

# Minutes

## V4 Academies Forum in Prague, 24-25 April 2006

The representatives of the Visegrád Academies of Sciences met in Prague on 24-25 April 2006 at the invitation of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

The debates were organized according to the adopted programme.

### 1/ European Institute of Technology (EIT), Janusz Lipkowski

The EIT should be an autonomous organization promoting an innovative, integrated and interdisciplinary approach to pressing needs in education and research with priorities in nanotechnology and information. It will pool excellent resources originating from universities.

The delegation of PAS proposed that the Wroclaw Technology Institute could host EIT. The EIT may function as a network of working groups.

### 2/ European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), Karel Jungwirth

The ESFRI was launched in 2002 and so far three conferences were held. It is not a body which fits to European structures; its members are senior policy makers and the top scientists.

The ESFRI wants to propose a coherent policy concerning research infrastructure. V4 countries are the regions where the money for research infrastructure should also be allocated. Without the best quality infrastructure the EU will lose not only to the US but also to China and India. Europe needs not just new infrastructures but to upgrade the old ones too, therefore it prepares a roadmap with specific projects. The projects are often interdisciplinary, serving diverse working groups. A final decision about the roadmap is still to be made.

### 3/ European Science Foundation (ESF), EUROHORCS, EURYI, Josef Syka

The membership in the ESF covers nearly all EU countries; we should consider whether to extend it to other countries such as Ukraine. The annual budget is 41mil €; the staff totals 128 members.

Instruments: Exploratory Workshops, EUROCORES (peer review to ensure the high quality is essential), Networking Programmes, Research Conferences (high profile framework for scientific discussion), EURYI etc. The EUROHORCS is an organization where even small academies can influence development in science policy. Discussion on the ESF dealt with the role of its Executive Board. Special attention was paid to the relation of the ESF to the ERC.

### 4/ International Council for Science ICSU, Jan Vondrák

The ICSU is a forum for international science and policy strategy, promotes and coordinates research, advocates freedom in research, helps to create international networks and maintain relationships with other international bodies, e.g., UNESCO. ICSU is not a scientific union or a grant agency. It was created 1931 and all V4 Academies are founding members. Presently, it has 104 full and 29 associated members. In addition to the headquarters, it also has regional offices.

Major strategic activities: planning and coordinating research, global environmental research, energy, human health, new scientific horizons, etc. Recent activities: strengthening the universality of science, data and information, intellectual property, science and society, responsibility for the conduct of science.

5/ Summer Schools for Young Scientists, Andrzej B. Legocki

There were three schools of this kind last year and this year three other conferences are planned by PAS.

The HAS will organize several summer schools, too. It was agreed that it seems to be important to spread the information concerning the summer schools organized by the V4 Academies among them.

6/ Young Researcher Award in Structural and Evolutionary Biology

For the second time four outstanding young researchers from the Visegrád Academies received awards. J. Drahoš introduced these researchers and their studies:

David Sedmera (ACSR) presented his study: *Achievements in the field of cardiovascular developmental morphology; comparative cardiovascular morphology and physiology*, dealing with function of the heart in different animal models.

Péter Takács (HAS) presented his study entitled: *Ichthyological Research on Foothill and Lowland Situated Watercourses in Hungary*, which concerned genetic differences among species in diverse geographical location.

Janusz Marek Bujnicki (PAS) presented his work: *Protein Structure Prediction and Evolution of Restriction Enzymes and Other Nucleases*, which deals with molecular genetics, specifically with evolution of enzymes.

Markéta Derdáková (SAS) presented her work: *Diversity of Borrelia Bugdorferi S.L. and Members of Family Anaplasmataceae in I. Ricinus Ticks*, on emerging bacterial pathogens circulated by ticks.

The award includes active participation in a top-level European scientific conference, the cost of which will be covered by the home Academy.

7/ CEJSH, evaluation of the Journal (2004-2006), L'ubomír Falt'an

The independent experts have positively evaluated CEJSH as a low-cost (total 15 000 EUR, substantially co-financed by IVF), a rapidly developing (ca 2400 English abstracts recorded) e-journal increasing international visibility of papers published in V4 countries, constantly growing number of the CEJSH web-page visitors amounting to 37 000 per month. It was suggested to make an agreement on transliteration of surnames and other matters.

It was decided, therefore, to continue and support the CEJSH activities; its extension to neighbour countries e.g. Ukraine, Latvia, Moldova is encouraged as well. The efforts of the CEJSH Editorial Board led by Doctor J. Kornacki aimed at the journal development are highly appreciated. The representatives of V4 Academies declared their consensus to continue participation in the project.

8/ 2<sup>nd</sup> World Science Forum (Budapest 2005), Attila Meskó

Inspired by the success and the impact of the World Conference on Science in 1999, HAS, in partnership with UNESCO and ICSU, established a conference series on science with the title World Science Forum. The first WSF in 2003 put emphasis on dialogue: *Knowledge and Society*". The second World Science Forum during November 2005 focussed on "Knowledge, ethics and responsibility".

Scientists, politicians, businessmen and decision-makers have a common task to reduce the gap between knowledge and society. The scientific approach should consider also the ethical aspects. The ethical problems may be truly global in scale and, in some cases, unprecedented in character. For these reasons, the social responsibilities and ethical dimensions of science deserve renewed attention. Science has the potential to change the world for the better and to make human life satisfying and happy. Scientists have the moral duty of making sure that knowledge is used properly, keeping in mind that inappropriate use of science has negative effects, and creates ethical problems.

Promotion of dialogue and cooperation not only between South–North, but also e.g. South-South, with the business world and with the young generation, was a notable success of the Forum.

*Investing in Science – Investing in the Future* will be the topic of the next WSF in 2007. The V4 representatives are all welcome there.

#### 9/ Frontiers of Science, Andrzej Legocki

The president of the PAS reported on the UK-V4 Frontiers of Science meeting which will be organized in February 2007. A schedule of preparations to the Frontiers of Science was presented to the participants. The next organizational meeting will take place on 22 June 2006 in Prague. The following persons form tentatively the organizing committee: C. Mundell (UK), P. Španěl (CZ), M. Konacki (PL), J. Jaworski (PL), N. Žilka (SK), and G. Woener (HU), R. Kyska (SK), coordinators: R. Cooper (UK), P. Gierycz (PL).

It was stated that the scientific disciplines of the FoS meeting are not defined clearly. There were also questions concerning the procedures upon which the members of the organizational committee had been nominated, as well, as the rules of nominating the participants.

#### 10/ Preparation of a Common Document and Creation of the Visegrád Academies websites

Conclusions of the V4 Academies meeting will be published in a common declaration (enclosed). The declaration, signed by presidents of the Academies, will be addressed to the presidents of our republics and other top politicians. The major topics of it are: 7FP, CIP, EIT, ERC.

Another means of communication will be the V4 internet website. The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic will be responsible for launching the website. Each of the V4 Academies should deliver the information for the website, previously accepted by the Academy's President, to J. Palouš who will coordinate its construction. The deadline for sending the information is the end of May. Each Academy will nominate a person responsible for the V4 website. One of the items for the website will be the common declaration as above and CEJSH. The name of the website will be *Visegrád Academies*.

#### 11/ European Security Research Advisory Board, Štefan Luby

The ESRAB is a part of the FP7. Border security, antiterrorism, crisis management etc. are the main areas of research. It also involves research in psychology, social sciences, as well as in information technologies, nanotechnology, cryptography, decontamination, and power resources. The roadmap, visions will be prepared in the coming months, as well as development of ideas and ethics. Professor Luby consented to report on the work of the ESRAB to the V4 Academies.

12/ European Research Council, Pavel Exner

The ERC mission is to help European science to reach top status. It has to promote new technical ideas and prevent the brain drain. The ERC has currently 22 members from all over Europe. It has already elected its officers, who have been functioning since October, representing all fields of science.

The ERC has sought to establish contacts with all member countries and national agencies; however, it is not representative of national academies but of scientists. The budget is set at 300-350 million €; The ERC can afford several hundreds of grants for the top scientists; the criterion would be *excellence just excellence*. Evaluation is all in the hands of the ERC; there are 15 topic panels each with respected members. Grants can be allocated to single individuals or to a team composed from scientists of several EU countries. Two programmes are emerging: a) Rising Stars: Early Stage Investigators - since 2007; b) Stars: Leading Investigators – since 2008.

13/ Charter and Codex for Researchers, Helena Illnerová

The ASCR has established the Committee for Ethics in Research. The Ethical Code of Researchers in the Academy was recently approved by the General Assembly of the ASCR. When preparing the Code, the Committee was inspired, besides other relevant materials, also by the Good Manners in Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The Code is also in agreement with the European Charter for Researchers. Ethical codes in research are necessary for inspiring confidence in science and for serving as good examples of scientific behaviour for students and young researchers. It is the management of science which should implement ethical codes and the European Charter for Researchers to prevent any misconduct in research.

14/ “Between West and East: Four national narratives in Central Europe”

Participants of the Forum agreed to conduct a project of a joint publication by the V4 Academies concerning the history of Central Europe, as mentioned above. An idea was raised to invite Austrian scientists to the project but it was finally rejected in the discussion.

J. Syka invited representatives of the V4 Academies for a conference on peer review system to be held in 12-13 October in Prague.

Štefan Luby (SAS) invited representatives of the V4 Academies for the next Forum to be held in April 2007 in Bratislava.