Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, visited the Research Centre for Natural Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Science

Budapest, Hungary – March 13, 2014. – Commissioner Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth met director general György Miklós Keserű, deputy director János Szépvölgyi and representatives of the scientific community of the center on 13 March, 2014 during her visit of the Research Centre for Natural Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Science (RCNS, HAS). RCNS management informed their honorary guest on the research activity of the center focused on health sciences and material and environmental science. The Parties discussed RCNS HAS mission and role in the knowledge triangle (operating as a research institute itself, establishing official collaborations with the most prominent Hungarian higher education actors, and having clear industrial research links and collaborative activities). For the Research Centre for Natural Sciences through its recently inaugurated research base and at the same time signed official collaboration agreements with Hungarian universities new roads are opening up to utilise European Funds, particularly in view that ERASMUS+ and H2020 are among those EU funding programmes for which significant budget increase became available for 2014-2020. Hence these EU programmes facilitate the emergence of new type of stakeholders and new type of collaboration schemes. RCNS HAS was also introduced as a flagship example of the trust and long term strategic objective for research/innovation/education by the Hungarian Government and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences by providing the means to realise the new premises of the Research Centre. The world-class new infrastructure and the co-location of the formerly separately operating institutes provide an excellent knowledge base and incubation environment for multidisciplinary research and educational as well as technologically orientated activities linked to research. It also facilitates a variety of science outreach activities, such as the Week of Brain Research (11-13 March, 2014; in co-operation with the Institute of Experimental Medicine, HAS) providing a window of real insight for research for the wider public, with special focus on children and students. At the end of the meeting György Miklós Keserű invited Commissioner Vassiliou to briefly explore some of the ongoing science outreach activities of RCNS as well as potential synergies with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

More information:
RCNS HAS – Ágnes Tóth: toth.agnes@ttk.mta.hu and Erika Szendrák: szendrak.erika@ttk.mta.hu
Press Officer at the European Commission Representation in Hungary – Ákos Moskovits: akos.moskovits@ec.europa.eu

About RCNS, HAS
The Research Centre for Natural Sciences (RCNS) is one of the largest research organizations within the network of Hungarian Academy of Science. The new, state of the art building of the Research Centre which provides internationally acknowledged research environment for all RCNS institutes at the same location has been inaugurated on 15th November 2013. RCNS has had a great scientific, technical, educational and social mission to fulfill; it is acting as a publicly financed professional research centre in Hungary and on the larger scale in the European Union, too. Focus areas of research in health science and a multi-disciplinary environment provided by the RCNS HAS have created optimal conditions for research conducted in the following scientific fields: biology, chemistry, pharmacology, cognitive neuroscience and psychology. In the field of research in materials- and environmental science, the Research Centre has focused on materials- and environmental chemistry and technical physics and material science. The more than 400 scientists of the center are also traditionally active in the fields of education and scientific training, thus RCNS’ priorities also include taking responsibility for the training of high-quality future researchers/scientists.