SUMMARY

VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE ACADEMY
Social appraisal of science and scientists in Croatia

Articles collected in this book, written by a number of the most prominent scientists and policy makers in Croatia, along with legal documents, statistics and the names of the decision makers in their respective scientific fields (addenda), seek to provide a framework for evaluation of science and scientists in Croatia. The book is the result of the first part of the project »Social evaluation of science and technology« carried out at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar[1], Zagreb in 1997. It is also a result of the seminar »Social evaluation of science and technology«, taken place on May, 14, 1997.

Articles in the first part, »Scientific policy in Croatia«, are concerned with the current model of scientific policy making, with its role within a broader environment, general political situation, and with the tasks for its improvement. Some articles analyse the role of science in the war and the postwar period. Several articles compare scientific achievements in the previous period with the present one. The list of tasks for improvement of science includes the ones for technological advancement, for keeping up with the scientific organisation in the world, for better connectivity with the achievements abroad, and for better internal appraisal.

The second part of the book, »Scientometric analysis – yes or no? Problems of internal evaluation of scientific research« is in many respects the central one. It is a discussion between proponents of scientometrics (who provide very useful analysis of, or original formulae for appraisal of Croatian scientists' achievements), and with the proponents of the »peer review« doctrine in evaluation of scientists and scientific fields. Some of the articles are concerned with improvement, with systematic errors, and with the inapplicability of the already existing scientometric evaluation practises in some disciplines. Important conclusions from these analyses are made from particular disciplinary perspectives.

In the third part, »The universities' role in development of science«, authors are concerned with problems of organi-

sation of higher education. Higher education, it is assumed, is the most important vehicle for improvement of science. Therefore one should look for drastic organisational changes in universities' structure, which has so far been scattered, or rigid and unsuitable for rapid changes in the scientific research in the world (innovation society). Since higher education is still overwhelmingly under the state control, the quotas for students' recruitment in different scientific fields are analysed. Some of the authors here propose the establishment of a more efficient interaction within the triangle: university - science - technology.

The fourth part, »Public evaluation of science and the broader context of scientific enterprise«, consists of the public opinion poll on the role of science in Croatian society, and of the analysis of the role of science in legitimising existing social practices and power structure.

In addenda, we reprinted the Act on Scientific Research, National R&D Program, R&D priorities (according to the NRD Program), Ministry of Science and Technology 1996 Report on the accepted and refused project and program proposals, the list of members of National Science Council, the list of members of acknowledged scientific fields' Committees, and the list of referees who evaluated project and program proposals. Major statistics for evaluation of science and technology are reprinted from the National R&D Program. Some of the documents can be found in the English version on Ministry of Science and Technology addresses:

http://www.mzt.hr/mzt/hrv/dokumenti/zakoni/zakoni.htmlor

http://www.mzt.hr/mzt/hrv/znanost

Note [1] Former name was Institute for Applied Social Research, Zagreb.