

## 3.7 Science

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The ability of society to find, learn and use new knowledge is a necessary pre-requisite of relevance to developed countries and of the renewal and increase of material wealth of the State. The scope of policy and the authorities of state management must set the science syllabus and develop demand in society but at the same time must respect the independence of scientific research which must not be not subordinated to any ideological orientation.

We want state policy in the area of science and research to be focused on:

- scientific areas connected with the most efficient industries of the Czech economy as far as exports are concerned or with the areas having the potential to stimulate the establishment of export-efficient industries of the economy,
- industries that are important from the point of view of studying the state of society, national culture and traditions,
- promising industries as far as world scientific development is concerned,
- industries important from the point of view of the political interests of the State, especially from the point of view of long-term economic development,
- industries that will be able to fulfil the obligations of the previous governments of the Czech Republic whether at home or in the form of international agreements
- establishment of an executive "national innovation system" (i.e. the system of the creation, transfer and spreading of scientific and technical information to every sphere of the national economy.

The support of projects based on state policy needs to be exercised in a very sensitive manner, preferably through grant agencies.

We want to stipulate also the co-operation and division of work between universities and The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic as effectively as possible. As a task requiring on-going attention we want to see the increased provision of opportunities for scientific work at universities and other schools of this type. Only universities with a quality research background can provide the required level of university studies. Whereas science at universities is more universal, the Academy of Sciences is an institution for scholar research mainly in areas requiring either a narrow specialization or on the other hand the co-operation of many centres of various types of specializations. The co-operation of universities and institutions of the Academy of Sciences in the area of research and student education needs to be stimulated by common grant projects, co-ordination organization of post-graduate studies and temporary exchange of pedagogical and scientific workers between the two types of institutions.

We see the role of state support of specific goal-oriented research first of all to be in the creation of conditions for the development of projects bridging basic, applied and company research. The industry grant agency must play its role in this as well, but it will be necessary to increase their transparency.

Our urgent task is to stop the outflow of young - and also middle-aged - scholars into other areas. For that purpose it is necessary to at least double science funding in comparison with the current state grant and to increase the social prestige of science and research which would include the adequate evaluation of employees in this area.