



Visegrad Group Academies Forum
Warsaw, Staszic Palace
21-22 October 2013

MINUTES

The meeting of the representatives of the Visegrad Group Academies was held in the Staszic Palace in accordance with the adopted agenda (annex 1). The list of participants is attached (annex 2).

Participants of the Forum were welcomed by the Vice-President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Prof. Andrzej Górski. In his opening address the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Prof. Michał Kleiber, expressed his conviction that annual meetings of the four delegations are very important and that it is valuable to discuss things of common interest and share experience, to inform each other of the situation in each individual Academy and to try to find a common position on different issues.

EVALUATION SYSTEMS OF SCIENTIFIC UNITS IN V4 COUNTRIES

The evaluation system of research institutions in Poland was introduced briefly by Prof. Ewa Dahlig-Turek, Deputy Director, Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences who also performs the function of the member of the Committee for Evaluation of Scientific Units at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland. Periodical assessment of research institutions in Poland takes place every four years and applies to all research institutions which are (or want to be) financed from the state budget. The final goal of this assessment is to compare research institutions within respective disciplines and assign quality categories A+, A, B or C. As the category determines the level of financing, it is not the matter of prestige only. In order to organize and perform this action, the Minister of Science and Higher Education founded a Committee for Evaluation of Research Units. The basic task of the Committee was to elaborate a new system of reporting and scoring the research output. The system is based on four main criteria: published output, research potential,

material effects and special achievements. The published output is of top priority. The final result of the unit X evaluation are 4 scores – one for each criterion. Less than 4% of units got the prestigious A+ category, and 32% the A category. Almost 80% of the Polish Academy institutes got the highest categories A and A+.

The evaluation of the research network of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was presented by Prof. Gábor B. Makara. It should be mentioned that the HAS research network has recently undergone a thorough restructuring. There is no need for a formal evaluation, so far it is based on competition. Areas of evaluation include: publication output in high prestige scientific journals and by high prestige scientific publishers, citation metrics, grants from funders via competition, income from contract research, patents and other forms of intellectual property, participation in higher education, science in society activities. Evaluation of publications is based on classification, quality and formal criteria. Each institute in each research centre is evaluated separately as well as a part of the centre basing on data in the Hungarian Scientific Bibliography. The results are compared with the international performance criteria.

Prof. Daniela Ježová gave a presentation on the evaluation systems of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 2006, the reform of the evaluation system at the SAS took place. In 2009, a proposal to make a completely external evaluation system was put forward, a system which would be common for the Slovak Academy of Sciences, universities and other research institutions. It resulted in creation, in 2009, of a Committee for Preparation of Common Evaluation at the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic. Later on, due to the lack of success of the above committee, the evaluations were performed by an external agency - ARRA. In the years 2007 – 2011, new evaluation system was in place: 9 Accreditation Committees according to scientific disciplines were established, almost all their members were external – professors of Slovak universities and foreign experts. 8 criteria were taken into account, including scientific output, education and management. No remote reports in advance were accepted. The results of external evaluation undertaken by the ARRA were taken into consideration.

Evaluation system in force in the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR) was presented by Prof. Jiří Drahoš. The Czech system follows the example of the Multi-Criteria Evaluation Methodology based on the Dutch „Standard Evaluation Protocol 2003-2009 For Public Research Organization“ combined with selected aspects of the British RAE/REF. The evaluation covers not only the institutes but has been enlarged to include individual research units. There are external reviewers/experts for every institute/research unit. The five-point evaluation scale was elaborated basing on evaluation protocol of ESF and ALLEA. Among the evaluation tools applied in the system, the following ought to be mentioned: productivity & quality indicators derived from scientific databases: Thomson Reuters, SCOPUS, ERIH, ASEP (internal ASCR database of publications); indicator analyses of Thomson Reuters by Research Evaluation and Bibliometric Data Department for 2000-2008; Automated data collecting system for evaluations; Peer & Panel Review System. Evaluation criteria include: (i) quality of research (quality and number of results achieved, visibility and level of research, publication activity & indicator analyses, etc.); (ii) scientific collaboration (position of institute/research unit in both national and international research); (iii) prospects for the institution (significance and feasibility of research programme, outlook for the next quality increase, level of leading figures) and (iv)

additional activities (granting success, personal policy, popularization of research results, etc.). As far as evaluation process is concerned, it covers the following steps: (i) background materials provided by the relevant Institute; (ii) appointment of external reviewers/experts; (iii) preparation of profiles by evaluating committees on the basis of judgments of external reviewers/experts; (iv) sending evaluation proposal to director of institute; (v) on-site evaluation with participation of evaluating committee and external reviewers/experts and (vi) preparation of final Evaluation Protocol with detailed justification in each of its points. It ought to be emphasized that in 2015 a new round of periodic evaluation of research in the institutes of the ASCR will be performed.

At the end of this part of debates, Prof. Andrzej Pilc from the Institute of Pharmacology of the PAS presented conclusions of the conference “Scientific evaluation of research output of scientists and institutions” held in Warsaw on 9 April 2013.

“OPEN ACCESS” – VIEWS OF ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES AND RESEARCH COMMUNITIES IN V4 COUNTRIES

Introductory speech on this subject was made by Prof. Andrzej Górski who presented the joint position paper of the Presidium of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland and of the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences dated July 5, 2013 regarding the principles of open access to the content of scientific and educational publications. In the opinion of both bodies, the principle of introducing OA as a basic model of releasing scientific publications, introduced and supported by the European Commission, is a valuable initiative, advantageous to broadening the scope of scientific cooperation and the scale of using research results, in particular leading to creation of innovative solutions, and also ensuring the co-operation of community in formulating new research challenges. The obligation of member countries resulting from the recommendations of the European Commission to introduce the OA principle requires not only defining the chosen OA model, but also involves the need to adopt appropriate legal regulations and procedures necessary for its implementation. In order to make the process of introducing OA model successful, high scientific standard of such publishing houses and publications ought to be ensured, which should result in taking them into account while evaluating individual scientists and institutional scientific units. A repository procedure should be adopted as a preferable course of introducing the OA models and applying the rules of granting of non-exclusive publishing licences should be recommended to the authors of publications at the same time. Therefore, it is necessary to take coordinated actions leading to the implementation of a coherent system of repository solutions in Poland, designed for increasing the visibility of publications created in Poland, and to further development of the scope of applying open models in science and education. The KRASP Presidium and the PAS Presidium are willing to cooperate on the implementation of the OA model in Poland in reference to scientific and educational publications, declaring at the same time their support for the initiatives and programmes of government agendas and public administration connected with the OA model. In order to realize the presented standpoint, a joint Open Science Team is to be created, which is to play a coordinating role in regard to the activities aimed at implementing the OA principles in scientific and educational publications as well as other future initiatives associated with them.

Open access policy of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was presented by Prof. Gábor B. Makara. In accordance with the National Higher Education Act, introduced in Hungary, from 2013 open access is required to all PhD dissertations. As far as the Hungarian Academy of Sciences is concerned, in 2013 President's mandate of open access was adopted starting with manuscripts submitted in 2013. In addition, the bye-law on handling intellectual properties in the research network of the HAS is in force. The whole research network of the HAS is involved in this procedure.

There are 6 elements of the integrated OA programme conducted in the HAS: (i) mandate (detailed explanation/interpretation and dissemination campaign); (ii) repository of the Academy's Library: research papers; DSc theses; books; PhD theses orphan repository; (iii) support mechanisms; (iv) funding the transition to open access; (v) monitoring via Hungarian Scientific Bibliography (MTMT); (vi) measures to enforce and/or reward compliance.

Among the problems to be solved, Prof. G. Makara mentioned the following: (i) financial issues, including the need to negotiate open access fees and/or embargo periods with large publishing houses, funding constructions for the transition to Gold Open Access, moving national journal subscription budgets to open access costs; (ii) propagating open access to other Hungarian research institutions; (iii) inclusion of the national policy makers on open access in the research strategy of the Hungarian Government and (iv) open data policy development.

Dr. Richard Imrich reported that there was no consensus on open access, neither at the Slovak Academy of Sciences nor in the country in general. This topic has been widely discussed and there is a variety of opinions: researchers representing life and technological sciences support golden route or green one, whereas scholars engaged in humanities, social sciences and the arts are in favour of the traditional approach. Dr. R. Imrich informed that this issue would be raised and discussed by the Presidium of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and its conclusions will be shared with a respective ministry.

Concluding this part of debates, Dr. Hana Sychrová stressed that a fundamental part of the mission of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR) was to ensure that the published work of its scientists could be read and utilised by the widest possible audience. To this end, the ASCR became a signatory of the Berlin Declaration of 2008. In 2009, the Academy adopted the following OA policy:

- „each Academy employee grants the ASCR a non-exclusive permission in legal terms to make available his or her scholarly articles in any medium“;
- „this policy applies to all scholarly and professional articles written while the person is an employee of the Academy“.

The institutes of the ASCR are obliged to provide the ASCR Library copies of their works, such as published scientific articles, books or book chapters, presentations, reports or pedagogical materials. In 2010 the ASCR created the Fund for Gold OA publishing authors, with an annual subsidy CZK 1,000,000 (€ 40,000). Maximum foreseen support per article amounts to CZK 25,000 (€ 1,000). Grants available only for the ASCR authors. Since 1993 the Academy of Sciences Library has coordinated data collection of publications and results of basic research at ASCR institutes. It contains 220.000 records. In 2012, it was transformed into Institutional Repository

of the ASCR. There are two forms of entry into the Repository: “open access” and “request a copy”.

In the discussion that followed under this item, the participants emphasized that further consultation requires the complex matter of “open access” to the so called “raw” scientific data - whether they should be shared before or after the publication. It was also stressed that the need to assure a high quality of peer reviewers in order to avoid the appearance of false or not verified data is of great significance.

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION IN ENERGY SECTOR

Prof. Wojciech Nowak, Committee of Energy Problems of PAS, started his presentation by pointing out that energy innovation should be understood as Research vs. Innovation: research – uses money to create knowledge but innovation – uses knowledge to create commercial value. Innovation refers to both technology innovation and policy innovation.

It should be stressed that about 27% of the overall power generation in the EU is provided by coal fired power plants. Continued technology innovation is needed for coal to remain competitive. The European Commission is calling for increased ambition in EU climate legislation, namely a 25% CO₂ reduction in 2020, at least 80 percent in 2050 both reductions referring to the 1990 level. The world-wide primary energy demand will increase by approx. 30% in the next the 20 years. Poland plans to meet the 2020 EU emission targets by introducing atomic energy in almost equal measure with renewables as well as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Poland relies on carbon-intensive coal for more than 90 percent of its electricity. It blocked an EU declaration on climate policies and has repeatedly said it would oppose any more stringent climate policies than those already agreed. The solution to this problem might be as follows: CCS applied to a modern conventional power plant could reduce the CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere by approximately 80-90% compared to a plant without CCS. In the opinion of Prof. W. Nowak, without CCS, fossil fuels have no future. This is the only solution for energy production, cement industry, metallurgy, etc. This applies to all fuels, not only to coal.

Dr. Eva Majková reported briefly that about 50% of the energy production in Slovakia came from nuclear plants. It is not based on coal like in Poland. Dr. Majková mentioned the initiative to be discussed among V4 countries to develop a 4th generation nuclear power generator. Research on energy in Slovakia focuses on biomass and other waste for energy production, renewable energy resources and solar energy. The Slovak Academy of Sciences takes part in a number of projects dedicated to the above areas, such as: electrical energy production, utilization and storage from alternative resources, thermal energy from alternative energy resources, preparation of the demonstration of the smartgrid, effective management of energy consumption.

Prof. Domokos Szász emphasized that Hungary had no coal and that the primary source of energy in this country was nuclear energy. Four years ago, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences established a Committee of Energy Policy which developed analyses that are used by the Hungarian government. The Academy institutes actively

cooperate with industrial companies in the field of nuclear energy. One of the examples is the Atomic Energy Plant in Paks.

The last speaker under this item of debates – Prof. Jan Kiciński, a corresponding member of the PAS, and a member of the Committee on Machine Building of the PAS and Deputy Director of the Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery of the PAS presented currently constructed “Energy-plus” Research Centre of the PAS in Jabłonna near Warsaw.

This research centre is intended to be a laboratory base in which the Institute of Fluid-flow Machinery of the Polish Academy of Sciences will conduct research and cooperate with other centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences, universities, R&D entities as well as with the leading companies of the energy sector. The Centre is also interested in cooperation with scientific institutions based in countries of the Visegrád Group.

The Centre is designed as a research and technological facility for the Mazowieckie Voivodship and the northwest part of Poland, with the perspective of creating the so-called “Autonomous Energetic Regions”, aiming to assure energetic safety. One of the main objectives of the Centre is to conduct research on new sources of renewable energy and on energy conversion.

Research interests of the Centre focus on:

- New technologies of energy and heat production;
- Cogeneration of energy obtained from different sources;
- Methods of heat storage and waste heat utilisation;
- Standardisation of measurement methods in distributed energy generation;
- Certification methods in renewable energy generation;
- Rationalisation of energy consumption and implementation of smart-grid systems for intelligent houses and “Autonomous Energetic Regions”;
- Integration of different energy production technologies (solar cells, wind turbines, biomass boilers, heat pumps, fuel cells) in small community scale power plants.

The Centre would be interested in the cooperation in the following research topics:

- Micro Plus-Energy Technologies for houses and public buildings (CHP Power Plus);
- New advanced technologies of storing energy from different sources;
- Rationalisation of energy consumption by applying cogeneration and intelligent systems of monitoring (smart-grid systems) and control in houses as well as agricultural and industrial premises.

Prof. Michał Kleiber invited the V4 Academies to cooperate with the Centre. Following the requests expressed by the participants, the Polish Academy of Sciences will soon send out detailed proposals regarding possible joint activities to the V4 Partners.

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

Professor Andrzej Górski informed the participants that ethics in science is one of the priorities of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He reported that in 2010

the Commission on Research Integrity of the Polish Academy of Sciences had been established. Its main tasks include:

- 1) expressing opinions on issues regarding infringements of research integrity principles by an employee of a university, a scientific unit of Academy or a research institute, in particular in relation to procedures conducted by disciplinary committees;
- 2) based on its own initiative - referring issues regarding infringements of research integrity principles by an employee of a university, a scientific unit of Academy and research institute to appropriate disciplinary committees with a recommendation to conduct an investigation procedure;
- 3) conducting activities aimed at disseminating the reliability standards of research;
- 4) working out the code of ethics for researchers.

In 2012, the above Commission elaborated the "Code of Ethics for Researchers". It is based on the document entitled "The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity", which was published in 2010 as a model document to be used while creating individual codes by the European Union countries after a long-term joint work of the European Science Foundation (ESF) and All European Academies (ALLEA). The following documents were also used: "Good practice of scientific research. Recommendations" by the Team for Ethics in Science, State Committee for Scientific Research (2000) and "Good manners in science. A set of principles and guidelines" by the Commission on Research Integrity, Polish Academy of Sciences (2001).

It should be mentioned that the above "Code of Ethics for Researchers" was approved by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education and recommended to be used by all scientific institutions in Poland.

Prof. A. Górski concluded his presentation with putting forward a suggestion of joining the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO), with which the Polish Academy of Sciences cooperates.

In his comments to Prof. A. Górski's presentation, Dr. Dušan Gálik emphasised that research integrity and responsible conduct in science were among the most important issues that the Slovak Academy of Sciences is engaged in. It is currently working on a conduct that would provide the scientists with clear and reasonable explanation of respective rules which they should treat as an inherent part of research work. Dr. D. Gálik also stressed that while striving at creating a European Research Area one should be aware that the codes, varying in each country, should be based on mutual values, common for diverse areas of science and comparable for different countries. Dr. D. Gálik added that the main problem in this field at the SAS was not the infringement of law, but interpersonal relations. Unlike the situation in this respect in Poland, the code that the Slovak Academy of Science is working on will be addressed to the researchers employed in the Academy.

Prof. Gábor Makara informed the participants that within the structures of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences there existed a special committee dealing with ethics in science. In 2010, it elaborated a code of ethics. Basically it is in force in the HAS, but some universities have accepted it as well and so did the Hungarian Research Fund (OTKA).

Prof. Jiří Drahoš reported that in the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, a similar ethical code existed since 2012. It was elaborated basing on the codes obtained from the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Max-Planck Society and ALLEA.

BIOETHICAL ISSUES RELATING TO ASSISTED PROCREATION

Prof. Zbigniew Szawarski, Chairman of the Committee for Bioethics of the Polish Academy of Sciences gave a presentation on “Bioethics and Assisted Procreation in Poland”. He pointed out, among others, that Poland has no law regulating the IVF practice. The European Commission gave Poland 2 months for providing information concerning the current state of legal regulations of the IVF. If Poland fails to do it, the issue will be considered by the European Court of Justice. There is a prospect of severe penalties. The Polish controversy over the IVF is strongly political and involves several types of arguments. The main reason for a present deadlock is the clash between the SACRUM and the PROFANUM. The society must learn how to navigate and make rational decisions when the majority in Parliament cannot be confident of their victory in the ballot. Prof. Z. Szawarski concluded his presentation sharing with the audience the following moral message *“It is better to exist due to the IVF than not to exist at all. If infertility is a form of evil, then all people of good will...”*

Referring to Prof. Z. Szawarski’s speech, Prof. Jaromír Pastorek said that in Slovakia, the IVF had been approved 15 years ago. There are neither any scientific or ethical problems connected with this issue nor any national debate. The IVF is covered in Slovakia by public health insurance (till 39 years of age).

Prof. Gábor Makara described briefly the situation in Hungary. The IVF has been in use for many years. The main problems are the arguments between the IVF providers. There is a debate among gynaecologists, but it does not spill over to the society. Genetic interventions during the IVF procedures are not legal, but also not forbidden. They can happen mainly in the research phase and any research on human requires permission of the special ethical committee.

Dr. Hana Sychrová commented that in the Czech Republic the IVF procedures had been widely and successfully used both in public and private clinics. There is no national debate on it, however, some secondary problems have emerged such as: should single mothers or homosexual be eligible for the IVF procedures.

INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ALLEA

Prof. Daniela Ježová, who currently performs the function of ALLEA Vice-President, gave a brief speech on this topic. She informed the audience that new presidency of ALLEA had been active for a year. It introduced several new measures. The most important one concerns the revised membership dues system, which is almost ready and will be subject to approval by the ALLEA General Assembly to be held April 2014 in Oslo. Worth mentioning is also the new ALLEA prize “All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values”. Prof. D. Ježová encouraged the V4 Academies to be in touch with her for any issues connected with the activities of ALLEA.

JAPAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (JST) – V4 ACADEMIES COLLABORATION

Dr. Eva Majková and Prof. Jaromír Pastorek reported about establishing the cooperation with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) in the field of materials science. In July 2013 the workshop organized by the SAS and the JST was held in Bratislava. It was a great success. The following is worth mentioning the International Visegrad Fund got engaged in this cooperation and the JST is interested in establishing ties with the V4 Academies either on a multilateral or a bilateral basis. All the V4 Academies are strongly encouraged to enter into this cooperation, which will possibly be extended to other scientific branches.

THE DANUBE STRATEGY IN COMPARISON WITH THE BALTIC STRATEGY

Prof. Jaromír Pastorek gave a presentation on the above topic.

The Danube Strategy Member Countries are as follows: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia; the Accession Countries: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Neighbourhood Countries: Moldova, Ukraine.

The Baltic Sea Strategy covers eight countries: Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland as well as three neighbouring countries: Russia, Norway and Belarus. The Strategy aims at bringing together initiatives in different sectors (growth, sustainable development etc.) as well as promoting cooperation between stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region. The Strategy is divided into three objectives: saving the sea, connecting the region and increasing prosperity.

It is worth mentioning that - within the Danube Strategy - an official document was launched entitled "The Scientific Support to the Danube Strategy". This initiative focuses on four vertical priorities which are considered to be of vital importance for the Danube region: environmental protection, navigability, irrigation and agriculture development and energy production.

In the Danube Strategy, Slovakia (Ministry of Education, Research and Sports) and Serbia (University Novi Sad) are coordinating Priority Area 7 „Knowledge-based society“.

There are ideas and attempts to find links and synergies between the two strategies, mainly with a view to Horizon 2020, but still there are priority discrepancies. As far as EU Structural Funds are concerned, the focus is on Smart Specialisation strategies, which in case of Slovakia covers the promotion of innovations in ICT as well as nanotechnologies, biomedicine and biomaterials, progressive materials. Slovakia up to now does not have any flagship project in this endeavour.

Concluding his presentation Prof. J. Pastorek raised two very important questions: what should we do with the Baltic Strategy? And do we need this kind of strategy? In Prof. J. Pastorek's opinion, the response is as follows: too much politics in it and good ideas are missing.

Prof. Jiří Drahoš supported Prof. J. Pastorek comments. The Czech experiences in this respect are very similar. Prof. J. Drahoš stressed that, indeed, it is a very strange initiative with no funding, no institutional structure, etc. Without any financial stimulus, it is pointless to engage in the Danube Strategy.

Prof. D. Szász pointed out that the Hungarian Academy of Sciences had put forward a proposal to establish a Joint Structural Database. He encouraged the V4 Academies to undertake joint efforts to carry out this initiative.

ACADEMIES OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS

The presentation on this topic was made by Prof. Bartosz Karaszewski, the Chairman of the Young Academy.

The Young Academy was established on the basis of the Act on the Polish Academy dated 30 April 2010 in order to promote research and development works carried out by outstanding young representatives of Polish science. The specific rules for the election of members and bodies of the Young Academy, the scope of its operation and organizational structure are defined by the Statutes of the Academy. The Young Academy comprises not more than 10 % of the statutory number of national members of the Academy.

The tasks of the Young Academy comprise acting in favour of the activation of the milieu of the young research employees, and in particular:

- 1) presentation of opinions and programmes related to research issues,
- 2) organization of debates, discussions, research conferences aimed at discussing significant problems of the represented research discipline or the associated disciplines,
- 3) dissemination of the results of the activity specified in item 2,
- 4) drawing up opinions and scientific evaluations concerning the represented research discipline or the associated disciplines,
- 5) dissemination of the ethical standards among young scholars.

Selection procedures of the Young Academy members are as follows:

- primarily based on scientific achievements / scientific excellence,
- a multi-step selection procedure,
- candidates preselected within Polish scientific and higher education institutions, or by boards of distinguished senior scientists,
- further careful assessments by the most prominent senior researchers within scientific disciplines (divisions of the Polish Academy of Sciences),
- final decisions made by the General Assembly of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The structure of the Young Academy:

- 1) General Meeting,
- 2) the Chairman,
- 3) working groups,
- 4) advisory committees, representatives.

The Young Academy Working groups:

- Early Scientific Career in Poland – diagnosis and improvements
- Promotion and Development of the Young Academy
- Young Scientists Mobility – solutions for Poland

Prof. D. Szász informed the participants that there was no similar academy in Hungary. He gave a brief information on the special HAS programme for young scientists called “Momentum”. This programme is aimed, among others, at fighting brain-drain among young talented researchers, providing young talents with an opportunity to create their own research group and responsibility in realizing their own research goals, introducing new research topics to revitalize the thematic renewal of the research network, promoting the culture of excellent science - in the research network of the Academy and throughout the country and increasing the competitiveness of research institutes and research groups on an international level.

Researchers can be funded under this programme both at research centres of the HAS and at universities.

Successful “Momentum” programme participants receive:

- independence in setting up their own research groups and the possibility to follow their research goals for 5 years,
- salaries comparable to Western standards,
- support for the improvement of their research infrastructure,
- continuous funding of the costs of their research activities,
- if the research group is reaching its goals, the funding may continue after the expiration of the 5-year granting period as well (only at the research institutes of the Academy).

Dr. Daniela Ježová reported that there was no Academy of Young Scientists within the structure of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. However, there are several initiatives in which young talented scientists have been active. One of them is the “Interactive conference of young researchers“ devoted to selected topics of chemical and natural sciences.

Prof. J. Drahoš informed that there was no Academy of Young Scientists in the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic since there are no academicians in the Academy itself. Moreover, young scholars who were consulted on this matter decided not to establish any young academy in the Czech Republic. Prof. J. Drahoš added that the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic also had special programmes addressed to young scientists.

Visegrad Group Academies Young Researcher Award 2013 ***Agricultural sciences***

Four national winners of the annual competition organised by the V4 Academies briefly presented their work, scientific interests and future plans.

Dr. Petr HLAVINKA, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Agrometeorological conditions in central Europe - past present future

Dr. Viktoria MAJLATHOVA, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Ecology of ticks and tick borne pathogens

Dr. Miklós GYURANECZ, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Tularemia in animals

Dr. Karolina SUSEK, Polish Academy of Sciences
(presentation of research achievements)

The Presidents of the four Academies awarded the winners with diplomas.

The participants, following a brief discussion, agreed that *applied mathematics* will be the field of the 2014 Visegrad Group Academies Young Researcher Award.

Prof. M. Kleiber, concluding the Forum, thanked all participants for their presence and stressed the importance of personal meetings enabling the exchange of ideas and tightening of the links between the V4 Academies. Prof. M. Kleiber offered the possibility to use the Academy's foreign research centres, especially the newly established centre in Kiev. In Prof. M. Kleiber's opinion, it would be useful to involve our Ukrainian colleagues in the V4 activities in the future.

Attachments: 1. V4 Academies Forum agenda
 2. List of participants