

# **R&D strategies, professional careers and its public impacts**

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Contribution to the Debate  
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It is clear that in the majority of EU countries the framework of R&D structures, professional careers, public funding and short or long term goals have scattered objectives, seriously compromising its efforts and aims. In many countries a long way is still to go until the public perception can reflect a positive answer and feeling towards R&D investments by the taxpayers. These funding agents are expected to have a feedback (even if it is a long term one) concerning the humble funds (let alone the increase of these funds) allocated to R&D. In fact, the absence of clear strategies defining national and EU main priorities concerning R&D have significant consequences in publically providing justifications and results regarding investments namely in labor budgets attached to research activities. The programmatic emptiness provided by the lack of research strategies, naturally gives room to private initiatives acting with public funding in many fundamental national or global development issues to which governments are supposed to be responsible. The dimension and frequency of this practice is often transferring and adapting public interests towards the aims and capacities of private companies' administrations.

One of the striking examples concerning this matter is the present Covid 19 pandemic situation, affecting the whole planet, whose control is totally depended upon the delivery of vaccines which are produced mostly by private enterprises consorts with mere certifications made by state agencies. This means that the main and essential weapon against a pandemic disease which is affecting and killing more than respectively 71 million and 1.5 million people all over the world, almost paralyzing global economy, is entirely depended on essentially the health R&D activity of private initiatives and interests. Nothing is known about a relevant component of public research organizations within the consortiums producing the vaccines in the "western world". Naturally the price for these vaccines production is being payed exclusively through public funds. For the records, it is not advocated that private firms should not participate in the pandemic mitigation. On the contrary, their capacity is welcomed in all health and development efforts. What is surprising is that public research institutions are not having a decisive role in these efforts.

This fact illustrates the fragility of public research facilities and the inexistence of consistent national (or for the purpose UE) strategies providing for essential mainstream areas related to the wellbeing of populations.

If it is agreed that the existence of national R&D public strategies is required as basic needs for development, the adoption of this aim by governments could be a relevant goal for WFSW. The extent to which this organization is capable of conveying this political guideline and be able to verify its implementation, could be discussed. Basically the WFSW influence is proportional to its roots embedded within the research community and to our far its voice is considered amongst national and EU policy makers. This seems to be a major issue for WFSW.

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