

Assessing the impacts of knowledge transfer and policy

The OECD project ‘Assessing the impacts of the policy mix for knowledge transfer between industry and science’ analyses the impacts of public research institutions on innovation performance, and explores the policy instruments implemented across countries to support science-industry knowledge transfer.

The 2017-18 project is conducted by the **Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy (TIP)** under the auspices of the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP).



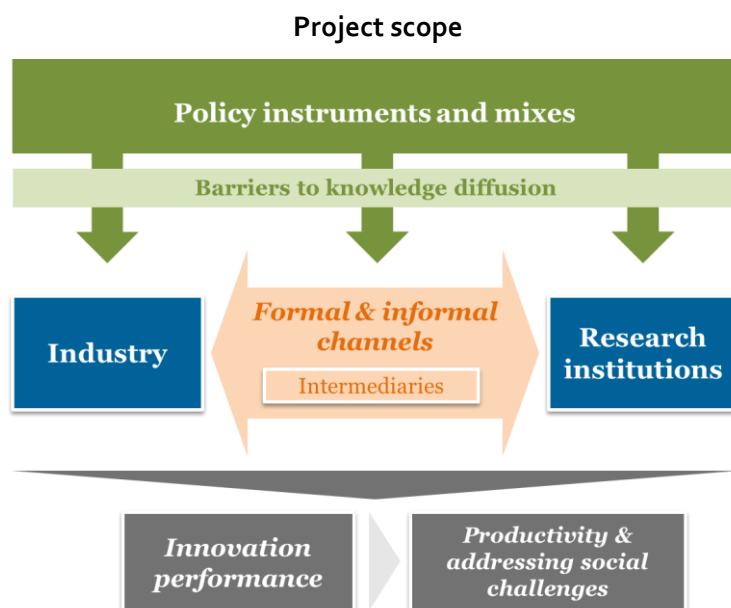
Overview

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

In an era of tight public budgets, understanding how public research generates the largest impacts on innovation to support growth and address socio-economic challenges becomes ever more important. While a variety of policy instruments are applied to strengthen knowledge transfer between universities and the private sector, evidence on their impacts and interactions is scarce.

In this context, important **policy questions** this project addresses are:

- How does public research contribute to innovation?
- What policy instruments and combinations (or policy mixes) are most appropriate to enhance knowledge transfer?



Project activities

Assessing the impacts of research institutions on innovation performance

Cross-country statistical evidence on the contributions of public research on innovation is scarce. Moreover, little is known about the importance of different impact channels and on how the characteristics of industry and research facilitate or weaken knowledge transfer.

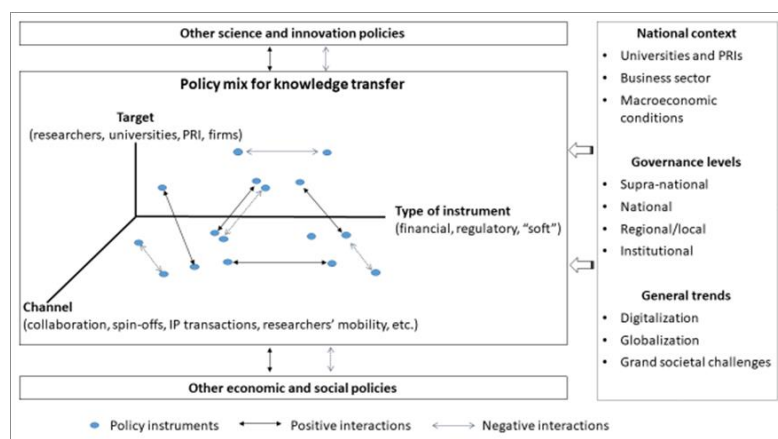
This activity produces **new cross-country evidence** (based on a newly compiled dataset of 23,600 universities and public research institutes of 36 countries). Key questions include the following:

- What are the **effects of research institutions on innovation** (as identified by geographical proximity between new universities and industry patenting)?
- What are **trends in patent activity of research institutions** and how do they relate to industry inventions?



Policy instruments and mixes

A variety of policy instruments aim at fostering industry-research knowledge flows. These include, among others, grants for collaborative research, financial support to university spin-offs, mobility schemes for researchers and open access to publicly-funded research.



This activity conducts a **mapping of policies** implemented across OECD countries to support science-industry knowledge transfer, and explores potential synergies and unintended negative effects of the coexistence of several different instruments.

This project also builds on evidence from **16 country case studies**, which explore interactions of new instruments with existing policy mixes.

Project events

- Upcoming TIP-MIT workshop on ‘Principles and practices for effective science-industry co-creation’ (Paris, December 2018)
- Workshop on [“Boosting knowledge transfer between science and industry: New models and business practices”](#) (Paris, March 2018)
- Workshop on [“Stimulating knowledge transfer: challenges and policy responses”](#), organised jointly with the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and the Portuguese Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (Lisbon, November 2017)
- Past TIP workshops on “Assessing Impacts of Public Research Systems” were held in [Paris \(May 2016\)](#) and [Lisbon \(April 2015\)](#).

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