Foreword

This publication presents a collection of papers from the OECD-Norway workshop on performance-based funding of public research in tertiary education institutions, held in Paris on 21 June 2010. The workshop was organised by the OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (DSTI) in conjunction with the Norwegian delegation to the OECD. It brought together delegates from the OECD Working Party on Research Institutions and Human Resources (RIHR) with experts and policy makers from OECD countries and non-member economies.

The workshop formed part of the RIHR group's ongoing analysis of the governance and funding of research-performing institutions. Governments are seeking to channel research funds to universities and other institutions in ways that support quality research in strategically important areas and bolster the effective diffusion of knowledge. The issues of steering and funding take on greater relevance in light of the financial crisis and economic downturn, which have put severe fiscal pressure on many countries. The workshop was an opportunity to take stock of current thinking and practice about performance-based funding of public research in tertiary education institutions, as one way to help governments meet their research goals. These funding models essentially involve *ex post* evaluation of research outputs and outcomes from universities and other tertiary institutions, and are generally based on peer review, bibliometric or other quantitative indicators. The results are used to inform government decisions about how much and which institutions to fund.

The project was managed by Sarah Box of the OECD DSTI's Science and Technology Policy Division. It benefited from the leadership of the steering group, comprising representatives from Norway (lead country), Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The OECD Secretariat would also like to acknowledge the financial assistance provided by Belgium, Denmark, France, Norway and Sweden, and to thank all participating countries for their comments and contributions to the work.



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