

The German federal government's strategy for the internationalisation of science and research

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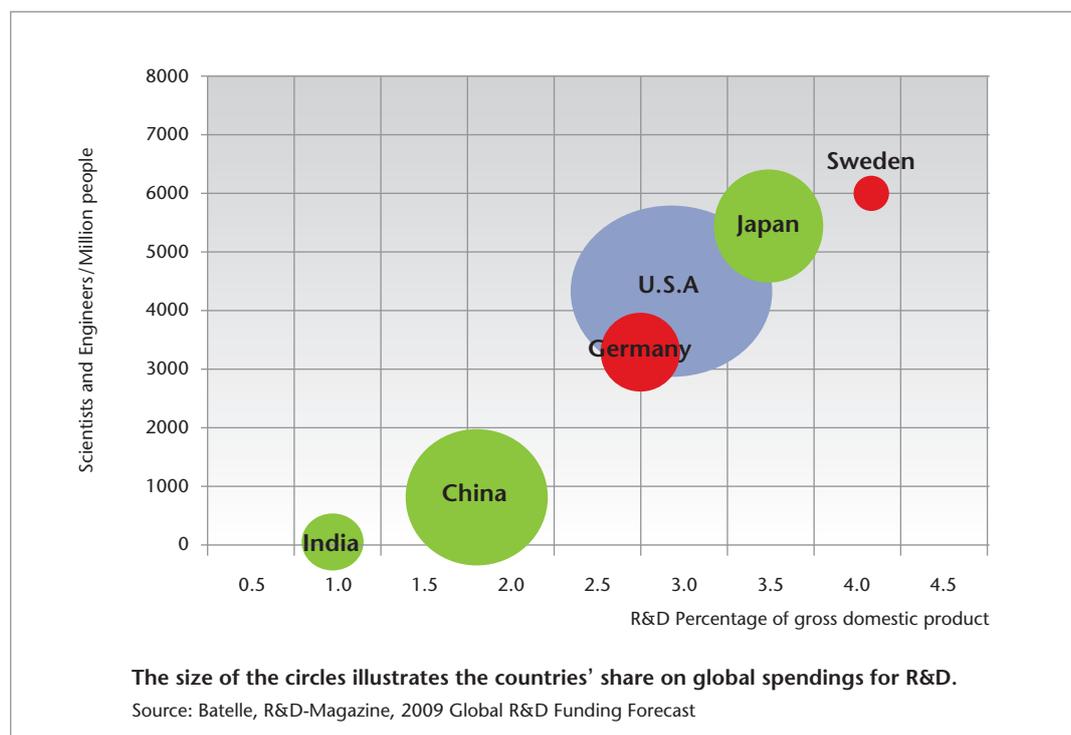
In addition to the opportunities, the globalisation process also presents us with great challenges: Germany must maintain its international technological competitiveness; at the same time, it shares the responsibility for preserving global stability and sustainable living conditions. Science and research are essential for both tasks.

Germany and the European Union have set a target of investing 3% of their gross domestic product in research and development by 2010. We can only remain competitive in a world with an increasing number of competitors if we consistently work on the 3% target. In addition to the USA and Japan, China, India and Korea, as well as other former developing and emerging nations, are becoming new partners and competitors.

Against this background, the federal government developed its strategy for the internationalisation of science and research, which was passed in February 2008 and is being continued under the current government. The strategy pursues four main objectives:

- Enhancing cooperation in research with the world's best.
- Availing of innovation potential internationally:
 This includes German companies establishing partnerships with leading international high-tech locations and R&D centres.
- Enhancing long-term collaboration with developing countries in education, research and development.

Figure
 The leading R&D countries, 2007



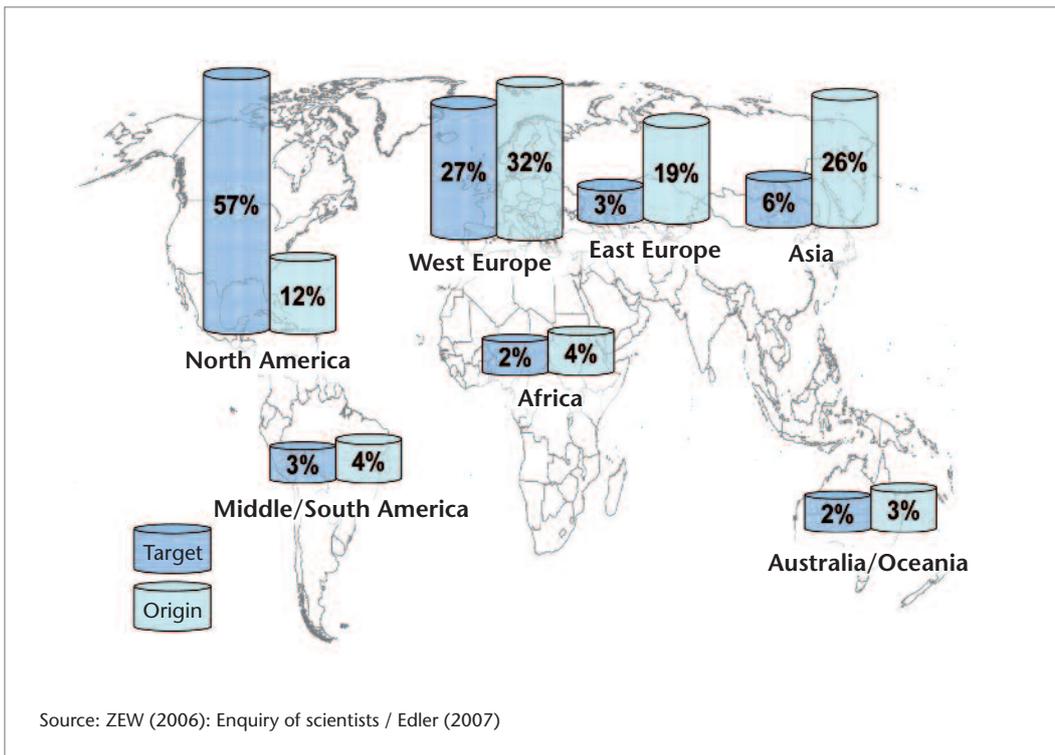


Figure
International mobility
of scientists and
researchers from and
to Germany

- Using the German research and innovation potential to take on international responsibility and contribute to solving global challenges.

„Research for global markets“, as in the title of the 2009 FVEE annual conference, primarily means collaborating internationally, and doing so in a variety of ways:

Meeting the globally increasing energy demand with a sustainable and affordable energy supply, which protects the environment and climate, is one of the most important tasks in this context. Germany is an international leader in research and production of technologies for renewable energies and efficient use of energy. The goal of internationally-focused research must be to contribute to strengthening this leadership position and preparing the way for global use of these technologies.

Academic exchanges and collaboration with the best research centres in the world are essential if we are to retain our excellent position in research. We will only be able to continue to develop top technologies and offer them worldwide if we remain an attractive, internationally networking scientific location.

Up and coming scientists must be educated internationally and the mobility of scientists must be promoted if we are to succeed in this context.

However: Other countries have also identified the potential and market opportunities offered by renewable energy and are making significant investments in production and research, in particular in the photovoltaics and wind power technologies. If Germany wants to be successful in this competition, we must be better than others through our research, develop our technologies and work strategically in promoting research and the next generation of scientists, industry and infrastructure.

In order to support this, opportunities for international research cooperation should be improved, internationally-focused research infrastructures should be expanded further and the presence of German universities and research institutes overseas should be enhanced. Synergies with measures and funding instruments of the European Union should be used for this purpose.

Many of the target countries for our environmentally friendly energy technology products are developing countries. However, simply exporting technology is not enough here; we also have to prepare the ground for environmentally friendly supply and usage concepts with strategically prepared cooperation projects. This includes the fostering of expertise, specialist institutions and the training of experts. This can only succeed if collaboration with developing countries in education, research and development is enhanced. Scientific and technological collaboration must complement development policy collaboration if this target is to be achieved. Important tasks in this context include initiating dialogue in international education and research, supporting research in humanities and social sciences and further developing European and multilateral instruments.