

The guiding principles for knowledge valorisation¹

Type of Document: Council recommendation

Date of document/adoption: 2 December 2022

Policy document summary

The Council Recommendation redefines knowledge valorisation as a significant shift away from the traditional concept of knowledge transfer. It emphasizes that the growing emphasis on knowledge valorisation, in light of the evolving research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem, necessitates an expansion of the scope of the Commission Recommendation from April 10, 2008, regarding the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities (referred to as Recommendation 2008/416/EC). This new Council Recommendation supersedes Recommendation 2008/416/EC by addressing the entire R&I ecosystem and its increasingly varied participants. Additionally, it outlines the guiding principles for effective knowledge valorisation.

Disclaimer

This brief overview is intended to summarize the essential points from the EU institutions' policy document that are relevant for research performing and innovation institutions, without providing the full extent of information available in the original document. The focus of the overview is put on initiatives regarding circulation of highly qualified staff, especially researchers, relevant to the European Research Area. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission.

- The Council emphasizes that the research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem has significantly evolved since the adoption of Recommendation 2008/416/EC and calls for an expansion of its scope to address new challenges and developments. While the original recommendation primarily targeted public research organizations, the Council asserts that the updated version should encompass the entire R&I system, highlighting a diverse range of relevant participants. This includes a focus on increasingly complex knowledge value chains, new market opportunities arising from emerging technologies, innovative collaborations between industry and academia, as well as between the public sector and academia. It also addresses citizen involvement and the management of intellectual assets in the context of international R&I cooperation, particularly concerning foreign interference and reciprocity.
- The Council recognizes the variety of channels and tools for knowledge valorisation and encourages their use to tackle sustainability, social challenges, and other sectoral policy priorities. It advocates for multidisciplinary collaborations that integrate fields such as social sciences, humanities, and the arts, while also examining the connections between social, environmental, and economic policies.
- According to the Council's Recommendations, the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation will include measures and policy initiatives aimed at enhancing knowledge valorisation within the Union, specifically by:(a) expanding the range of actors and activities beyond those outlined in Recommendation 2008/416/EC;(b) focusing on the entire R&I ecosystem and its interconnections, promoting co-creation among participants, and generating societal value;(c) broadening the scope to encompass intellectual asset management and highlighting the importance of fostering an entrepreneurial culture, practices, and skills; and(d) addressing new

¹ You can access the original document here: [Council of the European Union. \(2022, December 2\). Council Recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation. Official Journal of the European Union, L 317, 141-148.](#)

demands for increasing the impact of R&I, including tackling emerging and ongoing policy challenges, enhancing citizen engagement, and facilitating the sharing of best practices among various R&I stakeholders.

- In its Recommendation, the Council defines knowledge valorisation as the process of generating social and economic value from knowledge by connecting different areas and sectors. This involves transforming data, expertise, and research outcomes into sustainable products, services, solutions, and knowledge-based policies that benefit society. Consequently, knowledge valorisation is viewed as a paradigm shift that introduces new elements aimed at maximizing the value of both existing and future R&I and knowledge assets.

The Council recommends that Member States and the European Commission apply the following guiding principles for knowledge valorisation:

1. Knowledge Valorisation in Research and Innovation Policy

1. Ensure that support structures are in place at the Union, national, and regional levels to help organizations understand the scope of this Recommendation on knowledge valorisation, assess its implications, mobilize resources, and develop strategies and practices to implement and publicize it.
2. Ensure that value creation policies and practices are defined, implemented, shared, and publicized at relevant organizational levels.
3. Ensure that publicly funded R&I activities consider the broadest possible societal use and valorization of intellectual assets generated, while considering sovereignty issues and involving all ecosystem actors.
4. Strengthen structures, processes, and practices in using research results and scientific knowledge for designing, implementing, and revising public policies and standards.
5. Promote equality, diversity, inclusion, and avoid gender bias in knowledge valorization objectives, activities, and the people involved, such as through diverse research teams and R&I content reflecting the perspectives, behaviors, and needs of diverse groups in society.

2. Skills and Capacities

1. Promote the development of competencies, skills, and capacities needed to support knowledge valorization operations involving all stakeholders, from students to policymakers.
2. Ensure that mobility schemes are in place between academia, industry, and the public sector to facilitate skill development, cross-fertilization of competencies,

culture, and practices, as a lifelong learning process among knowledge valorization actors.

3. Ensure that the tacit knowledge of those generating intellectual assets is recognized as an element in the valorization process and promote participatory collaboration approaches to include talents, skills, and tacit knowledge in innovation and valorization.

4. Encourage and facilitate multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration beyond technological areas, involving disciplines such as social sciences, humanities, arts, and co-creative approaches.

3. System of Incentives

1. Develop and implement a relevant and fair system to incentivize all R&I ecosystem actors, particularly researchers, innovators, students, and staff of universities and public research organizations, to learn, apply, and practice knowledge valorization, as well as to attract and retain talent.

2. Provide measures for businesses, SMEs, civil society, citizens, end-users, and public authorities to be active partners in co-creating value-adding innovation, improving access to and use of knowledge, increasing skills acquisition, and encouraging joint experimentation.

3. Encourage, support, and incentivize organizations undertaking knowledge valorization to collect, share, and use metrics that improve learning and performance of knowledge valorization actors in the Union.

The text outlines recommendations for enhancing knowledge valorisation through effective intellectual asset management, public funding relevance, peer learning, and metrics, monitoring, and evaluation.

4. Intellectual Asset Management:

1. Organizations involved in knowledge valorisation should define, implement, and promote policies for managing intellectual assets.
2. There should be increased awareness among universities, research organizations, public authorities, and businesses regarding the importance of managing these assets in an international context, considering sovereignty issues.
3. Intellectual assets developed through publicly funded R&I activities should be managed to maximize socioeconomic benefits and sustainability for the Union.
4. Awareness and use of intellectual asset management practices in Open Science and Open Innovation should be enhanced to facilitate innovation.

5. Efficient management of intellectual assets should be promoted through active portfolio building and platforms that connect supply and demand.

5. Relevance in Public Funding Schemes:

1. There is a need to strengthen the application of knowledge valorisation principles in publicly funded research.
2. Specific funding schemes should be considered to incentivize knowledge valorisation early in research, including support for intermediaries.

6. Peer Learning:

1. National and transnational peer learning processes should be promoted to share best practices, case studies, and lessons learned in knowledge valorisation.
2. Successful knowledge valorisation organizations and initiatives should be benchmarked to develop common concepts and models.
3. Universities and public research organizations should collaborate to pool resources, expertise, and infrastructure to enhance peer learning.

7. Metrics, Monitoring, and Evaluation:

1. Collaborative efforts should be made to establish common definitions, metrics, and indicators for knowledge valorisation to improve performance across the Union, while considering the unique contexts of Member States.
2. Monitoring and evaluation practices for knowledge valorisation should align with the broader ERA monitoring framework, reducing administrative burdens and fostering synergies with other ERA policy actions.