

# The Fenix Strategy: Update of the Long-Term Objective of the State Science and Technology Policy up to 2015

Geographic Coverage	Slovak Republic
Date of documents publication:	06/07/2011
Organisation responsible:	The Government of the Slovak Republic
Other organisations involved:	The Slovak Government instructed the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports to draft research and development policy document for 2011-2011. The ministry consulted the draft with representatives of the higher education institutions, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, industry unions, professional associations and business sector.
What is the document type?	Official Government policy document: White paper  The preamble of the document recognises 'key importance of science and technology for social and economic development'. It refers to the 'OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2010' document and states that 'optimal science and technology policy must reflect current stage of the social and economic development, level of the science and technology development and available resources'. The main goal of the Fenix Strategy is 'preparing amendment of the 172/2005 Law on the organisation of the state support to research and development', and defining priorities, targets and forms of the public support to R&D.
Purpose / Rationale	The strategy recognises several risks Slovakia faces in the long-term view: (a) increasing deficit of high quality human resources; (b) poor level of knowledge transfer between academia and industry sectors and inadequate support to innovations; (c) losing touch with global knowledge pool; and (d) lacking knowledge for solutions of some specific Slovak problems.  The Fenix strategy suggests a range of institutional reforms for increasing quality of higher education and research, including. (i) more efficient and transparent evaluation techniques; (ii) reforming some key research performer institutions (higher education institutions, the <a href="#">Research and Development Agency</a> and the <a href="#">Slovak Academy of Sciences</a> ); (iii) re-allocating finance provided by the <a href="#">Operational Programme Research and Development</a> towards large-scale projects with strategic importance and removing administrative hurdles related to calls and projects supported by the Structural Funds; (iv) internationalisation of the Slovak R&D

system; (v) defining national priorities in building large-scale R&D infrastructure compatible with the ESFRI roadmap; (vi) creating national system for technology transfers.

The Fenix Strategy also recognises that '12 thematic research priorities mean no priority' and is going to another extreme when cancelling thematic priorities at all. The top-down thematic priority setting is abandoned and top quality research in any field of science supported.

The strategy suggested creation of a new R&D programme 'Slovak Studies'. The programme should support social science projects address some societal challenges in Slovakia (such as population ageing, social cohesion, and sustainable development).

What is/are the rationale/s of the document

Define a strategy or plan for future actions

To whom is the document primarily addressed?

Government  
Policy makers  
Research community

Policy context

In September 2007 the Slovak government passed the [Long-term Objective of the State S&T Policy up to 2015](#), which is the main document on research policy and sets horizontal (cross-cutting) and vertical (thematic) levels of priorities. Policy goals were detailed in the 2008 [Strategy implementing the 'Long-term Objective of the State S&T Policy up to 2015'](#) for 2008-2010 and the Fenix Strategy for period 2011-2015. The Fenix Strategy was passed via the Government resolution no. 461/2011 of 6 July 2011.

The Fenix Strategy also refers to the 172/2005 Law on the organisation of the state support to research and development.

The Fenix Strategy defines no performance indicators. It contains two annexes on R&D indicators.

Annex 1 compares basic R&D indicators in Slovakia and OECD member countries in following fields:

Indicators

- human resources in R&D;
- production of patents and other intellectual property rights;
- R&D spending;
- interest in science by young generation;
- knowledge transfer and co-operation by the academia and industry sectors;
- capacity for innovation

Slovakia accounted for low performance in all the above-mentioned indicator groups.

Annex 2 compares efficiency of the R&D systems in Slovakia's and OECD members.

Following indicators are used:

- scientific papers per million population, researcher numbers and euros spent;
- patents and licences per million population and euros spent;
- volumes of the high-tech exports per R&D spending and researcher numbers.

The document finds that Slovakia accounted for an excellent ratio of 'value for money' in field of scientific papers. Performance in patenting and high-tech exports (when related to R&D spending), on the other hand, was rather poor.

The OECD, Science, Technology and Innovation Scoreboard, Eurostat data on Science and Technology, the World Economic Forum 'Global Competitiveness Report' and the IMD 'World Competitiveness Yearbook' were main sources of indicators.

Website in original language

<http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=19944>

The main priorities stated in the policy document include:

- defining framework for institutional reform of the R&D system in the Slovak Republic till 2015;
- defining rules for the public support to research and development;
- setting evaluation targets and procedures for public R&D institutions;
- defining national priorities in building large-scale R&D infrastructure;
- drafting principles for national system of technology transfer.

### **Main Policy Priorities**

Policy priorities

1.1.1 Strategy policy documents (official documents, policy consultation papers, green or white papers, Operational Programmes of Structural Funds)

### **Other Policy Priorities**

1.1.1 Strategy policy documents (official documents, policy consultation papers, green or white papers, Operational Programmes of Structural Funds)

2.1.1 Policy measures concerning excellence, relevance and management of research in Universities

2.1.2 Public Research Organisations

2.1.4 Research Infrastructures

Targeted research and technology fields

No specific thematic focus

Document

Date

17/10/2011