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# RESEARCH POTENTIAL IS SUBSTANTIAL

*NNPP: Could you briefly describe the scientific organisations, institutions and agencies related to the defence sector?*

**Dr. Stančič:** There are five types of scientific organisations in Slovenia: the universities (Ljubljana and Maribor), national research institutes and other institutes in the public sector, private non-profit institutes, and research units in the business sector. There are altogether 278 research establishments in Slovenia, 18% of them in the public sector, 13% in the higher education sector, 65% in the business sector, and 4% in the private non-profit sector.

The research potential of Slovenia is substantial in relation to the size of the country. Slovenia is well aware that its intellectual potential is the basis for its future. For example, in 1999 gross domestic expenditure on R&D was 1,51% of the GDP (latest available year). In some areas, such as biochemistry, physics, biology, chemistry, new materials, ICT and mathematics, the research groups in Slovenia have achieved scientific excellence according to international standards. Some of them have established relations to the defence sector. Most active in this context is the Chair of the Defence Studies at the Faculty of the Social Sciences (University of Ljubljana) with the expertise in related socio-economic research and strategic studies including the impact of NATO membership. Slovenian leading national research institutes, which are very strong in basic science, co-operate with the defence sector in finding possible applications of the research results in the defence field. One of the examples is the research on advanced procedures for mine detection based on different nuclear methods led by the Laboratory for Magnetic Resonance at the Institute Jozef Stefan. There are also some excellent technological development units in the business sector working in the field of defence.

Some of the research groups in the field of natural and engineering science are directly connected on a contract basis to the defence sector.

*NNPP: How is your military R&D tied to these organisations?*

**Dr. Stančič:** The main instruments of scientific policy in Slovenia managed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport are the following: programmes for basic and applied research projects, young researchers training programmes, and programmes for support of the research infrastructure including financing of research equipment. The main selection criteria are the scientific quality and the relevance of the proposal for Slovenia. In the framework of these programmes the proposals relevant for defence are considered.

In addition there is a special instrument of targeted research programmes. The programmes are designed to stimulate the financing of research and development activity by other ministries to support the development goals of Slovenia. They are designed on the principles of interdisciplinarity and interinstitutionality. An increased range of the target research programmes is planned as a support to national, regional and sectoral development. Last year one of the targeted research programmes started in the field of international relations and national security. This particular targeted research programme is jointly prepared and supported by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. In the framework of this research programme there are public tenders published for specified topics. In the joint evaluation procedure the Ministry of Defence guarantees the relevance of the topic and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport guarantees the scientific quality of the proposals and the proposers.

*NNPP: Does the defence budget include the necessary allocation for scientific research?*

**Dr. Stančič:** The Ministry of Defence allocates some of its budget to the joint activity within the framework of the targeted research programmes. In the field of international relations and national security the share of the Ministry of Defence amounts to over 50%.