

PRESS RELEASE

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25 reputable Croatian scientists from diaspora returned to Croatia in last 3 years

ZAGREB – Since 2004, 25 reputable Croatian scientists from diaspora have returned to Croatia, and their job positions were secured by the Ministry of Science, Education, and Sports (MSES) in cooperation with Croatian universities and scientific institutions. Details about these scientists are published in an editorial written for the Croatian Medical Journal by Prof Mladen Petrovečki, academician Vladimir Paar and the minister of science, education and sports, Prof Dragan Primorac.

Ten Croatian scientists have returned from United States, 5 from Australia, 4 from Germany, 2 from Switzerland and 1 from United Kingdom, New Zealand, Israel and Austria. Among them, 9 are working in the field of natural sciences, 7 in humanities, 6 in technical sciences and 3 in biomedical sciences.

The editorial also presents other data about the activities of MSES aiming to develop the sectors of science and education in Republic of Croatia. The Croatian Government has increased the MSES budget by 33.7% over the 2003-2007 period. Thus in the last four years the national budget allocated for education and science has increased by €360 million. The support was also obtained from the World Bank, which in 2005 approved the loan of €67.8

million for education and €31 million for science and technology. Authors of the editorial point out that such a beneficial financial situation in the sector will enable a cumulative increase in the salaries of teachers and scientists by 60% over the next 6 years

The editorial also mentions an important decision of the Croatian Government to invest around €49 million in the development of the University of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the only university in the country where courses are held in Croatian language. “The increase in the number of students alone from 4500 in 1990 to 13 000 in 2006 testifies to the development and importance of the University of Mostar”, write the authors.

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