

24 July 2014**HRK welcomes improvement in basic funding for universities in Baden-Württemberg
"An important signal which other federal states should follow"**

Following the announcement by the government of Baden-Württemberg that it intends to increase basic funding for its universities by €1.7 billion over the next five years, the President of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), Professor Dr Horst Hippler, has welcomed the move as an important signal and a step in the right direction.

"With this significant improvement in basic funding, Baden-Württemberg is clearly sending a signal which we hope the other federal states will follow," he said. "Universities need to be able to rely on appropriate funding to ensure the high quality of study and teaching and to facilitate a good performance in other areas such as research that is not dependent on third-party funding, support for early career researchers, knowledge and technology transfer, as well as internationalisation, universities. The HRK has pointed this out again and again. In taking this action and investing additional money, Baden-Württemberg sends a very important signal for which the universities and the public have been waiting for a long time: expenditure on education and research is the foundation for regional innovation and competitiveness."

Prof Hippler also welcomed Baden-Württemberg's regulations to put limited funding programmes on a more secure footing. "More secure fixed-term funding to enable long term planning on the basis of reliable and sustainable resources in universities is also a signal long overdue. I expect further steps to be taken in this direction. For years, the universities had to fill the gaps in their budgets with fixed-term projects and funding programmes. However, we have stated regularly that this cannot answer the fundamental requirement for adequate basic funding."