

Media interview during the Research Day at the University - Tuesday, 20 June

The President of the University, prof. Ernst Mohr Ph.D: The University's research mission statement

In its Vision 2010, the University of St Gallen expresses the intention of being recognised as one of Europe's leading universities for economics in respect of its research in selected areas of great social relevance. To this end, the University requires good conditions for its innovative and creative research. Both causally and primarily, this kind of research is developed in the minds of people who thus need a suitable environment, and only secondarily is it developed within a system. The professional and practical worlds are equal stakeholders in our research. For the professional world, our research should, beside its natural rigour, excel due its exceptional relevance in respect of practice, whereas for practice, it should, besides its natural relevance, excel due to its rigour. The generating of scientific findings alone is, however, not sufficient. Beyond this, a specific added value should also be created for the University. Ultimately, our research should lead to the University being a topic leader in areas of great social relevance, because as a university for economics, law and social science, we are only as interesting as our topics are. We can only attain topic leadership if researchers are engaged in common issues beyond departmental and institutional boundaries. Topic leadership in a social discussion furthermore presupposes a close link between research, science and practice. The practical framework that is so typical of the University therefore remains one of its essential features.