

New law on science and higher education in Poland – lessons to be learned

Adam Borkowski, D.Sc

Warsaw, Poland

Abstract

During the period 2003-2010 almost all legislation concerning science and higher education in Poland was subject to significant changes. There were several reasons for doing that. On one hand, there was a desire to remove the remnants of the laws inherited from the previous political system in order to make the Polish science and academia conforming with the EU-rules. On the other hand, it was argued that without principal changes in the above mentioned domain Poland would become less and less competitive against the rest of the world.

Given limited time for the talk in Kiev, only selected aspects of the Polish reform will be discussed. These aspects include new way of financing scientific research. At present, the majority of funding is distributed by two agencies: the National Science Centre and the National Centre for Research and Development. The rules adopted by these agencies and the advantages of the new scheme will be discussed. Other topic is related to the changes in the Polish Academy of Sciences, in particular with respect to the research institutes belonging to this Academy.

Significant part of the talk will be devoted to the changes in the system of titles and grades. Beginning with the Ph.D.-procedure and ending with the requirements posed for candidates for the title of professor, new rules will be compared against former regulations. Certain deficiencies of the so-called Bologna scheme will be pointed out and different attitudes taken towards scientific promotion in European countries will be discussed.

It seems that by starting just now the adjustment of its science and education system Ukraine has a chance to avoid mistakes that happened in Poland and other countries. Presenting this point of view constitutes the main purpose of this talk.