

Executive summary (Performance-based Funding for Public Research in Tertiary Education Institutions: Workshop Proceedings)

Tertiary education institutions (TEIs) are a key pillar of countries' research and innovation systems. As part of the public research system, they play many roles: education, training, skills development, problem solving, creation and diffusion of knowledge, development of new instrumentation, and storage and transmission of knowledge. Expenditure on R&D performed by the higher education sector forms a relatively small component of total R&D spending in OECD countries: an average of 0.4% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008, equivalent to around 17% of total gross domestic expenditure on R&D. Nevertheless, because TEIs often undertake longer-term, higher-risk research activities at some distance from commercialisation, they make an essential contribution to the knowledge base and complement the research activities undertaken by the private sector.

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[commercialisation](#) [3]

[higher education research](#) [4]

[innovation impacts](#) [5]

[social sciences and humanities](#) [6]

[public research system](#) [7]

[peer review](#) [8]

[knowledge transfer](#) [9]

[complexity](#) [10]

[research policies](#) [11]

[research excellence](#) [12]

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[3] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/commercialisation>

[4] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/higher-education-research>

[5] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/innovation-impacts>

[6] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/social-sciences-and-humanities>

[7] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/public-research-system>

[8] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/peer-review>

[9] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/knowledge-transfer>

[10] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/complexity>

[11] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/research-policies>

[12] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/research-excellence>

[13] <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264094611-en>