

The IAS Initiative for the New Industrial Development of Slovenia

Slovenian industry is struggling due to a crisis of development, morals and ethics and the neglect of technical intelligence. Recognising that a new vision for the technological development of Slovenia is required, the members of IAS propose the following:

1. We must lean on export companies and the quality cores of other companies; however, these should not merely focus on increasing productivity, but on creating new, innovative products with added value and exporting them.
2. We must find export niches, since our expectations of succeeding with advanced technologies have not been realised. The hidden champion strategy is most suitable for Slovenia. A discreet takeover of small, global market segments ignored by larger competitors is crucial.
3. New hi-tech companies cannot develop without the existing large, successful companies, which should be restructured and should undergo a technology overhaul. Existing and newly established companies require a successful, innovative economic environment and quality human resources in order to develop and grow.
4. Unless we establish an export-oriented economy offering innovative products, we cannot expect an increase in funding for education and science, fields that should not be perceived as goals in and of themselves. For successful innovation, the concerted work of researchers, university professors and companies and the availability of funds are essential.
5. We should manage our expectations for newly established companies in the academic sphere to have a direct impact. As a small country, Slovenia needs to make the most of its abilities and competitive advantages: the human potential, the environment, wood and drinking water. It is also essential to increase the share of self-sufficiency in the production and processing of food with a particular focus on ecological acceptability and self-sufficiency through energy from sustainable sources.
6. The controlled financing of education should be proportional to the actual need for human resources and quality education programmes. Initiatives should be launched to ensure that, upon completing their studies, young engineers and doctors are able to join companies and contribute to the development of new technologies and the maintenance of existing technologies, which is important for all levels of the economy and for environmental, social and political management.
7. Cooperation between the economy and the research sphere should be encouraged to a greater degree with voucher-based financing. The system of early stage researchers in the economy should be preserved.

It is the considered opinion of the Slovenian Academy of Engineering (IAS) that the implementation of these suggestions would alter people's attitude towards the government and its institutions, transform the air of pessimism into an optimistic environment and revive people's trust in the

restoration of the Slovenian economy by establishing a new industrial policy and a policy of youth employment.

IAS President

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