

EDITORIAL

Research for snails

Most of the time, the political and economic decision-makers of the country explain to us quite vigorously that in our country one of the priority directions of development is scientific research. This implies either that they do not know what "priority" means or do not know what "research" means, or they do not know what's going on in reality. In all cases the necessary conclusion is that these people must be taken the right to decide in an area they do not know or, even worse, hate.

It is not normal to decide for a country, in a special activity field, people who have not conducted research activities or not even have used the research results.

In recent years, project competitions under programmes with pompous names have been launched, with very long deadlines, low values and with many and unnecessary requirements. To work on a project with a budget amounting to one hundred - two hundred thousand euros, in a consortium of several research or production partners, for 2 or 3 years is practically a method of slowing down the research activity.

This snail rhythm is not accidental, as it reduces state investment in research programmes. The method of launching up to 200 projects at 2 or 3 years is a way of trying to keep a domain that we call priority (only because that's how we heard that things are in the world) in a lethargic state.

However, it does not seem right that we have introduced the professional training of any kind and the mobility actions in the core areas of research; the latter ensure the journeys of some persons who will tell us, possibly at specialized meetings, that intensive and high-level research is being conducted worldwide. Of course, these subdomains are necessary, too, but as supporting research, and not as basic elements.

How can small and medium-sized enterprises, emerged in a large number in Romania, be supported if the programmes are implemented on a long-term and with low budgets?

A serious, important but unfortunately bad fact is that, in time, the main results of applied research, industrial research even, have been established to be the scientific articles, whose international publication has become a business in itself.

The slow moving of research, with predictably modest results, leads to a number of researchers in a continuous decrease, and the influence of research on national level, in economic and financial terms, is becoming less and less.

It is possible that I do not understand things anymore, since I am overcome by the rhythm and modernity of the research policies. Lots of success to everyone!



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