

The Costing of Research and the Position of Research Organisations

Discussion Session

Topics for Discussion

1. Funding base and structure
2. Strategies and decision-making in universities
3. Identifying costs & obtaining data
4. Communication, Management and Training
5. Benefits/Risks, Incentives/Disincentives

1. Funding Base and Structure

- Type of funding available
- Type of existing sponsors
- Potential sponsors
- Relationship with sponsors
 - their attitude to fEC
 - control over direction of research

2. Strategies and Decision-making in Universities

- Development of research strategies
 - control and management
 - level of sustainability – cross-subsidies?
- Incentives
 - flow of fund
- Management of future investment
 - funding, prioritising, maintenance
- Pricing
 - who decides and how
 - assessing market rates

3. Identifying Costs and Obtaining Data

- What data/systems exist
- What is missing
- What systems need developing
- Who needs to be involved

4. Communication, Management & Training

- Do the skills exist?
- Internal relationships
- What does the message need to be?
- Who needs persuading?

5. Benefits/Risks, Incentives/Disincentives

- For the organisation
- For researchers
- For sponsors