

Foreword

The OECD Review of Finland’s Innovation Policy is part of a series of OECD country reviews of innovation policy (www.oecd.org/sti/innovation/reviews). It was requested by the authorities of Finland, represented by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and supported jointly by the Minister of Economic Affairs and Employment, Dr. Olli Rehn, and the Minister of Education and Culture, Ms Sanni Grahn-Laasonen. The review was carried out by the OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation under the auspices of the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP).

The purpose of this review is to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the key elements, relationships and dynamics that drive Finland’s innovation system and the opportunities to enhance it through government policy. More specifically, the review:

- provides an independent and comparative assessment of the overall performance of the Finnish innovation system
- recommends where improvements can be made in the system
- formulates recommendations on how government policies can contribute to such improvements, drawing on the experience of OECD and non-OECD countries and evidence on innovation processes, systems and policies.

The review is relevant to a wide range of stakeholders in Finland, including government officials, entrepreneurs and researchers, as well as the general public. It aims to provide a comprehensive presentation of the Finnish innovation system and policy to a global audience through the OECD communication channels.

A draft version of the “Overall assessment and recommendations”, containing key issues and recommendations, was presented for a peer review at the Workshop back-to-back to the Meeting of the Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy (TIP) of the CSTP in December 2016. Adam Baden (Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark) and Eric Hauet (Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research, France) acted as peer reviewers.

Related to, but independent of, the review, the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment asked the OECD to carry out a survey of the macroeconomic literature on the role of research and development (R&D) in fostering economic performance. The report, drafted by Professor Pierre Mohnen (Maastricht University and UNU-MERIT), provided background and informed the review. A high-level workshop on “The Role of R&D in Fostering Economic Performance: Lessons from Research and Implications for Finland” was held in Helsinki in December 2016, bringing together international experts in the field from Finland, other parts of Europe and the United States to discuss findings of the forthcoming report and related complementary work. On this occasion, the Research Institute of the Finnish Economy (ETLA) presented a review of the microeconomic literature considering the impact of public subsidies on private R&D which was carried out in parallel to the OECD survey.

The review was led by Gernot Hutschenreiter, Head, Country Innovation Policy Reviews Unit, (Science and Technology Policy Division [STP], DSTI, OECD). The review report was drafted by Pluvia Zuniga (STP, DSTI, OECD), who acted as the project manager of the review, and, at the final stage, Johannes Weber (STP, DSTI, OECD), with contributions from Erik Arnold (consultant to the OECD; Chair, Technopolis Group, United Kingdom, and Adjunct Professor in Research Policy, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden), Sylvia Schwaag Serger (consultant to the OECD; Executive Director International Strategy and Networks, Vinnova, and Adjunct Professor in Research Policy, School of Economics, Lund University, Sweden), with valuable support from Yana Vaziakova (STP, DSTI, OECD) under the supervision of and with contributions from Gernot Hutschenreiter.

The review draws on the results of a series of interviews with a wide range of major stakeholders of the Finnish innovation system during a fact-finding mission to Finland in June 2016. A background report served as preparation for the OECD fact-finding mission. The background report was commissioned by the Finnish authorities and prepared by editing-authors Annu Kotiranta and Petri Rouvinen with the support of a team of other authors and contributors.* It contains a broad range of valuable information that is drawn upon in this report. ETLA supported the process.

This review has benefited from comments and additional information received from stakeholders in Finland, including during a stakeholder discussion in Helsinki, preceded by a meeting with the Research and Innovation Council (RIC) on 8 February 2017.

The authors owe much to the support and co-operation of the Finnish government officials, in particular Kai Husso (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and Finnish delegate to the Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy) and Kirsti Vilén (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and delegate to the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy and the Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy). Many of the stakeholders the OECD met during the fact-finding mission and at the stakeholder discussion provided valuable information and data and were instrumental for the preparation of this report.

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