Governments in several countries take an increasing interest in ways in which they can strategically steer research and innovation activities to make significant progress towards addressing societal challenges of unprecedented scale and scope. Although they differ in many ways, various initiatives have in common that they aim to address these ambitious challenges through the implementation of systemic policies (often referred to as ‘missions’) that include various policy instruments and activities targeted towards a defined set of concrete goals.

**A NEW ERA FOR “MISSION-ORIENTED” STI POLICIES | PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the OECD project on the design and implementation of mission-oriented policies to address societal challenges is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how governments try to address societal challenges through well-targeted and wide-spanning coordinated sets of policy measures. More precisely this project’s objectives are threefold:

- Categorise the different ways in which governments design, fund and coordinate these initiatives
- Identify the national factors that foster or impede the development and implementation of these initiatives
- Analyse in-depth specific initiatives in different national and thematic contexts

This thorough analysis will be conducted on two main levels: the national level, in order to understand the institutional settings in which these policy initiatives are set up; the level of specific cases of policy initiatives, focusing on their design, funding and governance. Various types of investigations will be conducted at the level of countries’ overall system of innovation and at the level of specific policy initiatives (desk research, database analysis, dedicated data collection, case studies with on-site interviews, workshops).
Building on existing academic work, MOIPs can be defined as:

A coordinated package of research and innovation policy measures aiming to address societal challenges.

They possibly span different stages of the innovation cycle from research to demonstration and crossing various policy fields.

Use various instruments (supply-side and demand-side; top-down and bottom-up, policy and regulatory…), in order to meet ambitious and concrete goals, in a defined time-frame.

The value of the mission-oriented policy approach lies in its ability to combine both comprehensiveness and focus.

In-depth case studies are conducted in countries, involving specific desk research, statistical analysis and interviews of policy makers and research actors.

Policy country profiles include for each country all relevant information on the mission-oriented policy approach(es), the type of instruments used and the modes of governance being implemented, etc.

Concertation workshops are hosted by countries in order to discuss retrospective/analytical and forward-looking issues to improve mission-orientation in these countries.

Contact | LARRUE Philippe | Philippe.larrue@oecd.org | Landline: +33 1 45 24 94 77

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