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Interview with Czesław Noworol, Ph.D., the President of the National Forum for Lifelong Guidance Policy.

Ministry of Science and Higher Education in cooperation with NGOs and institutions representing the business, science and media environments shall make efforts to promote science as a basis for economic and social development of Poland. One of the results of this cooperation was last year's establishment of "The Pact for Knowledge". This initiative aims to promote "knowledge as the only sustainable source of economic growth". Important role in fulfillment of the Pact may play European funds by supporting for the implementation of outstanding research projects. Via the Bulletin we will present you the opinions of the representatives of the scientific institutions, NGOs, business and the media circles on knowledge, innovations and the economy. We invite you to read.

Please, complete the sentence "Science is for me ..."

... the only way to know the work of God and His love. It is a way to discover the truth about man, about the world and the universe. This is a chance to understand the laws of nature and discover the causes of the phenomena occurring. It is the key to understanding people and their behaviour in relation to each other and to the environment, in the context of current changes around us. This is the prospect of survival and further development of Human, provided that we use achievements of science (discoveries, inventions, theory, etc.) in peaceful manner.

**"Knowledge is the only sustainable source of economic growth"
- How do you interpret these words?**

Of course in scientific terms. Let us look at demographic predictions and related to them changes in labour markets of the EU member countries and then we shall draw the conclusions. For the year 2011 we can predict the significant economic and employment growth as the population of people in production age will grow. However, between 2012 and 2017 we will begin to observe a reduction of this rate and simultaneously balance of employment, which continue the trend of growth. After the year 2018 will be the dominance of the effect of aging of society, which becomes apparent in decreasing of the number of people employed. Employment will fall by 2050 at almost 30 million. As a result the employment rate in 2018 will reach 70%, and the only source of further economic growth will be increase of production, which can only be based on knowledge. Cedefop prediction shows that already in 2015 the demand for work requiring high skills (Master Degree, postgraduate studies and specific training) will reach 30% and nearly half will require secondary qualifications (including professional). This represents an increase pressures on the availability and quality of university and post-secondary education and the need for build and develop lifelong vocational guidance.

What should be done to strengthen collaboration between scientists and representatives of economic sector in Poland?

In light of what I have said, this cooperation is gradually become necessary and sufficient condition of the economic growth. In Poland, it is in this respect much to be done. One of the priorities is to develop an effective strategy for lifelong learning (at the moment there is no such!), where vocational guidance become a tool of its implementation. Then, both representatives of the economic sector in Poland, as well as researchers themselves, participating in the process of learning throughout life, will come naturally to the conclusion that the economic development with every year is increasingly determined by quality of the cooperation between them. I am deeply convinced that an important role in strengthening this cooperation may play the signatories of the Pact for Knowledge, because

they are promoters of this rational idea, by which I was asked earlier that knowledge is the only sustainable source of economic growth.

Which of the Polish discoveries is of special importance for you?

Not trivializing - each. Looking at the development of science we discover the bulk of inventions, which consists of the effort of research teams and successes of generations often forgotten or anonymous researchers, which led to the act of the discovery. I am constantly impressed with the genius of Human intellect, especially compatriot, who had discoveries affecting the development of mankind as the Heliocentric theory by Nicholas Copernicus, the elements polonium and radium by Maria Skłodowska-Curie, or such discoveries that stimulate the further development of science as multivalued logic of Jan Łukasiewicz or extra solar planets. Currently, it is increasingly difficult to assign scientific discovery to a specific person, usually they are entire teams of researchers. Nevertheless it is nice, in various international circles, as well in the country at different occasions to emphasize that the discoveries of Polish researcher or research team form the basis for matters of current importance.