

Assessing the Impacts of Public Research

The objective of the OECD project 'Assessing the impacts of public research' is to:

- Provide **new evidence on the impacts of public research on innovation** and the contributions of its policies,
- Create **opportunities for exchanging 'best practices' in evaluation of public research policies** aimed at building industry-university linkages.

This work is conducted in the context of the Knowledge Triangle Project and implemented under the auspices of the OECD TIP Working Party and the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP).

Rationale

The increasing importance of knowledge-based capital for competitiveness, and the high growth potential of many science-based activities, provide large rewards to those countries where firms have access to a **strong research base and have the ability to use research findings to innovate.**

OECD countries invest substantial public resources in R&D conducted at universities and public research institutes (reaching more than USD 220 billion in 2012) with the aim of spurring innovation and economic growth. However, **evidence on R&D impacts is scarce.** In a context of tight public budgets, assessing the contributions of public research to innovation is critical.

Did you know...

The government and higher education sector perform more than 3/4 of the OECD's basic research.

Key questions

1

Are there **complementarities or trade-offs** between the education, research and innovation roles of **universities**?

2

What are the **impacts of public research and its policies on innovation**?

3

What are the **contributions of research in different scientific disciplines to specific industrial sectors**?

4

What are **'best practice' lessons in assessing impacts of public research and its policies**?

Project activities (2015-2016)

① **Characterising different university systems and their impacts**

Objective: New empirical evidence on the impact of university systems on research, education and innovation.

Activities:

- **Empirical assessment** based on data for US and European universities
- Topics for analysis:
 1. Characterisation of university systems in different **national contexts**
 2. Impacts of university systems on innovation at **regional level**



② **Mapping of public research policies**

Objective: Cross-country indicators of the governance of public research policies.

Activity overview:

- Map cross-country differences in relevant **qualitative aspects of public research policies** for systematic comparisons across countries.
- Indicators draw on policy evidence from **existing data sources**, including the OECD Innovation Policy Reviews and the European Commission/OECD Survey on Science, Technology and Innovation Policies.

③ **Assessing the contributions of scientific disciplines to industrial innovation**

Objective: Evidence on the contributions of specific disciplines to specific industries and on methodological approaches.

Activity overview:

- **Statistical analysis of interactions** based on different data sources (incl. the EU-LFS, UK DLHE, etc.)
- **Analyse methodological approaches** for best conducting such assessments (incl. analyses based on patent, publications and labour force surveys data)

Past events

Workshops on “Assessing Impacts of Public Research Policies”:

- [2-3 May 2016, Paris, France](#)
- [27-28 April 2015, Lisbon, Portugal](#)



For more information

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Project IPP space: <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/impact-assessment-innovation-policy-oecd-project>