

Assessing the Socio-economic Impacts of Public R&D: Recent Practices and Perspectives (OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2008)

Understanding and measuring the impacts of public R&D have become a central concern of policy makers who need to evaluate the efficiency of public spending, assess its contribution to achieving social and economic objectives and legitimise public intervention by enhancing public accountability. This chapter presents a selection of impact assessment practices in a number of OECD countries. It reviews various methodological approaches and emphasises the role in these assessments of their timing, objectives, nature and scope.

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