

Translation

**Video Podcast No. 12 by Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel on "Jugend forscht" (Young Researchers Competition)**

You may have heard of a "banana cross" in football. Well, in Baden-Württemberg, two young men, Johannes Burkart and Alexander Joos, studied the trajectories of such crosses. They were taking part in the "Jugend forscht" (Young Researchers) competition, and they won the Federal Chancellor's prize this year.

"Jugend forscht" – I don't know whether this name rings a bell – is Europe's largest competition for youth projects in the fields of technology, mathematics and science. This year 9600 young people took part, and some of them, the winners of the national competition, were my guests here in the Federal Chancellery.

It is impressive to see the drive, energy and intelligence with which young people are already helping to turn new ideas into new products. And this fits in very well with the Federal Government's high-tech strategy which makes innovation, research and development one of the focuses of our policy, as we are aware that only if we have competitive, new, intelligent products can we hold our own on the international markets.

For that reason, during this legislative period, the Federal Government will spend an extra six billion euro on creating the right conditions for R&D. But this will be of no help if there are no people who carry out the research, who get a kick out of developing and inventing. So it is good to know that thousands of young people are prepared to take part in "Jugend forscht". They spend a lot of their free time researching and create a lot of new ideas – and I want to thank all of them for participating.

But let me also warmly thank their parents and teachers, who also invest a lot of their time, energy and stamina to get young people interested in science and technology. I hope future "Jugend forscht" competitions will have even more participants, and I congratulate all those who won prizes this year.