



Zagreb – Vukovar, 15 – 19 November 2004

1ST CONGRESS OF CROATIAN SCIENTISTS FROM THE HOMELAND AND ABROAD

CONCLUSIONS

NATURAL SCIENCES

- 1) To introduce international criteria to evaluate projects and scientists and to introduce prioritised topics within each science field. Evaluation in natural sciences is to be conducted through reviews by foreign critics (Croatian scientists from abroad and foreign scientists) with the use of bibliometric indicators. The co-ordination of evaluation procedures will be conducted by a special commission consisting of renown scientists from Croatia who are beyond any conflict of interest.

- 2) Suitable criteria need to be set for each science field for evaluation based on the opinion of Croatia's exceptional scientists for each relevant field, keeping in mind evaluation methods practised around the world. In order for evaluation of science projects to have any sense and affect, the number of projects to be approved for financing in a determined interval should be much less than the number of projects proposed. Only in this way can selectivity be achieved and increased financing for those projects considered by exceptional experts as the best.

- 3) To call on the public media, particularly Croatian RadioTelevision (HRT) to pay more attention directed towards creating a positive social climate, which is vital for development, based on science, education and culture. Without these, transition would continue much longer and would not succeed.

- 4) To open possibilities for Croatian scientists from abroad to participate in combined science projects in Croatia, to participate as mentors for doctoral dissertations in Croatia and to participate in commissions to deliberate on doctoral dissertations.

- 5)** To support the initiative for young scientists to be granted appropriate start up funding for science research after post-graduate studies.

- 6)** To advance the participation of Croatian scientists from abroad to include Croatian scientists in international projects and to lobby around the world. This includes systematic lobbying in the homeland so that funding comes closer to EU standards (expressed in percentages of the state budget) and that political support from parties do not remain merely as declarations.

- 7)** In a small country with modest funding like Croatia, strategy defining should be divided into two levels: on the one hand compatibility with research fields that are current focal points to be included into combined projects with the European Union and on the other, a wider spectre of research with a decreased intensity on a world level.

- 8)** We wish to leave available space for continued expansion of these initiatives following additional proposals from Croatian scientists in the country and abroad.

Davor Pavuna, PhD

Academic Vladimir Paar