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INTERESTING FACTS

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World Science Day for Peace and Development

World Science Day for Peace and Development has already been celebrated every year for the last fifteen years, that is, since 2001, when UNESCO declared 10 November as the day dedicated to science. This day is celebrated so as to emphasize the importance that science has in contemporary society and to raise awareness of the role that this sector has in the promotion of peace and sustainable development. Also, the goal is to encourage international collaboration of scientists, as well as to draw attention to all the challenges scientists are facing.

The share of expenditure on R & D 0.85% of GDP

According to the latest available data from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, the share of expenditure for research and development in 2015 amounted to 0.85% of GDP, which is by 0.06 percentage points more than in the previous year when it stood at 0.79%. Broken down by fields, mentioned expenses were the largest in the field of engineering (34.9%). The number of units in research also increased to 253 in 2015, compared to 244 in 2014.

Reduced government funding and increased private funding for research and development

Of the total funds for research and development, more than a third was obtained from central and local government (35.1%), while the largest share was obtained from own resources (43.2%). Only a small part of the funds was obtained from foreign resources (14.5%) and from private and public enterprises (6.8%). Compared to the previous year, funding for research and development of central and local governments in 2015 decreased by 4.0%, while in turn funding from own resources increased by 16.8%.

Among researchers, 72.8% doctors of science

More than 16 thousand people have been employed in Research and Development during the previous year, men (49.2%) in almost equal measure as women (50.8%). Compared to the preceding year, the number of employed persons increased by 7.1%. Of the total number of employees, the highest percentage of them is composed of researchers, namely 64.1%, and expert assistants, 14.1% of them. If we look at individual sectors, the largest number of employees was in the field of higher education, where more than half of employees (55.8%) were working on research and development. According to academic degree, most researchers have a PhD, namely almost three quarters of all researchers had that title (72.8%), while a much smaller number of them had the academic title of a Master of Science, only 3.3%. In addition to full and part-time employees, more than a thousand people were working on research and development in 2015 on the basis of contractual agreement or copyright contracts, which is a decrease of 16.1% compared to the previous year.

The real indicator of the number of people employed in research and development is the full-time equivalent, which amounted to 6 083 person-years in 2015 - 289 more than in 2014. It represents the number of researchers who are working full time on these activities.

Most research papers in natural sciences

In the past year 8079 research papers have been published, half of which were published in foreign publications, and the rest was published in personal and other local publications. The largest number of papers were published in the following three scientific fields: Natural Sciences (22.8%), Social Sciences (21.5%) and Biomedicine and Health (17.5%), while the least number of papers was published in the Artistic Field, only 0.2%.

The trend of decline in the number of patent applications

The State Intellectual Property Office received 200 patent applications in 2014, which is by 20.9% less than in 2013. The downward trend in the number of applications continued in 2015, when 186 patent applications were filed. As for the engineering field, the largest share in 2014 was in the field of general mechanical engineering (40.2%). As with patent applications, the downward trend is visible with granted patents. Thus, in 2015, 111 patents were granted, which is by 31.5% less than in 2014, while, according to engineering field, chemistry had the highest number of granted patents in 2014 and 2015.