# The policy mix for science-industry knowledge transfer in Finland

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The case study provides an analyst perspective on the policy mix supporting knowledge transfer in Finland, describing its main instruments, actors, history, current trends, and providing recommendations.

## **Topics covered**

Policy mix, ecosystem policies, governance reforms

# History of knowledge transfer and policies

Long tradition of knowledge transfer between technical universities and industry

Broad consensus on importance of knowledge transfer until 2015

High researcher mobility to the business sector

Government rewarded industry funding early on

E.g. Competitive funding & multiplying private sector donations to universities

Use of foresight as policy tool supporting national agenda setting

High-level policy coordination of education, research & innovation policy (Research & Innovation Council)

Importance of educational policy

### **Main instruments**

Cooperative programme funding

**Start-up** policies (e.g. TUTL)

**Eco-systems policies**:

Reboot Finland programme, BioNets Programme, CleverHealth Network, One Sea Ecosystem

Technology transfer companies (TTOs)

### Governance reforms:

- University Inventions Act 2007
- Reform of university funding in 2017
- Business leaders in university boards
- Merger of state research institutes 2014-2017

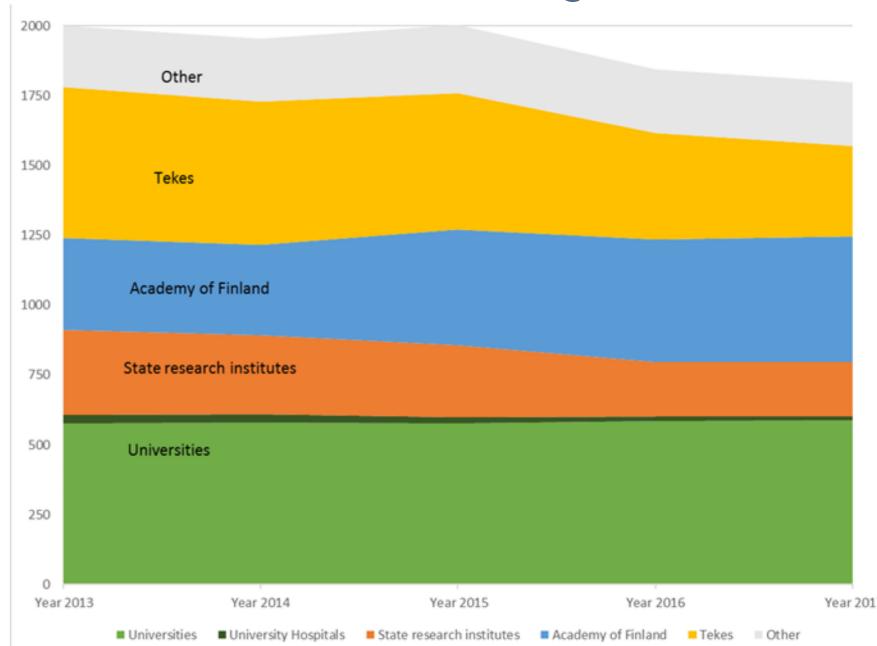
# **Policy recommendations**

- Promote entrepreneurial orientation of universities
- Increase long-term, strategic collaboration between universities and enterprises
- Strengthen demand and user-driven innovation
- Introduce career paths for university researchers that support co-operation with the industry

### **Main actors**

- Ministry of Education and Culture: Higher education and research policy
- Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment: Innovation policy
- Academy of Finland: Research funding
- Business Finland (formerly Tekes): Cooperative programme funding
- Research and Innovation Council: National roadmap for overall governance

# **Government R&D Funding 2013-2017**



### **Current trends**

- Innovation and research policy is **increasingly connected to societal issues**
- Shift towards policies **supporting start-ups**, fast growth **SMEs** and ecosystems
- Learning from previous **SHOK programme** which focused on large companies
- Reduction in government expenditures on R&D
- Strengthening of role of Academy of Finland for excellence research funding

Halme, K., Lamminkoski, H., Salminen, V., Piirainen, K., Härmälä, V., Hjelt, M. and J. Hyvärinen (2019), "Case Study on the policy mix for science-industry knowledge transfer in Finland: Case study contribution to the OECD TIP Knowledge Transfer and Policy project".