Survey response for Turkey

OECD database of governance of public research policy

This document contains detailed responses for Turkey to the survey on governance of public research policy across the OECD. It provides additional background information to the OECD database of governance of public research policy as described in Borowiecki, M. and C. Paunov (2018), "How is research policy across the OECD organised? Insights from a new policy database", OECD Science, Technology and Industry Policy Papers, No. 55, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/235c9806-en. The data was compiled by the OECD Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy (TIP). Data quality was validated by delegates to OECD TIP Working Party the in the period between March 2017 and May 2018. Additional references that were used to fill out the questionnaire are indicated.

The data is made freely available online for download at https://stip.oecd.org/resgov.

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This document, as well as any data and map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.
## Abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BTP-UP</td>
<td>Bilim ve Teknoloji Politikalı Uygulama Planı</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>HEIs</td>
<td>Higher Education Institutions</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
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<td>MoD</td>
<td>Kalınma Bakanlığı</td>
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<td>MoSIT</td>
<td>Bilim, Sanayi ve Teknoloji Bakanlığı</td>
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<td>PRIs</td>
<td>Public Research Institutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>R&amp;D</td>
<td>Research and Development</td>
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<td>RIS-3</td>
<td>Research Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation</td>
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<td>SCST</td>
<td>Supreme Council for Science and Technology</td>
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<td>STI</td>
<td>Science, Technology and Innovation</td>
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<td>TÜBİTAK</td>
<td>Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu</td>
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<td>UBTYS</td>
<td>Ulusal Bilim, Teknoloji ve Yenilik Stratejisi</td>
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<tr>
<td>ULAKBİM</td>
<td>Ulusal Akademik Ağ ve Bilgi Merkezi</td>
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<td>YÖK</td>
<td>Yükseköğretim Kurulu Başkanlığı</td>
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*Note: TÜBİTAK is the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey.*
Survey of public research policy

Topic 1: Institutions in charge of priority setting, funding and evaluations

Table 1. Questions on institutions in charge of priority setting, funding and evaluations of universities and PRIs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1.1. Who mainly decides on the <strong>scientific, sectoral and/or thematic priorities of budget allocations</strong> for a) HEIs and b) PRIs? c) Which are the main mechanisms in place to decide on <strong>scientific, sectoral and/or thematic priorities of national importance</strong>, e.g. digital transition, sustainability? Please describe who is involved and who decides on the priorities (e.g., government, research and innovation councils, sector-specific platforms including industry and science, etc.). (This question does not refer to who sets overall science, technology and industry priorities. This is usually done by parliaments and government. The question refers to decisions taken after budgets to different ministries/agencies have been approved. Scientific priorities refer to scientific disciplines, e.g. biotechnology; sectoral priorities refer to industries, e.g. pharmaceuticals; and thematic priorities refer to broader social themes, e.g. digital transition, sustainability, etc.) d) From 2005-16, were any significant changes introduced as to how decisions on scientific, sectoral and/or thematic orientation of major programmes are taken (e.g. establishment of agencies that decide on content of programmes)?</td>
<td>a and b) The Supreme Council for Science and Technology (SCST) decides on the scientific, sectoral and/or thematic priorities of budgets for HEIs and PRIs. SCST formulates guidelines for STI policy, defines priority areas for public investment in research and innovation, and designs programmes accordingly. It assigns tasks to agencies and other public bodies according to these priorities; it also determines in which research fields and in what proportions R&amp;D investments are made. c) Missing answer. d) No major reforms made.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:
Q.1.2. Who allocates institutional block funding to a) HEIs and b) PRIs?  
(Institutional block funds (or to general university funds) support institutions and are usually transferred directly from the government budget.)

c) Who allocates project-based funding of research and/or innovation for HEIs and PRIs?  
(Project-based funding provides support for research and innovation activities on the basis of competitive bids.)

d) Is there a transnational body that provides funding to HEIs and PRIs (e.g. the European Research Council)?

e) What is the importance of such funding relative to national funding support?

f) From 2005-16, were any changes made to way programmes are developed and funding is allocated to HEIs and PRIs (e.g. merger of agencies, devolution of programme management from ministries to agencies)?

a and b) The Ministry of Development (MoD) allocates institutional funding to HEIs and PRIs. Additionally, the Ministry of Finance provides institutional funding to public HEIs under the Scientific Research Program (BAP).

c) The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) is the leading agency for project-based funding of HEIs and PRIs.

TÜBİTAK was established in 1963 and is an autonomous institution governed by a Scientific Board whose members are selected from universities, industry and research institutions. TÜBİTAK also conducts research and operates the main network of PRIs in Turkey.

d) Turkey is associated with the European Commission (EC) Framework Programme since 2003 and the Horizon 2020 programme since 2014. Turkish HEIs and PRIs can apply for European funding for research and innovation.

e) Missing answer.

f) No major reforms made.

References:
Q.1.3. Do performance contracts determine funding of a) HEIs?
Institutional block funds can be partly or wholly distributed based on performance. (Performance contracts define goals agreed between ministry/agency and HEIs/PRIs and link it to future block funding of HEIs and PRIs.)

b) What is the share of HEI budget subject to performance contract?

b) What is the share of HEI budget subject to performance contract?

c) Do performance contracts include quantitative indicators for monitoring and evaluation?

d) What are the main indicators used in performance contracts? Which, if any, performance aside from research and education is set out in performance contracts?

e) Do HEIs participate in the formulation of main priorities and criteria used in performance contracts?

f) Do the same priorities and criteria set in performance contracts apply to all HEIs?

g) Are any other mechanisms in place to allocate funding to HEIs and PRIs?

h) From 2005-16, were any changes made to funding of HEIs and PRIs?

(In case performance contracts are in place that bind funding of PRIs, please provide information about them.)

a to f) Institutional funding to HEIs is not determined by performance contracts.

g) Performance-based elements for funding of research at HEIs and PRIs were introduced in 2014 which affect for project-based funding; the part of project-based funding of TÜBITAK that is used to cover overhead costs of institutions (personnel, infrastructure, etc.) depends on universities' performance. Performance will be assessed annually based on performance criteria. A higher level of performance will lead to a higher project overhead for universities, resulting in increased R&D budgets for those good performers. Under this scheme, deductible overheads can be increased from 10% to up to 50% of the project budget whereas the previous practice was to have a fixed overhead rate of 10% (since 2004).

Additionally, a performance-based funding system which provides state funds to university-affiliated research centres was established in 2014.

h) There were no major reforms except performance-based funding made.

References:
EC/OECD STI Policy Survey 2016 for Turkey, Response C5.
TÜBITAK (2013), Science, Technology, and Innovation in Turkey in 2012,
Q.1.4. Who decides on the following key evaluation criteria of HEIs and PRIs?

a) to f) The newly created Higher Education Quality Council sets criteria for evaluating performance of HEIs. It is also responsible for evaluating and monitoring HEIs’ performance.

h) The Higher Education Quality Council was established by the Directive on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in 2015. It follows the pilot evaluation project “Institutional Performance Evaluation System” which has been implemented in a small sample of universities by the Higher Education Council.

a) to f) The newly created Higher Education Quality Council sets criteria for evaluating performance of HEIs. It is also responsible for evaluating and monitoring HEIs’ performance.

h) The Higher Education Quality Council was established by the Directive on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in 2015. It follows the pilot evaluation project “Institutional Performance Evaluation System” which has been implemented in a small sample of universities by the Higher Education Council.

Who is responsible for setting criteria to use when evaluating performance of a) HEIs? Who is responsible for b) evaluating and c) monitoring HEIs’ performance?

Who is responsible for setting criteria to use when evaluating performance of d) PRIs? Who is responsible for e) evaluating and f) monitoring PRIs’ performance?

h) From 2005-16, was any institution created for evaluating HEIs and PRIs or were any changes made to criteria applied for evaluations of HEIs and PRIs?

h) From 2005-16, was any institution created for evaluating HEIs and PRIs or were any changes made to criteria applied for evaluations of HEIs and PRIs?

An evaluation methodology for university-affiliated research centres, the “Efficiency Evaluation of the University Affiliated Research Centers”, was developed jointly by the MoD and TÜBİTAK in 2014 to promote the efficient use of public research infrastructures. This change was introduced along with an increase in autonomy of the research centres affiliated with universities.

In 2012, TÜBİTAK introduced the “Entrepreneurial and Innovative University Index” to monitor entrepreneurial performance of universities. The index ranks universities based on five dimensions including scientific and technological research competence, intellectual property pool, cooperation and interaction, entrepreneurship and innovation culture, as well as economic contribution and commercialisation. These five areas are measured by 23 indicators. It is scheduled to be published annually and aims to foster entrepreneurship and innovation activities in universities. However, index performance does not determine university funding.

In 2014, the Department of Impact Assessment was created at the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology (MoSIT). The department will be in charge of monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of all public STI policies, covering programmes of the Ministry and TÜBİTAK.

References:
EC/OECD STI Policy Survey 2016 for Turkey, Responses B12d, H4, C5.

Q.1.5. Which recent reforms to institutions that are in charge of priority setting, budget allocations, and evaluations of HEIs and PRIs were particularly important?

The Higher Education Quality Council was established in 2015 in order to set up a system of independent evaluation of HEIs.

The scheme for “Efficiency Evaluation of the University Affiliated Research Centers” introduced performance-based funding and increased autonomy for university-affiliated research centres.

References:
### Topic 2: Policy co-ordination mechanisms

**Table 2. Questions on research and innovation councils**

<table>
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<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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| **Q.2.1.** a) Is there a Research and Innovation Council, i.e. non-temporary public body that takes decisions concerning HEI and PRI policy, and that has explicit mandates by law or in its statutes to either? | a and b) The Supreme Council for Science and Technology (SCST) is the main research and innovation council in Turkey with decision-making power for national STI policy. The SCST was created in 1983; it held its first meeting in 1989. Since 2005, it meets twice a year.  
  
c) Inter-Governmental Coordination Council for R&D (established 2012)                                                      |
| b) What is the name of the main research and/or innovation Council/Committee? Are there any other research Councils/Committees? |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| c) Are there any other research Councils/Committees?                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**References:**

**Q.2.2.** With reference to Q.2.1, does the Council’s mandate explicitly include a) policy coordination; b) preparation of strategic priorities; c) decision-making on budgetary allocations; d) evaluation of policies’ implementation (including their enforcement); e) and provision of policy advice?

| a to e) The Council’s mandate includes policy coordination, preparation of strategic priority setting, and decision-making for budgetary allocations. SCST is responsible for coordination within government regarding STI policy and the development and implementation of programmes supporting STI; it includes non-state stakeholders from industry and academia in the policy-making process. It also assigns tasks to public bodies such as agencies according to its plans and programmes. It further assists the government in setting long-term STI policies, identifying R&D targets for science and technology, identifying priority areas in R&D, and preparing bills and legislations for related STI plans and programs with the aim to increase the effectiveness of the S&T system in Turkey. The Council decides about the allocation of R&D funds to research fields. |

**References:**
Q.2.3. With reference to Q.2.1, who formally participates in the Council? a) Head of State, b) ministers, c) government officials (civil servants and other representatives of ministries, agencies and implementing bodies), d) funding agency representatives, e) local and regional government representatives, f) HEI representatives, g) PRI representatives, h) private sector, i) civil society, and/or j) foreign experts

a to j) The SCST has 21 permanent members. It is chaired by the Prime Minister. Other permanent council members include: Ministers of State, National Defence, Finance, National Education, Health, Forestry and Rural Affairs, Industry and Trade, Energy and Natural Resources, as well as Environment and Forest; the Chairman of the Council of Higher Education; the Undersecretary of the State Planning Organisation; the Undersecretaries of Treasury and Foreign Trade; the Chairman of the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority; the President and Vice President of TÜBİTAK; the General Director of Turkish Radio and Television; the Chairman of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey; a representative of the Council of Higher Education and one representatives from HEIs.

Other relevant stakeholders are invited to the meetings. In total, over one hundred different actors from the governmental bodies, higher education and business sectors are represented in SCST meetings.

References:

Q.2.4. With reference to Q.2.1.b., does the Council have a) staff and/or its own b) budget? If so, please indicate the number of staff and the amount of annual budget available.

a and b) SCST does not have its own secretariat or budget. TÜBİTAK works as the secretariat of SCST; TÜBİTAK evaluates and monitors policy implementation.

c) From 2005-16, were any reforms made to the mandate of the Council, its functions, the composition of the Council, the budget and/or the Council’s secretariat? Was the Council created during the time period?

c) No major reforms made.

References:
Table 3. Questions on national STI strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.2.5. a) Is there a national non-sectoral STI strategy or plan?</td>
<td>a and b) The National Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (UBTYS) 2011-16 is the main national STI strategy in Turkey. The STI strategy for 2017-2023 is currently in development.</td>
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<td>b) What is the name of the main national STI strategy or plan?</td>
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<td>Q.2.6. Does the national STI strategy or plan address any of the following priorities?</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Specific themes and/or societal challenges (e.g. Industry 4.0; “green innovation”; health; environment; demographic change and wellbeing; efficient energy; climate action) - Which of the following themes and/or societal challenges are addressed?</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Demographic change (i.e. ageing populations, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Digital economy (e.g. big data, digitalisation, industry 4.0)</td>
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<td>- Green economy (e.g. natural references, energy, environment, climate change)</td>
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<td>- Health (e.g. Bioeconomy, life science)</td>
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<td>- Mobility (e.g. transport, smart integrated transport systems, e-mobility)</td>
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<td>- Smart cities (e.g. sustainable urban systems urban development)</td>
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<td>b) Specific scientific disciplines and technologies (e.g. ICT; nanotechnologies; biotechnology) - Which of the following scientific research, technologies and economic fields are addressed?</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Agriculture and agricultural technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Energy and energy technologies (e.g. energy storage, environmental technologies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Health and life sciences (e.g. biotechnology, medical technologies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ICT (e.g. artificial intelligence, digital platforms, data privacy)</td>
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<td>- Nanotechnology and advanced manufacturing (e.g. robotics, autonomous systems)</td>
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<td>c) Specific regions (e.g. smart specialisation strategies)</td>
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<td>d) Supranational or transnational objectives set by transnational institutions (for instance related to European Horizon 2020)</td>
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<td>e) Quantitative targets for monitoring and evaluation (e.g. setting as targets a certain level of R&amp;D spending for public research etc.)</td>
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<td>f) From 2005-16, was any STI strategy introduced or were any changes made existing STI strategies?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.2.7. What reforms to policy co-ordination regarding STI strategies and plans have had particular impact on public research policy?</td>
<td>No major reforms made.</td>
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References:
Table 4. Questions on inter-agency programming and role of agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.2.8. Does inter-agency joint programming contribute to the co-ordination of HEI and PRI policy?</td>
<td>Interagency join-programming is not in place in Turkey.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Inter-agency joint programming refers to formal arrangements that result in joint action by implementing agencies, such as e.g. sectoral funding programmes or other joint policy instrument initiatives between funding agencies.)</td>
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| Q.2.9. a) Is co-ordination within the mandate of agencies?                                                                                          | a and b) The Inter-Governmental Coordination Council for R&D was created in 2012; it coordinates between different public institutions in order to overcome fragmentation of STI policy governance in particular with regard to programme design and implementation. It is chaired by the president of TÜBİTAK, with the participation of high level representatives of relevant Ministries (Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology, Development, and Economy) and agencies such as e.g. the Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Organisation. |
| b) From 2005-16, were any changes made to the mandates of agencies tasked with regards to inter-agency programming? Were new agencies created with the task to coordinate programming during the time period? | The Inter-Governmental Coordination Council has met 20 times since its establishment in 2012. The Council works currently on the evaluation of R&D support schemes and ways to strengthen coordination between the funding agencies. To this aim, sub-working groups have been established with the participation of all agencies and ministries with view to establish evaluation criteria, and harmonise review and evaluation processes. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The Supreme Council for Science and Technology (SCST) is another body that plays a co-ordination role in programming and implementation of STI support policies between different ministries and agencies (see response to question 2.2.) |


| Q.2.10. What reforms of the institutional context have had impacts on public research policy?                                                        | The Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology (MoSIT) has been established in 2011 as part of a restructuring of the former Ministry of Industry and Trade. TÜBİTAK which used to be affiliated to the Prime Minister’s Office has become an affiliated institution to the MoSIT. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                 | In 2014, the Department of Impact Assessment was created at the MoSIT. The department will be in charge of monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of all public STI policies, covering programmes of ministries and TÜBİTAK. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The Inter-Governmental Coordination Council for R&D was created in 2012 with view to supporting policy co-ordination within the government. |

## Topic 3: Stakeholders consultation and institutional autonomy

### Table 5. Questions on stakeholder consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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| **Q.3.1.** a) Do the following stakeholders participate as formal members in Research and Innovation Councils? (i.e. Formal membership as provided by statutes of Council)  
   - Private Sector  
   - Civil society (citizens/ NGOs/ foundations)  
   - HEIs/PRIs and/or their associations  
   b) Do stakeholders participate as formal members in council/governing boards of HEIs? (i.e. Formal membership as provided by statutes of Council)  
   - Private Sector  
   - Civil society (citizens/ NGOs/ foundations) | a) The SCST includes the chairman of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey as a representative of the private sector, the chairman of the Council of Higher Education and a representative of HEIs.  
   b) In Turkey, the University Senate is the governing body of HEIs. There are no national provisions for external representation in University Senates. In general, University Senates are composed of the rector, vice-rectors, deans, directors of the graduate schools and the post-secondary vocational schools, as well as a teaching staff member from each faculty elected for a three-year term. |

**References:**
- YÖK (2014), Higher Education System in Turkey, p. 13, [www.yok.gov.tr/docs/10346274/1073291/FR'de+y%C3%Bcksek%C3%B6%C4%9Fretim+Sistemi2.pdf](http://www.yok.gov.tr/docs/10346274/1073291/FR'de+y%C3%Bcksek%C3%B6%C4%9Fretim+Sistemi2.pdf) (accessed on 6 March 2017).

| **Q.3.2.** a) Are there online consultation platforms in place to request inputs regarding HEI and PRI policy?  
   b) Which aspects do these online platforms address (e.g. e.g. open data, open science)?  
   c) From 2005-16, were any reforms made to widen inclusion of stakeholders and/or to improve consultations, including online platforms? | a) Missing answer.  
   c) Committees for coordination of STI programme design were introduced by TÜBİTAK in 2010. They aim to facilitate a bottom-up process of identification of sectoral priorities and include the private sector and academia. These committees focus on priority areas and involve permanent members of the SCST and various stakeholders. The committees contribute to identifying challenges and formulating recommendations to harmonise policy approaches. These meetings support the sectoral orientation of the UBTYS 2011-16 and play an important role in strategy development and in elaborating open calls funding programmes, notably the High-Level Prioritization Meetings and Focus Groups.  
   Following the addition of health as a sectoral priority in the UBTYS 2011-2016, TÜBİTAK has conducted a comprehensive study to identify priority technology areas in the field of medical biotechnology. The study involved open ended surveys gathering more than 1 200 ideas from 300 distinguished researchers and experts; the collected ideas were consolidated and a Delphi study was conducted in order to draft technology roadmaps for five areas of medical biotechnology jointly with universities, private sector representatives, and NGOs. Based on the strategic objectives of the roadmaps, TÜBİTAK has opened 48 dedicated calls and funded approximately 200 projects. |

**References:**

| **Q.3.3.** Which reforms to consultation processes have proven particularly important? | No major reforms made. |
Table 6. Questions on autonomy of universities and PRIs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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</table>
| **Q.3.4.** Who decides about allocations of institutional block funding for teaching, research and innovation activities at a) HEIs and b) PRIs? (National/regional level: If HEIs face national constraints on using block funds, i.e. funds cannot be moved between categories such as teaching, research, infrastructure, operational costs, etc. This option also applies if the ministry pre-allocates budgets for universities to cost items, and HEIs are unable to distribute their funds between these. Institutions themselves: If HEIs are entirely free to use their block grants.) | a) Institutional funding for HEIs takes the shape of transfers of line-item budgets rather than a block grant. HEIs receive funding for different activities, i.e. teaching, research, research infrastructure and equipment while they are not free to move funds between those line-items.  

b) PRIs receive institutional funding from the Ministry of Development (MoD) earmarked for infrastructure. Additionally, PRIs receive institutional funding from the Ministry of Finance under the BAP. PRIs decide themselves on how to allocate these funds internally. |

References:

Data on institutional autonomy is based on a survey conducted by the European University Association between 2010 and 2011 across 26 European countries. The answers were provided by Secretaries General of national rectors’ conferences and can be found in the report by the European University Association (Estermann et al., 2015).


Q.3.6. Who decides about the creation of academic departments (such as research centres in specific fields) and functional units (e.g. technology transfer offices) at a) HEIs and b) PRIs?
(National/regional level: If there are national guidelines or laws on the competencies, names, or governing bodies of internal structures, such as departments or if prior accreditation is required for the opening, closure, restructuring of departments, faculties, technology offices, etc.)
Institutions themselves: If HEIs are free to determine internal structures, including the opening, closure, restructuring of departments, faculties, technology offices, etc.)

Who decides about the creation of legal entities (e.g. spin-offs) and industry partnerships at c) HEIs and d) PRIs?
(National/regional level: If there are restrictions on legal entities, including opening, closure, and restructuring thereof; if restrictions apply on profit and scope of activity of non-profit organisations, for-profit spin-offs, joint R&D, etc.)
Institutions themselves: If HEIs are free to create non-profit organisations, for-profit spin-offs, joint R&D, etc.)

References:

Q.3.7. Who earns what share of revenues stemming from IP (patents, trademarks, design rights, etc.) created from publicly funded research at a) HEIs and b) PRIs?
– HEI
– Research unit / laboratory within HEI
– Researchers

c) From 2005-16, were any reforms introduced that affected the institutional autonomy of HEIs and PRIs?

References:

Q.3.8. Which reforms to institutional autonomy have been important to enhance the impacts of public research?

References:
EC/OECD STI Policy Survey 2016 for Hungary. Responses CS.