

ED 4 – Team Work

(Compose as a team for a real or imaginary institution the recommendations for developing and improving the R&D&I strategy, policy and practices.)

In our opinion we have found a very interesting article which will be and will become very important for the Austrian Education System und we would like to present it to you.

✚ This article was published on 25th of March, 2011 / science.orf.at
(ORF = public television in Austria)

✚ Link: <http://science.orf.at/stories/1679678/>

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“Research & Development expenses are supposed to increase at about 192 million Euros”

The Austrian Federal Government intends to increase the research-quota by 1 percentage to 3.76 % in total. Therefore the public expenses for research and development should increase by 192 million Euros annually to succeed.

The private expenses even should increase by 373 million Euros – all these figures were presented in a model calculation from the “Rat für Forschung und Technologieentwicklung (RFT)” => Austrian Council for Research and Technology Development.

“Otherwise the aim for the year 2020 will become an illusion”

RFT-Manager Hannes Androsch stated in an interview with APA (Austrian Press Agency) the following: “We empathically point out that the financial support for the research path has to be enhanced because it’s neither possible to buy research-infrastructure off-the-shelf in supermarkets nor to demand qualified staff from AMS.” (AMS = Arbeitsmarkt-service => job centre in Austria)

All activities etc. need an appropriate lead time and all necessary steps have to be included in the budget calculations of the next three years, otherwise the aim for 2020 will become an illusion explained Hannes Androsch particularly with regard to the upcoming budget discussions for the years 2012 to 2015.

Cost transparency will be challenged

In this particular case chairman Hannes Androsch furthermore referred to the planned financing of university places on all Austrian institutions of higher education. It’s necessary that on the one hand the financing is based on capacity-analysis and on the other hand on full costs accounting of the universities. “These full costs accounting will bring to light for sure that it’s not true that 46 % of the whole university-expenses will run into research and development but not even the half”, Androsch underlined.

It means that the rate of research would incur a loss and this loss has to be compensated, Androsch said. The background of this warning is e. g. that at present 46 % of the costs for a garage building of a university are classified with the research spending.

Structural reform project “Austria 2050”

The council, which was new combined last year, had decided its operational programme. The council wants to control the implementation of the strategy of research and it will have a focus on the availability of human resources, efficiency increase of the investment in research and the new project “Austria 2050”.

In the context of the federal strategy of research the council demands again a “Roadmap” for the implementation and it demands a clear authority. The council aims for a close cooperation with the “Task Force Research” (this is an executive agency of the Federal Government) and the council hopes for an early beginning of the work.

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