PROMOTION OF INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

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1. PROMOTION OF I&D IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SCIENCE POLICY

"Progress in research and technological development, in industry, administration and politics depends decisively on the extent to which information and knowledge can be made available quickly, in a compact and relevant form, and practically applied... Therefore multi-disciplinary information units, in which the information is collected and processed from every relevant point of view, are necessary... Moreover, the infrastructure of information and documentation must be reorganized and improved by better and more systematic promotion of research, standardization, and education... The activities of the Federal Government for the promotion of information and documentation rest on the assumption that the setting up of an effective information system is essentially a public responsibility..." (from the foreword of the Programme of the Federal Government for the Promotion of Information and Documentation).

As a consequence the promotion of I&D is an essential part of promotion of research and technology, and therefore it must be seen in connection with the policy for research and technology of the Federal Government.

The following chart gives a general view on the aims and priorities of the German policy on research and technology. The share of grants of the Federal Government for I&D in 1979 amounted to about 1% of the total expenses for the development of science.

2. THE I&D-PROGRAMME OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The concept for the promotion of I&D in the Federal Republic of Germany is based on the so called I&D-Programme 1974-77. The following text-cutting illustrates the aims, the scope as well as the functions and structures of the programme and also provides a survey on the promotion activities.

2.1 Aims and activities

The I&D Programme aims to initiate and support the development of scientific and technical information services so as to keep pace with increasing knowledge and the growing needs for information of contemporary society. It seeks to ensure better access to all types of information from the various subject fields and missions, so that existing knowledge and information can be mobilised to meet the scientific, economic, technical, political and social problems of our time and thus avoid wasteful duplication and poor investment. These aims are to be achieved through a broad spectrum of information activities each specifically focussed. Thus the I&D Programme has the following aims.

Aims—increasing the efficiency of research, development and training; speeding up innovation as one of the basic prerequisites for an enhanced quality of life.
—improving the efficiency and competitiveness of industry and technology, particularly of medium-sized and small concerns; assisting professional and manual workers, thus contributing to the improvement of working conditions
—supporting the planning and decision-making by Parliament, Government, Administrative and legal organs

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