

# Participation of the Polish science and industry in EU programmes – view of an insider

Prof. K. J. KURZYDŁOWSKI (KJK)

# About KJK

- Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
- Supervisor of 69 PhD students
  - Former Deputy Rector of Warsaw University of Technology
  - Head of Department of Materials Science and Engineering
  - Director of the University Business Incubator
- Consultant to the industry (materials degradation, nanomaterials)
- Founder of engineering companies

# About KJK

- Elected Member of the State Committee for Scientific Research
- Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Research and Higher Education
- Director of the National Centre for Research and Development (national agency funding industrial relevant research)
- .....
- Time for reflection - forced to stay completely dormant for six months
- Professor at Warsaw and Bialystok Universities of Technology

# Historical perspective

- The Polish Science and Industry had been separated from the main stream European activities for 50 years (1939-1989) – two generations
- The Lost Decade 1981 – 1989
- Brain Drain
- Remnants of the Iron Curtain matter
- Underdeveloped collaborations with Germany and France
- Diaspora in the North America

# Historical perspective – domestic predicaments

- Economic growth draining entrepreneurial individuals from science
- Economic growth based on imported innovations
- Remnants of the command economy and socialism - risk aversion and the negative perception of the private business
  
- Obsolete governance of the public higher education and research sector
- Fast Growth of Domestic Spending on R&D over last 10 years
- Demographic Decline
- Lack of the good practises in collaboration of private sector (industry) with public sector (universities)

# Political will and pragmatic approach

- Political will is needed, however, public support might be waning
- Europe can not afford wasting talents in the nations of CEE (38 million in Poland)
- Heavy European investment in research infrastructure and in industrial research in Poland

# Tissue regeneration and stimulation

- Need to support the best performing and most promising scientists (entrepreneurs)
- Broad-base, lean system of supporting the young (by spirit)
- Small budget undertakings (with industrial partners)
- Humboldt and Fulbright fellowships +

# Be determined, stay patient, administer vitamins

- Do not react nervously
- It takes time to foster collaboration over the borders
- Especially breaking “invisible” barriers
- Change of a generation
- Investing into the 2050s



# Think big

- Abandon nation-based statistics
- See Europe as the one entity
- Measure against the Chinese, Americans
  
- Foster intellect mobility
- Be careful with adopting evaluation schemes
- Look at fairness of the chances