

„Exzellenz braucht Existenz“

One-page summary

Summary

When within six months more than 25.000 signed an online-petition requesting the improvement of employment conditions at German research institutes and universities („*Perspektive statt Befristung*“), a nationwide survey was conducted.

The online survey with around 1.700 participants deals in more detail with the consequences appearing in the wake of the present fixed-term employment policy. A second topic of the survey is how to reform the policy's legal base, the science employment act.

The scientific job market is characterized by an unusual lack of permanent employment opportunities, as illustrated by the high percentage of fixed-term contracts at universities and non-universitarian research institutes now reaching levels of up to 80%.

According to the experience of the participants in the survey, these employment conditions not only affect the independence and the lives of the scientists and those of their families. They furthermore cause an erosion of scientific quality.

The employment conditions have a negative impact on the attractiveness of scientific careers in Germany and trigger a systematic loss of scientific potential. Increasingly they put the positive effects of billions of federal euros invested in science in jeopardy.

A strong majority among the participants supports the request for more permanent positions beyond a full professorship, as well as appropriate and transparent selection and appointment procedures.

Unanimously the survey participants request the federal government and the *Bundestag* to amend the science employment act.

- With overwhelming majority the introduction of a legal limit on the fraction of fixed-term employments is supported.
- Likewise a removal of the so-called „12-year-clause“ from the science employment act is requested.
- The introduction of a binding minimum duration of fixed-term contracts is supported by a majority, with a notable minority being sceptical.
- Those supporting a minimum duration of individual fixed-term contracts suggest a minimum period of three years.