

Expert workshop

The effectiveness of
national research funding systems

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Policy issues derived from the FundSys study

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Policy issues (1)



- **Choice between institutional (“less competitive”) and project-based funding (“more competitive”) is too simplistic and might even be false**
- **No clear-cut direct relationship between type of research funding and research excellence**
- **Competition is built-in into the research system itself already. Nature contractual relationship between research funder & the performer > type of funding**

Policy issues (2)



- **There possibly is an optimal level of competitive funding. Too much competition might result in demotivating low success rates, narrowing research focus & risk aversion**
- **Research performance goes beyond bibliometric indicators and is affected by more factors than research funding alone**
- **Lots of strategic behaviour of both institutions and individual researchers affecting the performance of the research system**

Questions for discussion (1)



- 1. How effective is competitive funding in supporting research excellence?**
- 2. Do we need alternative indicators for assessing competition in research funding?**
- 3. Can there be too much competition in a research system?**

Questions for discussion (2)



- 4. Are policies aimed at mobility & openness, HR-policies of HEI's and improving the quality of the research climate more effective to further research excellence/impact ?**
- 5. Do we need a broader notion of research excellence/impact than bibliometrics alone? (and allocate research funding accordingly)?**