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# SCIENCE SYSTEM ADVISORY GROUP

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TITLE	International examples of science, innovation and technology councils		
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PURPOSE	Provides a comparative overview of international research council models		



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**  
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# International examples of science, innovation and technology councils



The logo for the Singapore Research Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC) is displayed on a blue background with diagonal stripes. The text is white and arranged in a stacked format: "Singapore", "Research", "Innovation and", "Enterprise Council", and "(RIEC)".

# Singapore Research Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC).

- **Purpose:** provides strategic direction for national R&D.
- **Members:** The RIEC comprises Cabinet Ministers and distinguished local and foreign members from the business, science and technology communities.
- **Goals:**
  - To advise the Cabinet on national research and innovation strategies to drive the transformation of Singapore into a knowledge-based society, with strong capabilities in research, innovation and enterprise to meet our economic and societal needs
  - To lead Singapore's commitment towards research, innovation and enterprise by strengthening enterprise innovation capabilities and accelerating technology translation, with a view to catalyse value capture in key strategic areas for Singapore.
- **Institutional Arrangements**
  - Supported by
    - the National Research Foundation – develops policies and strategies and funds research
    - The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) - appointed by NRF chair to provide NRF with technical research expertise and advice



# UK Council for Science and Technology (STC)

- **Purpose** provides independent advice to the Prime Minister and government on the implications of science and research, engineering and technology. Works across the remits of individual departments.
- **Members** The members are senior figures from the fields of science, engineering and technology. 2 co-chairs: an Independent Co-Chair and the Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA), who is appointed ex-officio. Appointed by Prime Minister.
- **Areas of Advice include:**
  - the opportunities and risks that science, technology and disruptive innovation present; using horizon scanning to highlight issues about:
    - research and science capability
    - innovation and the economy
    - health and quality of life within the UK
    - sustainable development and resilience
  - how science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM) can be developed and sustained in the UK; this can be through education and skills, and the promotion of international co-operation
  - what the government's high-level priorities for science and technology should be
- **Supporting Structures** The council is an expert committee, supported by a secretariat in the Government Office for Science. Operates with support of subgroups with external members providing expertise.
- Legal structure is a “non-departmental public body”

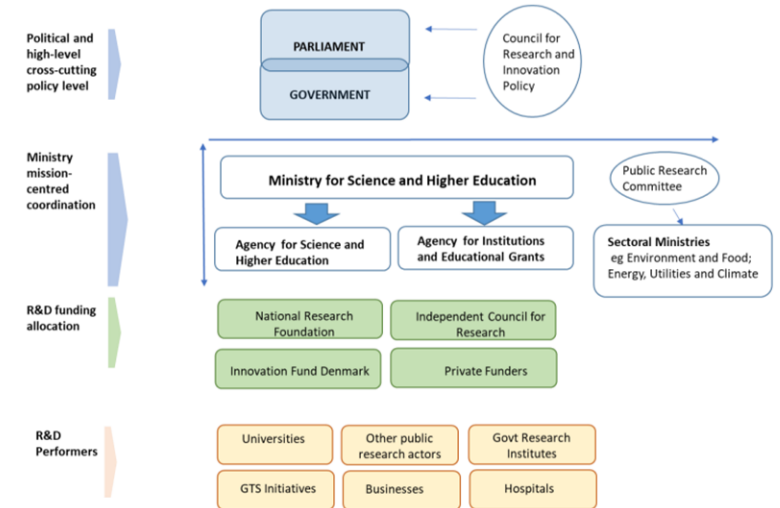


# Denmark

## The Danish Council for Research and Innovation Policy (DFiR)

- **Purpose** to promote the development of Danish research, technological development and innovation for the benefit of society
- **Members** The Danish Council for Research and Innovation Policy consists of nine members appointed by the Minister for Higher Education and Science
- **Function** provides the Minister of Higher Education and Science and others with independent and expert advice on research, technological development and innovation at system level. The responsibility of the Council comprises both the research policy and innovation policy advice.
- **Supporting structures** The Council has an independent secretariat within the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.
- Function defined in law

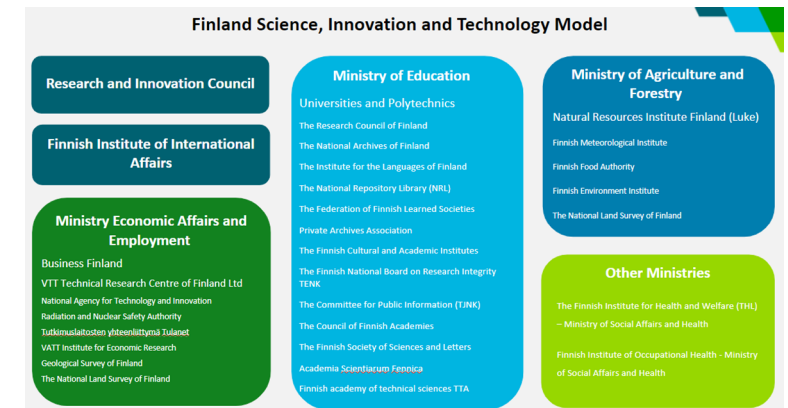
### The Danish research system





# Finland The Research and Innovation Council

- **Purpose to:**
  - support the government in the development and coordination of long-term research and innovation policy,
  - monitor the changes in the national and international operating environment,
  - put forward initiatives related to the research and innovation policy.
- **Members**
  - chaired by the Prime Minister,
  - three other ministers (vice chairs)
  - six or seven expert appointees from industry and academics
- **Goals /workplan – not found**
- **Supporting Structures,** Secretariat provided by the Prime Ministers office





# Australia National Science and Technology Council

- **Purpose** The council is the preeminent forum for providing scientific and technological advice for government policy and priorities.
- **Members** Chaired by the Prime Minister, Deputy Chair -Minister for Science, Chief Scientist is Exec Officer, CE CSIRO is ex-officio member. Appointed experts (6X)
- **Functions** timely advice to the Government on:
  - long term and emerging scientific and technological developments;
  - scientific and technological issues of relevance to Government policy or priorities;
  - Australia's science system, including issues relating to science engagement, research capability and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and workforce skills;
  - achieving the Government's objectives as set out in the National Science Statement;
  - other matters requested by the Prime Minister, other ministers, or considered important by the Council.
- **Institutional supports** The office of the Chief Scientist provides secretariate support and coordinates an annual work plan for the Council's agreement.
- **Other notes:** A functional review of the council is part of the chief scientists work programme



# Common Features and Key differences

## Common Features

- Advisory rather than decision making
- Advice to Cabinet (or high level Cabinet committee)
- Strategic long-term view.
- Do not administer funds
- Often Include senior ministerial members – sometimes chaired by PM
- Non-departmental bodies
- Membership includes experts

## Key Differences

- Ability to direct (related to membership)
- Independence of work programme
- Size and location of secretariat
- Mix of membership – government officials, industry, academic
- Scope of mandate – some more focussed on science and tech development, some include uptake of innovation (eg Singapore)