



**DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY**

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Taking forward RIHR's Programme of Work 2011-2012

22 June 2010

This paper is for discussion at the RIHR meeting on 22 June 2010. Delegates are invited to discuss how to take forward work within the assigned CSTP priorities. The Secretariat and country delegates will amplify potential approaches at the meeting.

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Background

1. The Working Party on Research Institutions and Human Resources (RIHR) is a subsidiary body of the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP). The main objective of RIHR is to exchange information on and to review the main institutional, regulatory, and management issues facing governments as they strive to strengthen the knowledge base for innovation and the research capabilities of their public research institutions. The key focus of the Working Party is public research laboratories, universities and other higher education institutions involved in research as well as human resources for science and technology (HRST). In fulfilling its mandate, RIHR contributes to a range of CSTP activities and horizontal projects.

2. Each biennium, the CSTP submits its proposed programme of work and budget (PWB) to the OECD Budget Committee, which will begin to debate proposed priorities in each Output Area in June-July. The Budget Committee and Council will then consider all work proposals and priorities across the Organisation, following which further adjustments to the PWB may be made. The Organisation-wide PWB submission will be finalised for consideration and decision by Council by the end of the year.

3. RIHR's PWB is captured under Output area 1.3.2 Science and Innovation Policies. CSTP delegates have indicated their delegations' priority rankings of the 2011-2012 Expected Output Results in Priority Order including RIHR's [DSTI/STP(2010)2/REV1].

Proposed RIHR activities in the CSTP programme of work and budget 2011-2012

4. Table 1 below shows the expected RIHR outputs in the CSTP proposed PWB for 2011-2012 under Output Result 4 (Public Research Institutions and Human Resources) and suggests how RIHR might in practice take such work forward. Only the first two outputs shown in the table (4.1 and 4.2) are funded from the OECD's Part 1 Budget. The remaining three outputs, shaded in grey (4.3 to 4.5), require additional funding, primarily through voluntary contributions.

Table 1. Work to be carried out in 2011-2012

Expected outputs in the CSTP Programme of Work (Output Area 1.3.2)	Potential approaches
4.1 Report on funding and impacts of public research	<p>Science has always been central to innovation and continues to be an essential ingredient in all sectors including services and low-technology industries. In terms of 'green innovation', developing radically new technologies or transformative innovation, science will be an important part of the solution. The public sector is key because most basic research is performed by tertiary education institutions or by public research institutions.</p> <p>This activity might perhaps comprise analysis of the role of public research institutions in "big" science for green innovation.</p>
4.2 Report on human resources for science and technology	<p>Industry-science linkages have been a major policy target in recent years. Linkages between public research institutes and industry occur in many ways and range from formal mechanisms such as joint research projects to more indirect ways such as student placements or informal advice.</p> <p>This activity could look at policies related to HRST to foster industry-science linkages and knowledge exchange between the public and private sector.</p>
4.3 Report on improving prioritisation of public research	<p>Today, public research funding is mainly distributed via block funding (on the basis of institution size, past history, or research performance) and competitive funding to researchers and research teams (on the basis of applications). However, universities are not able to prioritise competitive funding given to researchers, and their scope for redistributing block funding</p>

	<p>according to new priorities is often, in practice, limited, despite the “non-earmarked” status of block funding.</p> <p>Some countries have been experimenting with new ways of distributing block funding, in order to give more financial freedom to universities. These initiatives (e.g. the Danish UNIK-initiative providing funding for broad research themes) provide competitive funding to institutions based on applications, in some cases with focus on particular research areas or on infrastructure. Building on the RIHR project on performance-based funding for tertiary education institutions, this activity would involve gathering country experiences in the provision of block funding to tertiary education institutions via ex-ante competitive processes. It could analyse the goals, design and impacts of such funding, and compare its merits against existing forms of funding in achieving research excellence.</p> <p>It has been estimated that this activity will require voluntary contributions totalling EUR 200 000 in 2011-12.</p>
4.4 Report on boosting the career development of researchers	<p>R&D personnel and researchers, in particular, are essential for innovation. They require not only professional knowledge and expertise in their fields but also a wide range of so-called transferable skills so they can engage in multidisciplinary projects, open innovation and global R&D, for example.</p> <p>There is little information on the variety of training activities to enhance researchers’ competencies in OECD member countries and non-member economies. Therefore, this activity proposes to analyse training activities that support R&D personnel as well as researcher career development.</p> <p>It has been estimated that this activity will require voluntary contributions totalling EUR 200 000 in 2011-12.</p>
4.5 Report on public research for social challenges	<p>The last few years have seen a growing interest in steering research and innovation to address social challenges – such as those associated with ageing populations, environmental sustainability or poverty. In 2009, the CSTP held two workshops on social challenges: <i>Fostering Innovation to Address Social Challenges</i> (25-26 May 2009) and <i>Transforming Innovation to Address Social Challenges</i> (9-10 November 2009). The first workshop addressed the most recent changes in research and innovation activities geared towards addressing growing social challenges and the principal barriers hindering these activities. The second workshop in November covered the actions that need to be taken by government and stakeholders to integrate social issues into the innovation process.</p> <p>The workshops highlighted that innovation to address social challenges has a public good nature. Market processes alone cannot effectively foster innovation activities that aim to address social challenges. Therefore, this potential follow-up activity aims to investigate the roles of public research in addressing social challenges.</p> <p>It has been estimated that this activity will require voluntary contributions totalling EUR 300 000 in 2011-12.</p>

Next steps

5. While the CSTP has instructed RIHR to deliver Outputs 4.1 and 4.2, as well as 4.3 to 4.5 subject to voluntary contributions, RIHR needs to advise the CSTP at its October 2010 meeting how the work will be taken forward. The specific approaches, terms of reference and methodologies used to deliver the outputs are determined by RIHR. Once RIHR agrees on the key activities that will take place under the output areas, project meetings will be organised by the Secretariat and detailed project proposals will be developed in late 2010 and early 2011.

6. RIHR delegates are invited to:
 1. Discuss the potential approaches; and
 2. Agree on the key activities that will be developed.