



# Press release

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## **Hungary and Germany will establish a new ICT research institute Bulmahn: Pooling expertise in information technology**

Hungary and Germany will intensify their technological cooperation by establishing a new research institute for information and communication technology. The German Federal Research Minister Edelgard Bulmahn and the Hungarian Education Minister Balínt Magyar signed a Joint Declaration on the further development and intensification of their cooperation in scientific research and technological development in Budapest on Wednesday. Both countries will contribute equal shares to the initial investment of €6 million.

Bulmahn said that the declaration added a new dimension to cooperation. "We will pool the expertise in information technology and provide a basis for opening up new markets and creating secure jobs in both countries." Hungary and Germany are thus becoming pioneers of European integration. "We are making an essential contribution to ensuring that Europe will develop into the most innovative region in the world", Bulmahn said.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) will contribute €1.5 million in funding for the pilot project. The *Fraunhofer Gesellschaft* will make available another €1 million and *Land* Rhineland-Palatinate €500,000. Following successful cooperation between scientists in Budapest and Kaiserslautern, the first Fraunhofer Institute in Central, Southern and Eastern Europe is to be established in four years' time.

The Hungarian cooperation partners are the University and the Bay-Zoltan Research Centre in Budapest. The cooperation partners in Germany are the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (IESE) and Kaiserslautern Technical University.

The first focus of their activities will be on "Ambient Intelligence" (Aml), which deals with interactive computer systems for use in everyday life. They create an "intelligent environment" which responds and adapts to the presence of people and objects and offers various services. These include sheltered housing and assistance to elderly and disabled persons, telemedicine, and preventive health care and after-care. Ambient Intelligence also helps optimize work processes in the production of goods and in the assembly of facilities. Furthermore, it can be applied in automobiles and aircraft.

There are numerous interfaces between Aml systems, their environment and people. These systems convert information from external sources such as the Internet for digital signal processing. The signals to be processed include speech, images, movements and environmental conditions. Aml systems need a variety of different sensors. Together with the accompanying electronic equipment for analysis and communication, they should be as small and unobtrusive as possible. Minimizing their energy consumption is a challenging aspect. Aml devices are to be built into walls, worked into clothes or fit into bodies and are expected to operate independently without any battery change during their entire life cycle.

Experts from mathematics, computer science, electrical engineering, neurology and psychology are cooperating in an interdisciplinary approach in Ambient Intelligence research. It covers the areas of microelectronics, mobile communication, software engineering and human-computer interaction.

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