

Standard-documentation
Meta information
(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Survey on research and experimental
development (R&D) in the higher education
sector, in the government sector and in the
private non-profit sector

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Executive Summary

The survey on research and experimental development (R&D) is a primary survey among approximately 2 200 Austrian R&D performing institutes in the higher education sector, the government sector and the private non-profit sector, which has been carried out by Statistics Austria since 1967. Reference period is the previous uneven calendar year. The survey is carried out as a census survey among all R&D performing institutes in the above-mentioned sectors. Due to the national R&D statistics regulation the surveyed institutions are obliged to report data. Besides data on R&D personnel, R&D expenditures as well as its funding, data on types of research and socio-economic objectives of the research activities are collected.

Aim of this statistics is the compilation of policy-relevant, input-oriented data on the performance of R&D in non-market producing institutions. As R&D, in economic theory as well as in economic policy, is considered a basis for economic growth and an increase of productivity, R&D relevant input and output data, but especially the gross domestic expenditures on R&D (GERD) – which are calculated from the results of the R&D statistical surveys and represent an important European “structural indicator” – are an indicator with significant importance, on a national as well as on EU level.

The results are merged with those of the business enterprise sector to national totals and published. Analyses on the data collected in the framework of the R&D surveys are also used as a base for the annual R&D estimates, especially the annual R&D global estimate. Coefficients which are derived from survey data are also used for the annual compilation of the "Detailübersicht Forschungswirksame Mittelverwendungen des Bundes" (formally known as Annex T of the Federal Finance Act) in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance as the basis of the R&D share of specific budget lines of the federal budget. Additionally, for the annual estimate of the R&D funding of regional governments (“Länder”) results of the respective R&D survey are taken into account.

The methodological basis is the internationally used Frascati Manual of the OECD¹ which determines worldwide standards and guidelines referring to the surveys on research and experimental development. R&D comprise creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge – including knowledge of humankind, culture and society – and to devise new applications of available knowledge. The element of novelty and originality (new findings, new knowledge, new knowledge system, new applications) is the most important criteria to distinguish R&D from other scientific activities.

¹ OECD (2015), Frascati Manual 2015: Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development, The Measurement of Scientific, Technological and Innovation Activities, OECD Publishing, Paris.

According to the Frascati Manual four sectors of performance² are distinguished in the framework of R&D statistics:

Higher education sector

- Universities (including university clinics)
- Universities of Arts
- Universities of Applied Sciences („Fachhochschulen“)
- Private universities
- Danube University Krems
- University colleges of teacher education
- Other higher education sector
- Experimental institutes at schools of higher technical education

Government sector

- R&D performing institutions of the
 - Federal government
 - Regional governments
 - Local governments
 - Professional chambers
 - Social security institutions
- Private non-profit institutions financed/controlled by the government sector and the Austrian Academy of Sciences

Private non-profit sector

- Private non-profit institutions with a mainly private, religious or other non-public status or under private law

Business enterprise sector (is treated in a separate standard-documentation)

- Institutes sub-sector
- Company R&D sub-sector

Due to internationally harmonised methods and standards of the Frascati Manual the results of the R&D surveys are comparable with the results of previous surveys on research and development as well as regionally and internationally.

The Frascati Manual was revised in the year 2015. In accordance with eurostat the guidelines of the seventh edition („[FM2015](#)“) were implemented in the R&D-survey 2017 for the first time.

² It must be pointed out that the higher education sector defined in the framework of R&D statistics is not a separate sector in National Accounts and the System of National Accounts (SNA).

R&D survey in the higher education sector, government sector and private non-profit sector – Main features

Subject Matter	Research activities (Human resource input for R&D, R&D expenditure, funding of R&D) of R&D performing institutions, except those surveyed in the framework of the R&D survey in the business enterprise sector
Population	R&D performing institutions in the higher education sector, government sector and private non-profit sector (approx. 2 200 statistical units)
Type of statistics	Primary survey; supplemented by administrative data and estimates
Data sources/Survey techniques	Reports from R&D performing institutions Central university administrations Budget data from the federal government and the regional governments
Reference period or due day	Uneven calendar years (from the reference year 2007 onwards the EU rhythm of uneven reference years has been followed)
Periodicity	Every two years
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Compulsory
Main legal acts	Verordnung der Bundesministerin für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur, des Bundesministers für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie und des Bundesministers für Wirtschaft und Arbeit über Statistiken betreffend Forschung und experimentelle Entwicklung (F&E-Statistik-Verordnung) vom 29. August 2003, BGBl. II Nr. 396/2003 ; (national regulation), last change by BGBl II Nr. 150/2008 Commission implementing regulation (EU) No 995/2012 of 26 October 2012 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Decision No 1608/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology
Most detailed regional breakdown	Regions
Availability of results	Final data: t + 18 months
Other	