische Kommission hat die Initiative PRO INNO Europe eingeleitet, mit der die transeuropäische Zusammenarbeit zwischen nationalen und regionalen Programmen und Maßnahmen zur Innovation gefördert werden soll. PRO INNO steht für "Förderung der Innovation in Europa" und richtet sich insbesondere an öffentlich finanzierte Initiativen zur Innovationspolitik und öffentlich-private Partnerschaften zur

Unterstützung der Innovation. Die gesamte vorläufige Mittelzuweisung für diese Anforderungen beträgt 29,25 Millionen Euro. Frist für die Einreichung von Vorschlägen ist der 5. Januar 2006.

[http://icadc.cordis.lu/fep/cgi/srchidadb?CALLER=DE\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=24552&DOC=12&QUERY=1](http://icadc.cordis.lu/fep/cgi/srchidadb?CALLER=DE_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=24552&DOC=12&QUERY=1)

## USA

### **Federal R&D Funding Stalls in Delayed 2006 Budget**

Fiscal year (FY) 2006 began on October 1, but the FY 2006 budget is far from finished and the prospects for federal research and development (R&D) funding are uncertain. Based on action so far, the Senate would increase the total federal R&D investment by 2.3 percent or \$3.0 billion to \$135.6 billion in FY 2006, but nearly the entire increase would go to weapons development and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). For nondefense R&D, the Senate total of \$58.6 billion would be a 3.7 percent gain, dominated by a proposed increase for biomedical research at NIH.

Most R&D funding agencies are still in line to receive flat funding or modest increases falling short of inflation in their R&D portfolios. In their final budgets, the Department of the Interior and EPA receive modest increases short of the 2.0 percent inflation rate for their environmental R&D portfolios, in contrast to requested cuts. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) just received a modest increase in its final R&D budget.

<http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd/upd1005.htm>

### **Congress Takes Steps to Conserve and Diversify U.S. Energy Supply**

In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Congress has introduced three bills in three weeks that focus on the U.S. energy supply and energy conservation. These actions follow the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, signed into law by

President Bush on 8 August. The Act said little about energy conservation, and left out language on the future of petroleum exploration and development in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). At a Department of Energy press conference on 26 September, Bush said "We can all pitch in by... being better conservers of energy." The same day on Capitol Hill, House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA) introduced the "National Energy Supply Diversification and Disruption Prevention Act."

<http://www.house.gov/science>  
[http://www.agu.org/sci\\_soc/policy/sci\\_pol.html](http://www.agu.org/sci_soc/policy/sci_pol.html)

### **Kauffman Foundation Unveils iBridge to Facilitate University Technology Transfer**

Designed to ease the transaction burden on university technology transfer offices and encourage more open and efficient access to research, the Kauffman Foundation recently unveiled iBridge, a web-based platform under the Kauffman Innovation Network. The flexible nature of the iBridge platform allows universities to adapt it to best complement their existing processes for collaboration and technology transfer, according to a press release from the Kauffman Foundation.

The application may be used by universities to license and distribute a variety of information including software, research tools, databases, teaching materials, surveys, and reference materials. To safeguard a university's interest in its intellectual property, posting a discovery on the website formally discloses that discovery and starts a record-keeping file.

The program also aims to expand the number and scope of collaborative relationships by increasing awareness of existing research across the country. According to the Kauffman Foundation, these relationships are a critical component in advancing new discoveries and may lead to more

ideas and inventions. Research from the Kauffman Foundation also indicates there is growing evidence that innovations residing in universities remain dormant far too long. While hundreds of universities now have tech-transfer offices, few can afford to staff them optimally for all the work of evaluating and managing research, a key obstacle in unlocking innovations, said the Kauffman Foundation.

<http://www.innovationbridge.org>

### **Value and Effectiveness of Research Tax Credit Should be Reexamined, says GAO**

Representing a substantial federal commitment, the number of tax credits, deductions and exemptions - collectively referred to as "tax expenditures" - has more than doubled since 1974 and needs to be re-examined to evaluate efficiency, effectiveness, and equitability, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO). A recent GAO report describes how tax expenditures have changed over the past three decades and the amount of progress made since the 1994 recommendations to improve scrutiny of tax expenditures. Measurements include change in number, size, and in comparison to federal revenue, spending, and the economy.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05690.pdf>

## **Kanada**

### **Amid Criticism, Industry Canada Transforms Focus of Technologies Program**

To support innovation and technology with increased accessibility for small-and medium-sized firms, Canada's Minister of Industry, David Emerson, announced a new program that will replace Technology Partnerships Canada (TPC). Minister Emerson said in a press release that the new program will be accessible to more industries, tightly focused on transformative technologies, and more transparent to tax-

payers. The goal of TPC is to ensure leading-edge industrial research continues in Canada and that Canadian firms remain competitive in the global economy.

Created in 1996, TPC has been an operating agency of Industry Canada, providing financial support for strategic R&D and demonstration projects including Environmental Technologies, Aerospace and Defense, and Enabling Technologies. However, since its inception, the program has been riddled with criticism.

Under the Transformative Technologies Program, the federal government will share with Canadian industry the costs of innovation and technology adoption projects. Rather than targeting selected technology sectors as TPC did, the new program will be open to all Canadian businesses. Specific strategies to support the aerospace and defense strategies, however, will proceed at their current funding levels. Details for the new program are expected in the coming year.

<http://tpc-ptc.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/intpc-ptc.nsf/en/Home>

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