

**COUNCIL**

**Council**

**IN-DEPTH EVALUATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL  
POLICY (CSTP)**

**Monitoring of the Implementation of Recommendations**

For further information or queries, please contact Philippe Larrue (Philippe.Larrue@oecd.org;  
+33 1 45 24 19 74)

**JT03348924**

Complete document available on OLIS in its original format

*This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.*



## Introduction

1. The In-depth Evaluation (IDE) of the Committee on Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP) was concluded on 14 November 2012 [[C\(2012\)133](#)]. The Evaluation Committee's assessment was "high" for relevance, 'high to very-high' for efficiency and 'high' for effectiveness.

2. Council addressed three recommendations to the CSTP:

- **Recommendation No. 1:** The CSTP should ensure that its work on biotechnology and nanotechnology is relevant in the light of the rapid pace of evolution in these areas and shifts in their common frontier and with other emerging technologies. To do this, it should pilot new flexible modes of project implementation and/or undertake a restructuring of these sub-bodies. It should also examine why the relaunching of the SFRI\* as the RIHR\*\* in 2008 has not led to an increased interest in its work.
- **Recommendation No. 2:** The CSTP should:
  - ensure that the design of its products reflects more systematically the needs of potential key users beyond committee Delegates, including through better and clearer structuring of reports and the inclusion of an executive summary in all cases; and
  - enhance the involvement of peer country policymakers in the conducting and dissemination of the Innovation Policy Reviews, including beyond the CSTP's policy community when feasible, in order to maximise the appropriation and impact of these products both in and beyond the reviewed countries.
- **Recommendation No. 3:** The CSTP should develop more systematic ways of interacting with other committees implementing complementary activities, in particular CIIE in the area of innovation policies, including Innovation Policy Reviews.

3. Initial actions responding to the recommendations have been completed and these are being followed up by further initiatives that are being implemented on an on-going basis into the 2015-16 Biennium.

4. The attached Annex gives details of the conclusions of the CSTP for each recommendation and its state of progress. The CSTP discussed and approved its monitoring report at its 17 October 2013 session.

## Proposed Action

5. In the light of the preceding, Council is invited to adopt the following draft conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2013\)148](#);
- b) noted that the response of the Committee on Scientific and Technological Policy to the evaluation recommendations has been appropriate;

---

\* Ad Hoc Working Group on Steering and Funding of Research Institutions (SFRI).

\*\* Working Party on Research Institutions and Human Resources (RIHR).

- c) invited the Chair of the Committee on Scientific and Technological Policy, in the framework of a future dialogue with the Council, to report on any further progress made in implementing the recommendations.

## ANNEX

## CONCLUSIONS OF THE CSTP FOR EACH RECOMMENDATION AND ITS STATE OF PROGRESS

Recommendation No. 1	<p><i>The CSTP should ensure that its work on biotechnology and nanotechnology is relevant in the light of the rapid pace of evolution in these areas and shifts in their common frontier and with other emerging technologies. To do this, it should pilot new flexible modes of project implementation and/or undertake a restructuring of these sub-bodies. It should also examine why the relaunching of the SFRI as the RIHR in 2008 has not led to an increased interest in its work.</i></p>
Actions	<p>The CSTP approved the structural changes contained in its Action Plan at its 103<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 17-18 October 2013 [<a href="#">DSTI/STP(2013)14/REV1</a>]. Measures include reducing the number of CSTP subsidiary bodies from six to four and building critical mass in key policy areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reflecting the expressed demand to move away from a sectoral focus and look at converging technologies, the CSTP has agreed to <b>merge the Working Party on Biotechnology (WPB) and the Working Party on Nanotechnology (WPN) at the end of their current mandates (2014)</b>. The area of converging or transformative technologies will form a key pillar for the Working Party. This activity will address enabling, emerging and transformative technologies in which convergence is most clearly seen, with current examples including: genomics, synthetic biology, bio-based products (e.g. food and medical products) and next-generation electronics. A second pillar will focus on the priority area of biotechnology, including health technologies and biomedical innovation (e.g. healthy ageing, neurosciences, biomedical products, translation of medical research), and industrial biotechnology (e.g. technological developments in biochemicals and biofuels). The third pillar will focus on work on nanotechnology, including for example: industrial upgrading; addressing global challenges; regulatory and governance frameworks; and metrics and impacts.</li> <li>2. <b>The Working Party on Research Institutions and Human Resources (RIHR) will be dissolved at the end of 2013</b>. Elements of RIHR's work on innovation (e.g. university-industry technology transfer, science/industry interface, role of science in innovation) will move to the Working Party on Technology and Innovation Policy (TIP), and RIHR's work on "science" will be elevated to the CSTP in 2015. Depending on the nature of the work, either the CSTP will undertake the work itself or request that another group (e.g. the Global Science Forum, TIP or NESTI) undertake the work on science policy. RIHR's work in the current PWB (2013-14) will be overseen by TIP and CSTP in 2014.</li> <li>3. Greater attention is being paid to articulating a strategic role for CSTP and each of its working parties, as well as their interaction. A new integrated way of developing the Committee's PWB (e.g. the development of a forward-looking strategic framework, undertaking the priority ranking exercise according to the strategic themes of the Committee and project proposals in Output Areas 1.3.2 and 1.3.3) has been developed in the</li> </ol>

	framework of the 2013-14 PWB. This will be strengthened in the near future, for the development of the 2015-16 PWB and the mandate revision:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An overarching vision of the relative role of CSTP and each of its subsidiary bodies will be developed and added to the CSTP Strategy initially developed over 2011-2012 for the 2013-14 PWB. This strategy will evolve to reflect the new smaller sub-body structure as well as key themes addressed by the 2015-16 PWB.</li><li>• The new mandates of the CSTP and its working parties will reflect how the work both by and under CSTP strategically fits together to address the key issues and changing policy environment. This strategic view will be incorporated into the revision of the mandates being undertaken in 2013 and 2014 that will become effective from 1 January 2015.</li></ul>			
Status	Under Preparation		Completion Date	1-2: October 2013 3: 2014
	Underway	3		
	Completed	1-2		
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Higher relevance and responsiveness of sectoral and, especially, cross-sectoral work.</li><li>• Fewer working parties, reduced fragmentation of the CSTP work programme, focusing on a more limited number of work areas with high policy relevance, enabling higher impact of the work going forward.</li><li>• Stronger co-ordination within the smaller substructure of the CSTP, reducing overlap and enhancing synergies.</li><li>• Stronger relevance and impact of the CSTP’s work on policy.</li></ul>			
Comments and observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To help deliver strategic and policy relevant messages from the current PWB, CSTP will produce a synthesis report that brings together the activities and key messages of the subgroups into a coherent whole <a href="#">[DSTI/STP(2013)18]</a>. In addition, an integrated synthesis report will enable CSTP to review its priority areas for future work based on a comprehensive and integrated overview of activities.</li></ul>			

<b>Recommendation No. 2</b>	<p><i>The CSTP should:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>ensure that the design of its products reflects more systematically the needs of potential key users beyond committee Delegates, including through better and clearer structuring of reports and the inclusion of an executive summary in all cases; and</i></li> <li>– <i>enhance the involvement of peer country policymakers in the conducting and dissemination of the Innovation Policy Reviews, including beyond the CSTP's policy community when feasible, in order to maximise the appropriation and impact of these products both in and beyond the reviewed countries.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Actions</b>	<p>With respect to the design of CSTP products:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>A greater emphasis has been placed on product design</b>, with all outputs clearly identifying the main policy issues addressed and the conclusions reached, and accompanied by a concise Executive Summary. A greater focus on joint projects between the CSTP and other OECD bodies, both supported by STI and by other directorates, has the potential to <b>capture audiences beyond committee Delegates</b>. New approaches to communication, such as the Innovation Policy Platform, a web-based information system launched in partnership with the World Bank, will facilitate knowledge exchange and allow <i>interactive</i> access to information, and provide access to updated country information extracted from the Outlook questionnaire.</li> <li>2. The strategic approach adopted for the formulation and implementation of the 2013-14 will be further strengthened for the 2015-16 PWB to <b>reduce fragmentation and improve coherence between the activities of CSTP subsidiary bodies</b> and to maximise the impacts of their outputs. CSTP will continue to focus on a smaller number of high quality outputs, including synthesis reports, to maximise their impacts. Greater efforts to improve the impact of outputs via the production of 'high impact' reports or 'policy briefs' that draw upon work across the subsidiary bodies and focus on topics of high current interest, e.g. the impact and efficacy of R&amp;D tax incentive schemes, have been introduced.</li> <li>3. Steps have been implemented to <b>improve the timeliness of outputs, including a tighter focus on a more limited number of projects and outputs in line with the needs and priorities of users</b> as a whole. A stronger focus on sound project planning and management and greater efforts to involve Delegates themselves in contributing to the work of the subsidiary bodies have been implemented. Novel sources of voluntary contributions designed to increase the relevance of outputs to broader global audiences, e.g. via the undertaking of work organised through BIAC and funded by international industrial associations.</li> <li>4. The initiation of activities likely to <b>promote the use of best practices</b> in the thematic areas deemed by the CSTP to be of strategic importance, e.g. the creation of spaces and platforms in which to discuss impact assessment and policy evaluation among committee Delegates and beyond and, in the longer term, the evolution of guidelines and even Council recommendations</li> </ol>

concerning the design and use of best practice impact assessment and evaluation approaches are being investigated.

With respect to the Innovation Policy Reviews:

5. **Involvement of Delegates in the Country Reviews of Innovation Policy has been enhanced significantly.** Pioneered by the Review of Sweden in 2012, the Reviews are – in agreement of the country examined – peer reviewed in the Working Party on Technology and Innovation Policy (TIP) and sometimes also in the CSTP, as was done with the review of France in October 2013. The peer review consists of a presentation of the OECD Secretariat's country review team, comments by the Delegates of two lead countries based on the "Overall Assessment and Recommendations" of the review available in advance on OLIS to all Delegates, a statement of the country examined and a general discussion. Invited comments were prepared by Delegates of Australia and the Netherlands on Sweden (2012), Delegates of Austria and Ireland on Croatia, Delegates of Finland and Spain on Colombia, and Delegates of Germany and the United Kingdom on France (all in 2013). This procedure, which is supported by longer time slots dedicated to the Reviews in the meetings allows for better communication of emerging results of the Reviews to Delegates (including on Partner countries) and improved feedback.
6. **Other ways of engaging Delegates** and other parties include their involvement in missions, conferences dedicated to the presentation of the Reviews in capitals, and follow-up workshops etc. in the countries reviewed. This kind of interaction has already taken place and will be developed further. For example, the Secretary-General presented the Innovation Review of Colombia to the country's President in October 2013. These events and activities provide an excellent opportunity for exchange of information and knowledge, including with partner countries and regions (e.g. Latin America and the Caribbean; South-East Asia; Southern Africa; MENA).
7. **Country Reviews of Innovation Policy have been presented to CSTP and CIIE** (the review of Sweden); as appropriate, presentations to both committees are also foreseen for the future (e.g. the current review of the Netherlands).
8. **Changes have been made also to the design and dissemination of the Country Reviews of Innovation Policy:**
  - **a standard chapter structure has been adopted**, allowing for more variation at the level of sub-chapters. This provides for improved accessibility, including for cross-country comparisons, while leaving the necessary room for customising the Reviews to the specific demands of the country examined. Executive summaries and Chapter abstracts are now regularly provided.
  - **New forms of dissemination** are taking place and further efforts are envisaged for the near future. This includes discussion on key STI policy issues analysed in reviews of different countries. This kind of interaction has been tested, notably at a roundtable hosted by the Chinese authorities in Beijing in 2011. Country Reviews will also be

	implemented in innovative ways in the Innovation Policy Platform (see point 2, Recommendation 2).			
Status	Under Preparation		Completion Date	1, 3, 5, 7, 8: January 2013 2, 4, 6: December 2014
	Underway	2, 4, 6		
	Completed	1, 3, 5, 7, 8		
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broader constituency using CSTP products.</li><li>• Deeper involvement of peers in Innovation County Reviews.</li><li>• Stronger impact of the CSTP’s work.</li></ul>			
Comments and observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A supporting initiative that has been introduced is <b>greater use of an Extended CSTP Bureau*</b>, meeting at least once per year, to enhance coherence of the work streams and outputs across all bodies and to facilitate the evolution of synergistic future strategies and PWBs. Tele- and video-conferencing for meetings of the Extended Bureau have been used.</li></ul>			

---

\*

Extended Bureau meetings include the Chairs of the CSTP Working Parties.



<b>Recommendation No. 3</b>	<i>The CSTP should develop more systematic ways of interacting with other committees implementing complementary activities, in particular CIIE in the area of innovation policies, including Innovation Policy Reviews.</i>			
<b>Actions</b>	<p>The CSTP has agreed to implement initiatives over the coming years with a greater focus on joint projects with other OECD bodies both within DSTI and external to it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>More systematic interaction with the CIIE</b> and enhanced co-operation between TIP and CIIE is achieved on a project-by-project basis and other forms of exchange such as joint workshops on issues of common interest. Current CSTP co-operation with the CIIE includes work on the Innovation Policy Platform, some of the Reviews of Innovation Policy, work on Knowledge-Based Capital, and specific areas of innovation policy, such as public procurement and commercialisation. Greater co-operation between the CSTP and CIIE on evaluation, impact assessment and industrial policy is being strengthened further in the existing PWB, taking account of the potential complementarities between the two bodies. A back-to-back meeting of the CSTP and the CIIE is currently planned for March 2014, and will include a joint workshop.</li><li><b>Enhanced co-ordination with other Committees</b> on a project-by-project basis is also being explored where appropriate (e.g. Education Policy Committee or ICCP). Concretely, this goal will be realised when the PWBs of the various bodies are being drafted, necessitating a need for collaboration both between the chairs of the various groups as well as the Secretariat responsible. Links will also be strengthened via mechanisms such as invitations to selected Delegates of one body to attend the meetings of the other, the evolution of joint projects, and the systematic reporting to each other of work and results of interest to both bodies.</li><li><b>Enhanced co-operation between CSTP and its subsidiary bodies with specific groups</b> has been approved. The new mandates of CSTP’s working parties will reflect this effort to enhance co-operation with other relevant bodies. This effort will be effective from the start of the new mandates on 1 January 2015.</li></ol>			
<b>Status</b>	<b>Under Preparation</b>		<b>Completion Date</b>	1-3: January 2015
	<b>Underway</b>	1, 2, 3		
	<b>Completed</b>			
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stronger co-operation with the CIIE and other Committees will enhance synergies and increase the impact and relevance of the respective work areas.</li></ul>			