

# Visegrad Group Academies Forum

11-13 September 2018  
Château Liblice  
Czech Republic

## MINUTES

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The meeting of the representatives of the Visegrad Group Academies in 2018 was held on 11-13 September in Chateau Liblice. V4 Forum of 2018 extended the invitation to the President of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the representatives of Royal Society. The meeting took place in accordance with the adopted agenda (annex 2). The list of participants is attached (annex 1).

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Participants opened the meeting by having a dinner on Tuesday 11. 9. 2018 at 18:00 at Château Liblice. The meeting day around the table was on Wednesday 12. 9. 2018.

### **President's Welcome and Approval the Agenda**

The President of the hosting the Czech Academy of Sciences Prof. Eva Zažímalová launched the meeting by welcoming all participants and briefly introducing the unparalleled place, the most compact monuments of the Bohemian high Baroque Liblice Castle, where the Forum hold. The aim of the Forum was to discuss the topics of joint interest and to exchange opinions on the integration process of V4 countries into the European Union and on participation in the scientific programmes. Forward to the adopted agenda, Professor Zažímalová emphasised that the meeting of this year is significantly important especially due to current national government situation in a couple of participating countries threatening the academies. With approaching Brexit she also much appreciated an acceptance of invitation to the Forum by the Royal Society. Not only for all these reasons she considers the meeting to be the excellent occasion to share and exchange ideas and current positions of partner academies. At last, Professor Zažímalová proposed if someone thinks that the Forum should discuss any topic the agenda does not include, it can be certainly added in.

### **Measures to increase the successful rate in H2020, FP9 and ERC programmes (L. Kavan, Czech Academy of Sciences)**

- Participation and EU financial success rates of V4 countries in comparison with EU-28: 14,4% in "applications in selection" and 13,3% in "EU financial support".

Participation success of CAS in H2020

- 111 grants awarded with total budget 48 271 200 EU and 119 projects teams from 33 institutes of the CAS. 650 project proposals with total budget 279 168 964 EUR and 683 projects teams from 52 institutes of the CAS. It means 17,4% participation success rate and 17,2% financial success rate.

- CAS selection results – total 650 CAS submitted proposal 65% project proposal are good quality (15% main – proposals proposed for funding, 4% reserve - (in case proposals are

withdrawn, excluded or extra funding becomes available and 45% no money - cannot be funded because of insufficient budget).

- Top 5 institutes regarding a number of teams are Institute of the Physics of the CAS (18), Institute of Molecular Genetics of the CAS (10), Biology Centre of the CAS (8), Global Change Research Institute of the CAS (8), J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry of the CAS (8)
- Top 5 institutes regarding financial contribution of the EC are Institute of the Physics of the CAS (11 504 133), Institute of Plasma Physics of the CAS (6 702 028), Biology Centre of the CAS (6 389 846), J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry of the CAS (4 318 163), Institute of Molecular Genetics of the CAS (3 101 983)
- ERC grants (which is a label of quality or benchmark): Total 35 ERC grants for CZ host institutions: FP 7 (4 High education institution and 7 CAS); H2020 (16 High education institution and 8 CAS)
- The CAS membership in international organisations: EASAC, ALLEA, ICSU, IAP, IHRNASS
- New research centres of the CAS: the operational phase of the ELI Beamlines Laser Centre in Dolní Břežany should be launched during 2018, the operational phase of the HiLASE centre was launched in early 2015, the BIOCEV Science and Research Centre of the CAS and Charles University in Vestec started operating in mid-2016
- In June 2017 the position statement of the CAS on FP9 was published (available [here](#)) in March 2018 joint Position statement by the V4 academies of sciences on FP9 was announced (available [here](#))
- 2016 the CAS joined OA2020 - global alliance committed to accelerating the transition to open access
- Library of the CAS administrates repository for archiving and making accessible the scientific output of the CAS scientists

## **Transformation of the Slovak Academy of Sciences – current situation (D. Gálik, Slovak Academy of Sciences)**

Just to recap the history of transformation:

- In 2008 there was a beginning of the discussion on transformation of the SAS institutes to become public institutions from state institutions (inspired by the CAS, motivation – more flexible environment, more independence, better knowledge transfer, compatibility with research institutions in Europe) = SAS split to proponents and opponents, after the presidential election in 2009 the discussion was ended due to loss of proponents.
- In 2011-2012 was reopening transformation discussion in SAS, proposal by Presidium approved by the Assembly with the majority of two voices (strong opposition especially in social sciences and humanities)
- In 2013-2014 - preparation of the law on public research institution (likewise in the Czech Republic) and SASA institutes transformation in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE)
- At the end of 2014 – law proposal was adopted by the Assembly of the SAS and sent to the MoE
- After new presidential ballot in 2015 – in 2016-2017 evaluation of the SAS institutes by international panel of experts was carrying out

Nowadays

- In 2017 – the new law was adopted by National Council and a crucial moment came – Martina Lubyova, member of the Presidium of the SAS, previous director of the Institute of Forecasting of the SASA, becomes the Minister of Education – since this time process of a “new transformation” has started – requirement of the MoE to submit internal regulations of each institute (this practice was beyond the legal framework of the SAS transformation)
- 11 June proposal of change in transformation – back to state organizations but it was refused by President of the Slovak Republic

- From 1 July the SAS institutes remain public research institutions, but not registered in the register of PRI – basically, institutes do not exist for external world – according to the MoE the SAS does not fulfil all necessary conditions in time so that they could register them (said through the media not by official way towards SAS)
- SAS defence means–keep negotiating with MoE, protest of academia, supporting letter of our partners in V4
- All this means an end of the SAS?

### **Women in science – tackling the issue of unfavourable proportion of women in the V4 Academies of Sciences (J. Duszyński, Polish Academy of Sciences)**

- Percentage of women members in national science academies by world region (IAP) from October 2015 shows that in the region of Central and Eastern Europe including V4 academies there is 13% women in academies on an average. The most women around 17% working at academies is in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- In accordance with a survey of members of IPA from October 2015, the most women works in Biology sciences, Social sciences, humanities and Arts and Medical and health sciences
- In accordance with a survey of members of IPA from October 2015, the CAS is 3rd with 24%, the AAS is 23rd with 13%, the HAS 59th with 5% and the PAS 62nd with 4% (but out of 533 total members)
- 2016 PAS Membership Election: out of 28 PAS real member and 34 PAS correspondent members are 9 women (26,5%); the share of women in the corporation of PAN members increased from 4.87% before the election to 7.02% on December 1, 2016 (from 15 to 24).
- PAS Institutes Directors: a position of Directors 53 men (77%) and 16 women (23%); a position of Deputy Directors: 109 men (72%) and 43 women (28%)
- PAS Management and Office: President and Vice Presidents: 6 positions – 1 woman and 5 men, Directors: 6 positions – 4 women and 3 men, Deputy directors: 2 positions – 2 women and 0 men
- grants and applications in ERC competitions under Horizon 2020 in Poland – 11 of 349

### **Measures to increase the success rate in H2020, FP9 and ERC programmes (Prof Mihály Pósfai, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)**

- MTA research network has secured ~ 30% of total Hungarian H2020 funding
- results FP7 – 39; H2020 (2007-2017) – 30 – most successful in EU13
- Success rate (2007-2016 + stG2017 + CoG2017 – HU highest success rate in EU13 (but only 9 applications)
- Macro indicators in general correlate with FP and ERC results, but in case of Hungary there are other reasons for good ERC performance: (1) Culture of Science: rich tradition in science; fairly good science education, a few outstanding secondary schools; culture of individual excellence vs. teamwork or strong institutional background; (2) Outstanding science schools in certain areas: in an often „average” environment there are „centres of excellence” with top results and top international ranking (ie.: Maths, Neuroscence, Cognitive Science, Economics, Biology); (3) Institutional/Policy Support: Lendület (Momentum) grant scheme of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; support mechanisms (grants) funded by the National Office of Research Development and Innovation; NCP services organised by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- MTA in total: 32 grants

- Promotion of (centres of) excellence - excellence is the main criterion in funding decisions of the research network, infrastructure developments, individual grant schemes (Premium PD, Momentum. etc.)
- Support services - project management offices at research centres and institutes, regular trainings for project managers, ERC national contact point services run by the Secretariat of the Academy
- Financial support for preparation: ~2 million euros / year
- very flexible conditions (infrastructure, training, travel, salaries)
- Horizon 2020 and HorizonEurope success rates are major concern for the new Ministry of Technology and Innovation, too
- Focus area for Hungary at Horizont Europe negotiations (developed also with the participation of MTA): budget changes to be evaluated with an eye on other priority programmes (cohesion, agriculture); promote the „Open Science” (discovery research) pillar with ERC and MSCA; HorizonEurope should address the issue of sustainability of research infrastructures; mission oriented research is supported, however, co-ordination, evaluation, selection and financing needs further discussion; more co-operation between EIC and EIT clusters (2nd pillar); increase widening budget; make widening a horizontal issue in 2nd and 3rd pillar; in terms of participation support for simplification and improved eligibility of costs spent according to national rules; balanced project size (big strategic projects, but also smaller more open themes)
- ERC National Contact Point: support services for applicants and grantees; 3 strong team within the Department of International Relations; dedicated website for ERC applicants: [mta.hu/mta\\_erc](http://mta.hu/mta_erc) (useful information, news, FAQ, etc.); functional email address only for ERC applicants: [erc@titkarsag.mta.hu](mailto:erc@titkarsag.mta.hu); info-days, trainings, workshops, also in-house events for research institutes; personal support for applicants and host institutions (eligibility, proposal, grant agreement, reporting); funding for participants at trainings
- Woman in Science - Proportion of women in the scientific section, leadership and the research network of MTA – member of the Academy: 24 women of 360; Doctor of Science: 418 women of 2500, members of Presidium: 3 women of 32, chief officials: 1 woman of 6; researchers: 869 women of 2439; directors of institutes: 3 women of 38;
- Improvement of the gender balance at MTA – for example by: Career re-start measures (2018): women researcher on child-care are eligible for conference grants, eligibility of longer track-record for women with children in call applications, grants for re-starters and thesis writing (in progress), mentorship programmes (in progress) etc., Child-care measures (2018): Child-care services at MTA conferences, Flexible employment, and timing also for university courses etc.

### **Introduction of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and its activities (T. Bajd, Slovenian Academy of Sciences)**

- Former Academia Operosorum established in 1693 (23 members - lawyers, theologians, physicians)
- SASA established in 1938 in Ljubljana, up to 100 members, 6 sections: I. Historical and Social Sciences, II. Philological and Literary Sciences, III. Mathematical, Physical, Chemical, and Technical Sciences, IV. Natural Sciences, V. Arts, VI. Medical sciences
- Scientific advice: conferences, symposia, round table discussions; lecturers: members of academy, corresponding members, experts from universities and institutes; audience: politicians, government clerks, journalists; conclusions: (open) letters to ministers, academy website, national media
- Discussed topics at Academy: Science - establishing National Committee for Integrity in Science, evaluation of research proposals and results, insufficient collaboration between small research groups, mechanisms of financing of research based innovations, adequate financing of nationally important projects (e.g. vocabularies), careers of young scientists; Education - Teaching at universities (slow modernization and internationalization, poor

employability of specific university graduates, inadequate remuneration of excellent university professors), Teaching in grammar and higher schools (permissive education system, modernization of teaching of physics, chemistry, biology, technical education, literature and computing); Young people - European Science day for Youth, Topics: Karst, Slovenian language, CERN and other various topics.

- cultural events at Škerk's villa (exhibitions, literature, concerts)
- International cooperation – enable to young scientists to make first international contacts, member of ALLEA, EASAC, Danube Academies Conference (in 2015 in Ljubljana), EASA, International initiative Western Balkans, Leopoldina
- Publications issued by the Academy - annual reports, proceedings of symposia, periodicals, dictionaries – standard and terminological, scientific journals - Acta Carsologica, Iconotheca Valvasoriana; biographies of important scientists and artists – members of Academy (Anton Peterlin, Maks Samec, Zoran Mušič, Dragotin Cvetko)
- Academy Library – books and legacies of Academy members

### **Introduction of the Royal Society (U. Tillmann, Royal Society)**

- At the beginning of the presentation U. Tillmann thanked for inviting the Royal Society to the V4 Forum, she was delighted to be here to talk about the Royal Society and the importance of working with partners in Europe for the collective European scientific endeavour.
- The Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK and the Commonwealth.
- Society's fundamental purpose is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.
- The Society is a self-governing Fellowship of distinguished scientists from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine (the Fellowship is made up of the most eminent scientists, engineers and technologists from the UK and the Commonwealth, elected through a peer review process on the basis of excellence in science. Throughout the history of the Society, the Fellowship has been made up on some of the world's most eminent of scientists, many of whom will be familiar to you such as Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and Charles Darwin who you see here)
- Approx. 1,600 Fellows and Foreign Members and every year up to 52 new Fellows and up to 10 new Foreign Members are elected (recently circa 25% women elected each year; since 2000 15%). They continue to make outstanding contributions to many research areas (80 Fellows are Nobel Laureates); the first female Fellow was Dorothy Hodgkin (Nobel Prize-winning scientist).
- the Fellowship today continues to include eminent Fellows and Foreign Members from around the world.
- 3 key strategic Aims in the period 2017-2022: 1) Promoting excellence in science, 2) Supporting international collaboration (emphasized), 3) Demonstrating the importance of science to everyone (including policy makers)
- a wide range of activities, including: Grants, Publishing journals (including Phil Trans), Public Affairs, Public lectures/events, Summer Science Exhibition (first week of July), Policy studies, History of science, etc.
- International work – “International Strategic Plan” has got 4 key priorities: 1) promote the benefits of UK and European scientific collaboration; 2) work with scientific peers to advance science and technology for the benefit of society; 3) support developing countries to build their scientific capability; 4) play a leading role in the major multi-lateral science organisations to help shape international science policy; the last meeting was held on in February 2018 with Netherlands

#### Theme of Brexit

- the broad areas where leaving the EU has implications for UK and international science are funding and infrastructure, collaboration and mobility and Regulation and policy. The Society

sought to inform the debate before the referendum through the production of these three reports. These reports showed that the EU has a crucial role in all three of these areas and that UK science has benefitted from participation in EU programmes in various ways.

- Major objectives for work on European science: Achieve the best outcome for research and innovation through Brexit negotiations, on mobility and collaboration, funding and infrastructure and regulations and policy; and Support continuing relationships and build new ones across Europe and beyond ŠIPKA the Society wants to see low barriers to mobility for researchers and their families; the best funding opportunities for European scientists (which includes the UK); a regulatory environment which allows for the development of the best research.
- Risks of a No Deal for Science: If we leave without a deal, it will impact on scientific research immediately and could take years to rebuild.
- Science needs a deal that: Ensures that UK and EU scientists can continue to work in each others' countries with minimal friction, bureaucracy and cost; Keep access to money and networks which supports European countries to work with scientists around the world; Maintains regulatory alignment that allows access to medicines and new technologies
- Future plans: Developing our detailed advice as the Brexit process progresses; continued engagement with UK Government and Parliament as the negotiations get underway; undertaking further research and analysis; engaging with partners around the world.

#### **Other:**

- In the fact that the National Council of Slovak Republic approved a new law of transformation of the SAS institutes while the meeting of V4 Forum was taking place, dr. Gálik initiated to write a common statement of V4 Academies supporting the SAS against the ongoing transformation threatening its independence addressed to the significant representatives of European scientific communities. In a couple of days the final version of the statement was signed by representatives of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Slovenian Academy of Sciences.
- "Physics" was approved as a topic for Young Researcher Awards in 2019.
- A. Zeilinger suggested that next meeting Visegrad Group Academies could take place in Vienna in 2019. He would be appreciated. Everyone thought it would be a great idea and agreed.

#### **Young Researcher Award**

At the end of the meeting, four laureates from Visegrad Academies briefly presented their research work and received the Young Researcher Awards 2018 in the topic of Medieval History. The Laureates have been as follows: A. Herucová (SAS) – *"Hungarian Kingdom in the Arpadian era from around the year 1000 to 1301"*; A. P. Orłowska (PAN) – *"Annual fairs in Greater Poland from the Late Middle Ages to the Deluge"*; B. Péterfi (HAS) – *"Crossing Borders: Objects, Families, Saints"*; M. Šorm (CAS) – *"Medieval Nation: Enemies, Friends and Other Stories"*.

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The meeting was a closed with a gala dinner with ambassadors of Embassy in the Czech Republic from the Visegrad Group countries.

## List of participants

### **Hungarian Academy of Sciences:**

Prof Mihály Pósfai, member of the Presidium

Mr Gergely Bóhm – Director, Department for International Relations

YRA Laureate: Dr Bence Péterfi

### **Polish Academy of Sciences:**

Prof Jerzy Duszyński – President

Prof Elżbieta Frąckowiak – Vice-President

Dr Anna Plater-Zyberk – Director, International Cooperation Department

YRA Laureate: Dr Anna Paulina Orłowska

### **Slovak Academy of Sciences:**

Dr Dušan Gálik, Vice President

YRA Laureate: Dr Angelika Herucová

### **Czech Academy of Sciences:**

Prof Eva Zažímalová, President

Prof Jan Řídký, Vice-President

Dr Zdenek Havlas, Vice-President

Dr Martin Bilej, member of the Academy Council Bureau

Prof. Ladislav Kavan, member of the Academy Council

Dr Hana Sychrová, member of Academy Council

Dr Taťána Petrasová, member of Academy Council

Ms Karolína Rachačová, Director, Division of International Cooperation

Ms Julie Smilnická, Division of International Cooperation

YRA Laureate: Mr Martin Šorm

### **Austrian Academy of Sciences:**

Prof Anton Zeilinger – President

### **Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts**

Prof Tadej Bajd – President

### **The Royal Society**

Prof Ulrike Tillmann

### **The British Embassy**

Barbora Skálová

# Agenda

## Tuesday, 11 September

**Before 17:00** arrival of the delegations, accommodation  
**18:00** DINNER (Terrace of the Château Restaurant)

## Wednesday, 12 September

### Session I

9:00 – 12:30

**Chair: Prof. Eva Zažímalová**

President of the Czech Academy of Sciences

(Marble Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)

9:00 – 9:15 Welcoming of the delegations

9:15 – 10:30 debates

**Measures to increase the successful rate in H2020, FP9 and ERC programmes** (*to be chaired by Czech Academy of Sciences*)

**Bilateral scientific cooperation within the framework of the V4 Academies** (*to be chaired by Slovak Academy of Sciences*)

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30 debates

**Women in science – tackling the issue of unfavourable proportion of women in the V4 Academies of Sciences** (*to be chaired by Polish Academy of Sciences*)

**Presentation of Prof. Tadej Bajd, President of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts**

**Presentation of Prof. Anton Zeilinger, President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences**

**Presentation of Prof. Ulrike Tillmann, Vice President of the Royal Society**

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH (Château Restaurant, ground floor)

### Session II

13:30 – 18:00

**Chair: Prof. Eva Zažímalová**

President of the Czech Academy of Science

(Marble Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)

13:30 – 14:30 Situation of Academies at the national level

14:30 – 15:00 Wrap-up session, conclusions

15:00 – 15:30 COFFEE BREAK

15:30 – 17:30 Presentation of the V4 Young Researcher Award



Prize ceremony and short presentations by awardees

17:30 – 18:30 BREAK

**18:30 – 20:30 FAREWELL DINNER** (Château Restaurant, ground floor)

20:30 **WINE BAR** – wine and conversation

20:30 – 21:00 Wine tasting - Group 1 (Wine Bar Cellar)

21:00 – 21:30 Wine tasting - Group 2 (Wine Bar Cellar)

**Thursday, 13 September**

**8:00 BREAKFAST**

Departure of the delegations