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Conclusions and recommendations:

For the V4 countries to be competitive in the European Research Area, the following measures are proposed:

- to maintain the critical mass of research as a vital condition at both national and regional levels
- to support networking as a new approach to perform research and to use the high performance local area communication networks and broadband European backbone (LAN-GEANT) for this goal
- to strengthen the national funding, organization and policies for basic and applied research
- to improve the national scientific infrastructure and to use, among others, also the EU structural funds towards this goal
- to establish local/national research centers of excellence and to strengthen the existing ones
- to make efforts to reach improved public understanding for basic research and technological development
- to provide the necessary support for preparing high-quality project proposals and to create matching funds for participation in EU research activities
- to increase the global support of R&D to a least 2% of the GDP until 2006
- to promote the increase in private sector contribution to overall R&D support to 50-70%
- to suppress/decrease the brain drain by gradually raising the researchers' salaries at least to 60% of the average EU level
- to reach at least 30% growth in R&D jobs over the next 5 years
- to facilitate the creation of a shared database of EU-granted projects
- to promote new high-technology spin-off companies to provide well-paid jobs which are networked with the regional knowledge centers