

## SCIENCE AND POLITICS

Judit Mosoni-Fried and Márton Tolnai (eds.)

Summary in English

The relationship between politics and science assumed a vital importance after World War II; however, the idea of considering this relationship as a particular field of social science research had emerged earlier, sometime in the 1930s. What has happened in the science policy research since John Bernal's first initiative, mostly in the 1990s and at the beginning of the 21st century is the primary subject of this book. The authors provide a historical overview and a broad theoretical background on the one hand, and attempt to analyse some recent science policy questions in their own countries such as Estonia, Germany and Hungary on the other.

The issues are markedly different: turning-points in the science policy research and policy-making in the last 60 years (Judit Mosoni-Fried); the essence of STS (Science and Technology Studies) and the possible utilization of STS methodology in science policy discussions (Gábor Palló); the mass media, the science communication and the decisive political importance of the „media-appearance” of science (György Fábri); a critical appraisal of the evaluation of scientists and research units that had been used as a more political than scientific instrument transforming the research landscape in Eastern Germany (Werner Meske); the changes of attitudes and the strategies of the main scientific and political players in science policy-making in Estonia (Helle Martinson); the climate research and the climate policy-making as a remarkable model of a genuine cooperation between science and politics (Judit Mosoni-Fried, Éva Pálinkó and Eszter Stefán); a bibliometric analysis of science policy as a research field (Sándor Soós); the science policy issues in the European Union, with especial regard to the concept, the progress and the future of the creation an “internal market” for research in the context of the Lisbon Strategy (Julianna Csehó), and last but not least: the technology policy decisions and measurements of OMFB (the National Office for Technology Development in Hungary) and its successors between 1992-2007 (Tamás Balogh).

The editors argue that although the authors of the book represent different approach and views, they have at least one common thing to say, namely that

co-operation between scientists and politicians is an imperative, even in aware of the everlasting tension between political power and the scientists' strong belief in scientific freedom. Research in the field of science policy is suitable to contribute to a deeper understanding of motivation and goals of the main players; thus, it could also support the development of science and technology in being of benefit to societies both at global and local level.