

1ST CONGRESS OF CROATIAN SCIENTISTS FROM THE HOMELAND AND ABROAD

CONCLUSIONS

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Accepting the Declaration and the attitudes contained within, particularly those relating to co-operation between Croatian sciences in the homeland and abroad, in its conclusions, the Social Science Section emphasises the following specificities in social sciences:

1. General, social sciences in the Republic of Croatia, regardless of the fact that they produced renowned scientists and scientific results, indicate a falling behind in relation to social sciences in the world. A certain level of neglect exists towards social sciences in the Republic of Croatia.
2. The reasons for the backwardness are objective (specificity that thwarts comparison). Systematic reasons exist too. Political (state, regional or local) criteria have not always allowed the optimal utilisation of the network of science organisations.
3. The national character of social sciences is its wealth and advantage but also their problem. This in particular relates to value criteria. It is necessary to identify value criteria that will respect the specificity of social sciences, enable international comparison and the application of the criteria of excellence.
4. We stress the need for social research both fundamental and applied. Distinct from other disciplines where we can wait for others to solve certain problems and then just apply these solutions, in the field of social sciences this is not possible.
5. We draw attention to the poor perception of science in the wider public, particularly of social sciences. We call on public institutions to motivate the public media to popularise science and achievements in science.
6. We call on the economy when developing investment, to recognise the significance of social sciences in the economy.
7. The efficiency of science, particularly applied in real social relations is a value, but not the only one. Ethics, sociality and humanity are values that social sciences must promote in particular.

8. The education system, based on the autonomy of universities, other scientific organisations and scientists need to respect the specificity of social sciences. There can be no tertiary education without a good quality elementary and secondary education system. In addition to high technology and computerisation, we call for the revival of the book as the fundamental source of knowledge.
9. Participants involved in the Section proposed a series of conclusions directed to advancing social sciences. Some of these are highlighted:
 - The need for better communication between scientists, particularly the Croatian Scientists' Portal;
 - We stress the need for an inter-disciplinary approach, not just between social sciences but in relation to other science fields too;
 - As part of the development of specific knowledge and its evaluation, we expect special attention for junior scientists. There has been thought to introducing a State Examination as a method of ensuring a higher standard of knowledge and advancement;
 - The so-called 'brain drain' which we perceive as an incorrect form of co-operation between the homeland and immigration, needs to be replaced with so-called 'brain circulation', a process of interaction of domestic and foreign intelligence.

The Section paid particular attention to discussing VUKOVAR - the heroic city and surrounds, where the destruction of the war left the deepest trail. We call on the relevant state bodies to ensure the complete development of this region: economic, demographic and cultural. We expect the relevant state bodies to assist with the revival of institutions. We expect the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports to set up an appropriate network of educational and science organisation in that area.