

Links between research policy and national academic performance: a Dutch perspective

Uri Rosenthal, June 9th
Copenhagen

AWTI

- 10 members
- 12 staff
- 11 meetings per year
- 4 reports per year
- 3 themes
- 2 ministries
- 1 work program
- 0 ties or strings

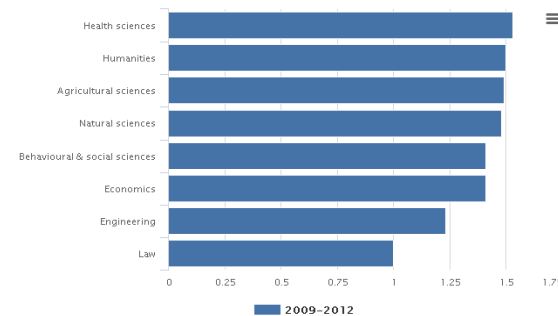
The AWTI has three key characteristics

- ***Independent:*** not restricted by vested interests or current policies
- ***Politically sensitive:*** with an eye for political feasibility
- ***Strategic:*** determining a policy perspective and setting long term goals

The World Class Knowledge report takes the Netherlands as one of its case studies

Citation scores of scientific publications in the Netherlands are above-average for all scientific fields

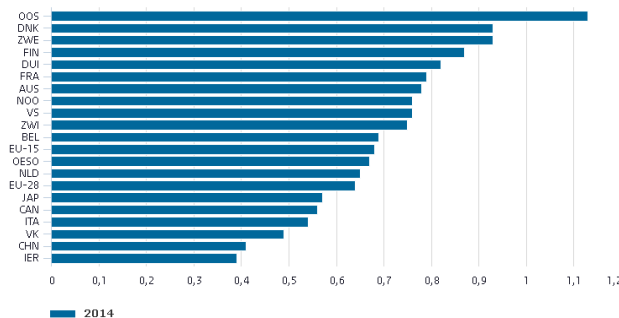
Citation impact for scientific publications by scientific field



Source: Web of Science / CWTs

...despite the fact that investments in science are average compared to other countries

Public spending on R&D in % of GDP



Source: Dutch Ministry of Education

OESO / MSTI database

Limitation: citation scores might be an indication of the level of success of research in the academic community, but say relatively little about the societal and economic impact of research

The report mentions causes of Dutch success and challenges for the future

Causes of success

- Strong research culture
- Long-term funding stability
- Balanced policy-mix

Challenges

- Over-emphasis output indicators
- Limited capacity ground-breaking research

→ The AWTI recognizes the causes and challenges mentioned in the report, but would like to make a number of additions and nuances.

Causes of Dutch success

- “the Netherlands has a well balanced policy mix”
→ Caused by the Dutch consensus model (‘polderen’)
- Culture at Dutch academic institutions is very open and non-hierarchical, allowing everyone to express their point of view

Genuine challenges for the Dutch science system are:

- Publish or perish culture
- Downward trend in funding
- Human resource policies
- ICT capacity

Policy recommendations

- It is important to have a systems perspective
It's not the single policy, but the system that determines performance
- Calibrating and balancing should be institutionalised
- Competition is important
but not necessarily competition for funding, rather for career opportunities, research facilities
- It might be valuable to look at new coordination mechanisms
Top sector policies, Dutch national research agenda (NWA)

Advising Denmark and the DFiR

- It is important to keep research infrastructure in good shape, notably related to ICT
- Shift focus from citations to relations
and from output to impact and social relevance
- Look at trans disciplinary research to help solve grand societal challenges
- Be modest and moderate in pursuing radical reforms

