

Research and Innovation Careers Observatory

Providing reliable evidence on talent and careers in research and innovation



Bridging the policy and evidence gap in research and innovation careers

The Research and Innovation Careers Observatory (ReICO) is a new initiative where the European Commission and the OECD join forces. It aims to be the premier source for **reliable data and information on careers in research and innovation (R&I)**. The project's goal is to create a dynamic information hub that tracks and analyses trends in R&I talent, career paths, and mobility in EU and OECD countries, as well as other economies.

Why develop an observatory on research and innovation careers?

At the core of scientific breakthroughs and transformative ideas lies the research and innovation workforce. They expand the frontiers of our understanding but also pave the way for a better future. However, the impact and quality of their work depend not just on their expertise and commitment but also on their overall well-being and work environment.

The contributions of researchers and R&I professionals to **address societal challenges** are invaluable, standing as the backbone of scientific and technological advancement. As we navigate through an ever-evolving R&I landscape, the need for robust, actionable evidence on R&I talent development, their labour market, and career dynamics, to guide this transformation becomes increasingly critical.

What will ReICO do?

The Research and Innovation Careers Observatory (ReICO) will serve as a **comprehensive access point** for international statistics, analytical tools, and resources focused on research and innovation careers.

Starting as a six-years project, in collaboration with national governments and various stakeholders, ReICO will develop **new methodologies, indicators, and insights**. Leveraging the OECD's expertise in international statistics and policy analysis in R&I, ReICO will **bridge current knowledge gaps** and enhance the understanding and application of data and statistics in R&I careers, **aiding decision-makers** in their strategic choices.

Why has the European Commission launched the idea for this observatory?

- The **Council Recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe** calls for the development of an observatory on research careers.
- **Reliable data on research careers is key to develop or adapt policies in support of research careers and to monitor the implementation of the above-mentioned Council Recommendation.**



What will RelCO offer to decision makers?

RelCO aims to contribute to international co-operation and dialogue by:

- **Creating dashboards with standardized statistical indicators**, offering a comprehensive and balanced view of R&I talent and careers.
- **Developing a tailored conceptual framework** with the establishment and refinement of key concepts, definitions, and classifications. This effort will utilize existing policy and statistical models while aligning with other emerging frameworks, vital for enhancing global dialogue and cooperation.
- **Recommending revisions to OECD's measurement guidelines** to enhance their accuracy and relevance.
- Laying the groundwork for a cooperative **R&I Talent and Careers Data and Statistics Action Plan**, addressing existing gaps in evidence and data.

Why is the OECD leading this project?

- OECD science and innovation ministers and the EU have issued a [Declaration on Transformative Science, Technology, and Innovation Policies for a Sustainable and Inclusive Future](#). In the declaration, they call for the establishment of an observatory dedicated to research and innovation careers.
- The European Commission recognises the expertise of the OECD in establishing and applying **measurement standards** in science, technology, and innovation.
- Research careers are a **global phenomenon** crucial to the future of science and innovation.
- This topic **aligns with the priorities of OECD** members and partners.
- The OECD offers a unique platform for collaborative efforts towards a **sustainable evidence agenda**.

Who will benefit from RelCO information?

- **Policymakers**: RelCO will help bridge policy gaps and actively support and enhance the evidence-based agenda.
- **R&I Performing Organisations**: This includes entities in academia, government, business, and the social sector, recognized as key talent developers and employers.
- **Individuals in R&I**: Those working in research and innovation will benefit as primary data providers, receiving valuable data that informs their career choices.
- **Statistical Offices**: As essential partners, these offices will collaborate in developing measurement standards and in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of R&I career data.
- **R&I Research Community**: Researchers will use RelCO's data to gain deeper insights into the research and innovation field, contributing to the advancement of knowledge about R&I systems and their effectiveness.

RelCO will transform the R&I career landscape and policy-making through reliable data and information.

*** [Join the RelCO Community](#) ***

Be part of a community shaping the future of research and innovation and discover how you can contribute to and benefit from the RelCO project. Reach out to us for more information and to get involved at RelCO@OECD.org.

