



ÁLLAMI
SZÁMVEVŐSZÉK

AUDIT OF CERTAIN RESEARCH INSTITUTES OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Summary for the press

of the audit on the restructuring of the research institute network and the financial management
and task performance of specific research institutes of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
(15038)

The State Audit Office of Hungary (SAO) performed an audit of the operational regularity of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) and six of its research centres and research institutes between 2010 and 2013 as well as the regularity of the restructuring of the research network in 2011. Its findings are that the preparation and execution of the restructuring were legitimate, the MTA identified and validated the aspects of simplifying the institutional and management structure, and the economization of operation. The audited institutions were performing public tasks in a legitimate way. The SAO found deficiencies regarding the internal control system and inventory of certain research institutes, as well as property license agreements, for which recommendations have been formulated. The MTA exercised its eligibilities for the research network's professional task performance and management professionally.

The research network of the MTA was restructured at the end of 2011 in a way that instead of the previous two research centres and 38 research institutes, 10 research centres and five research institutes were established on January 1, 2012. The SAO assessed the regularity of the operation of the MTA as well as that of the Research Centre for Humanities (MTA BTK), the Centre for Ecological Research (MTA ÖK), the Research Centre for Natural Sciences (MTA TTK), the Institute of Archaeology (MTA RI), the Balaton Limnological Institute and the Institute of Technical Physics and Materials Science.

The internal control system consistent with the new institutional structure was established and operated by the MTA BTK and MTA ÖK in accordance with legal and internal regulations. The establishment of the internal control system was not complete at the MTA TTK. The operation of the internal controls regarding financial management authority was not compliant with legal regulations in 2010 at any of the audited institutions. The operation of internal controls improved after the restructuring: in 2013 it was given "adequate" rating at the MTA BTK and MTA ÖK, but it was not entirely regular at the MTA TTK. The deficiencies of the internal control system mean a risk from the aspect of the regular operation of the entire audited area.

The utilisation and amendment of the annual expenditure appropriation and the assessment and allocation of the appropriation surplus complied with legal requirements. The purchases of intangible and tangible assets were carried out legitimately. The audit revealed deficiencies in asset management at the MTA RI between 2010 and 2011, in inventory evaluation at the MTA BTK in 2012, and in inventory documentation at the MTA TTK in 2012. The MTA concluded asset management contracts with the research centres late, and did not conclude such a contract with the MTA TTK even until the end of the audit period.

The State Audit Office of Hungary formulated recommendations for the President of the MTA and the director generals of the audited research centres, for which they are to prepare a reaction plan in 30 days.

The State Audit Office of Hungary as the financial and economic audit organisation of the National Assembly, is one of the key basic institutions of the democratic state organisation. Its mission is to promote the transparency of public finances with its value creating audits performed on a solid professional basis, thus contributing to 'good governance'. With its recommendations, the SAO facilitates the regular, economical, efficient and effective utilisation and use of public funds.