

Knowledge transfer and policies

The OECD project on knowledge transfer and policies 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).

The **final report of the project**, containing its main findings and policy recommendations, will be released in April 2019. The policy papers, country case studies and other project outcomes will be made publicly available in a dedicated website.



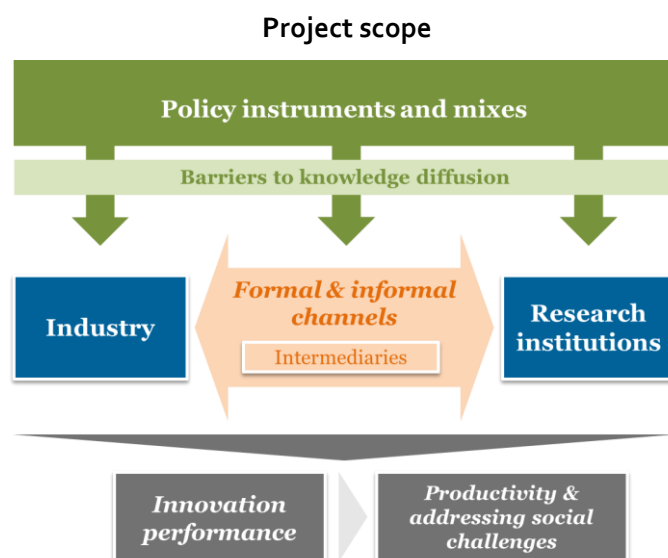
Overview

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 support the contributions of public research?



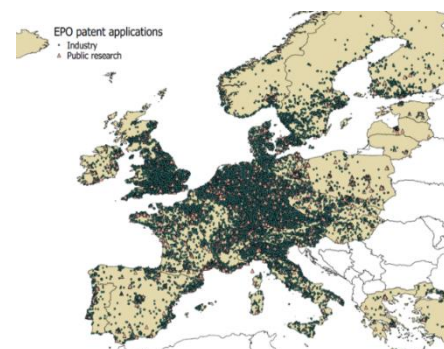
Project activities

Assessing the impacts of research institutions on innovation performance

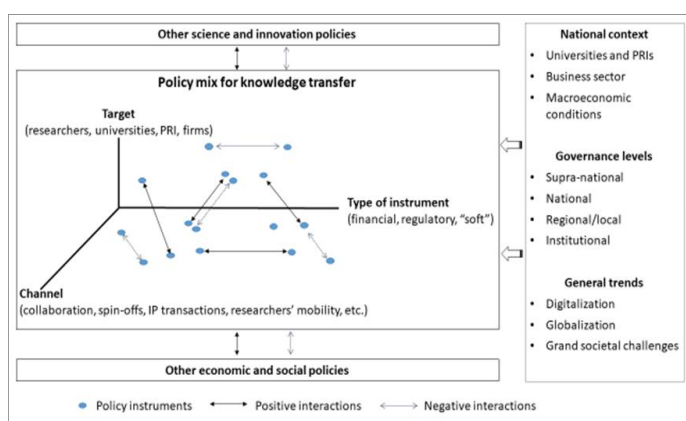
Cross-country statistical evidence on the contributions of public research on innovation is scarce. Moreover, little is known about the relative importance of different impact channels and about the characteristics of industry and research facilitate or weaken knowledge transfer.

New cross-country evidence (based on a newly compiled dataset of 23,600 universities and public research institutes of 36 countries) shows that:

1. Universities have become more active in patenting over the past two decades
2. Universities and industry increasingly engage in research collaboration
3. Universities have a positive impact on industry patenting



Policy instruments and mixes



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

This activity, which builds on more than 15 country case studies, conducts a **mapping of policies** implemented across OECD countries for science-industry knowledge transfer, and explores potential synergies and unintended negative effects of the coexistence of several different instruments.

The project also documents the governance of research policies.

Recent publications

- Borowiecki, M. and C. Paunov (2018), "[How is research policy organised across the OECD? Insights from a new policy database](#)", *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Policy Papers*, No. 55
- Paunov, C., S. Planes-Satorra and T. Moriguchi (2017), "[What role for social sciences in innovation?: Re-assessing how scientific disciplines contribute to different industries](#)", *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Policy Papers*, No. 45



Project events



Paris, December 2018



Paris, March 2018



Paris, March 2018



Lisbon, November 2017

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