

November 24-25, 2002 – Mátraháza, Hungary

The Mátraháza meeting of the Academies of the V4 countries concentrated its discussion on possible common actions and problems associated with the start-up of the 6th Framework Programme and other actual issues of European science policy.

The participants emphasized the importance of the following recommendations:

- In order to reach an acceptable level of competitiveness also a part of EU structural funds should be spent on research infrastructure.
- The broadband electronic network is the basic instrument of cooperation and therefore it should be kept on the highest possible level.
- Since by 2010 an average 3% of national GDP-s should be spent on R&D, plan should be adopted for the stepwise increase of national funding in the V4 countries, too.
- The European Research Council should be established as soon as possible. The next meeting of the V4 Academies should come up with concrete proposals with harmonized interest on a detailed recommendation. It was agreed that the ERC should be a bottom-up agency with only one priority: excellence, and should be built up in a stepwise process.
- The V4 Academies should consider regional R&D programmes in the spirit of Article 169.
- The possibility to open up some of the projects of the V4 Academies for each other prior to a Europe-wide opening should be discussed (after an exchange of ideas in correspondence) in one of the next meetings.
- To reach an acceptable level of competitiveness within European R&D programmes matching fund mechanisms should be found.
- The Academies of V4 countries decided to consider the issue of sustainable development in their future joint agenda.