

Foreword

The OECD Review of the Netherlands' Innovation Policy is part of a series of OECD country reviews of innovation policy.* It was requested by the Dutch authorities, represented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and was carried out by the OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (DSTI) 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 the Dutch 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 Dutch innovation system
- recommends where improvements can be made within the system
- formulates recommendations on how government policies can contribute to such improvements, drawing on the experience of other OECD countries and evidence on innovation processes, systems and policies.

The review is intended to be relevant to a wide range of stakeholders in the Netherlands, including government officials, entrepreneurs and researchers as well as the general public. It also aims to use the OECD as a communication platform to provide an accessible and comprehensive presentation of the Dutch innovation system and policy to a global audience.

A draft version of the Overall Assessment and Recommendations, containing key observations and recommendations, was presented for a peer review to the Working Party for Innovation and Technology Policy (TIP) of the CSTP in December 2013. Emerging results of the review were presented to the Committee for Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) in March 2014.

This report was drafted by Michael Keenan, Dimitrios Pontikakis, Giulia Ajmone Marsan (all Country Studies and Outlook Division [CSO], DSTI, OECD) and Peter Gal (Structural Policy Division, DSTI, OECD) with contributions from Terttu Luukkonen (consultant to the OECD; Chief Research Scientist, ETLA – The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy) and Ken Warwick (consultant to the OECD; former Chair of the CIIE) under the supervision of and with contributions from Gernot Hutschenreiter (CSO, DSTI, OECD). Georg Licht (consultant to the OECD; Head, Industrial Economics and International Management, Centre for European Economic Research, ZEW, Germany) contributed to the main fact-finding mission to the Netherlands. Hélène Dernis (Economic Analysis and Statistics Division, DSTI, OECD), Andrès Barreneche (CSO, DSTI, OECD) and Thiago Messena (working at DSTI at the time of his contribution) provided valuable input, statistical support and web-based research.

*www.oecd.org/sti/innovation/reviews

The review draws on the results of a series of interviews with major stakeholders of the Dutch innovation system, and a background report commissioned by the Dutch authorities. This background report was prepared by TNO and authored by Marcel de Heide, Walter Manshanden, Evgueni Poliakov and Jelmer Ypma. In addition, the Netherlands' Ministries of Economic Affairs and Education Culture and Science provided a staff paper. The two documents contained a broad range of information that is widely drawn upon in this report.

The review owes much to the support and co-operation of Dutch government officials, in particular Sander Kes and, in the initial phase, Arie van der Zwan (both Ministry of Economic Affairs) and Jacky Bax and Jos Rokx (both Ministry of Education, Culture and Science) as well as Francien Heijs (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and Delegate to the CSTP) and Harry Oldersma (Economic Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of the Netherlands to the OECD), who provided information and comments, arranged the interviews during the fact-finding missions in the Netherlands and provided invaluable support throughout the review process. The report has benefited from comments and additional information received from stakeholders in the Netherlands, delegates of the CSTP and CIIE, the TIP peer review – in particular Jan Larosse (Policy Advisor to the Government of Flanders, Belgium) who acted as peer reviewer – and distinguished experts in the field.



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