



**Observatory of the European University (OEU)  
FUNDING**

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**AIM AND PARTICIPANT UNIVERSITIES**

The guide aims at providing explicit and sound methodological procedures and guidance for the characterization of university research funding.

Adequate funding resources, and the autonomy (space of manoeuvre) in using these resources are fundamental instruments for academic institutions to address strategic objectives and pursuing the mission of performing research at the cutting edge.

- UNIVERSITY OF AVEIRO (Portugal)
- UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA (Italy)
- UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE (Switzerland)

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**THE BOTTOM-UP APPROACH**

- to focus on a restrict number of indicators considered by the Universities as the most important for **management and evaluation purposes**,
- to adopt a **pragmatic view**, for providing definitions which could work in different national contexts,
- to use **estimations**, if possible, for dealing with lack of data availability,
- to keep out the solution of a number of relevant **problems** (university boundaries, overheads calculation, university and hospitals)

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### KEY DEFINITIONS

**Core funding** includes the general block grant coming from Government authorities (central and local) to support both teaching and research activities.

**Non-core funding** includes project funding, contract and grants for research activities coming from external sources and university own resources. It also includes research funds distributed through the research councils on competitive basis.

**Lump sum** budget transferred from the Government (or from other external sources) without any specific constraints or destination (the budget which is at disposal of University).

**University own resources (or revenues)** income from: student fees, donations, sales of goods and services, royalties

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### DATA

**Final Annual Budget of the University** (Income and Expenditures).

Some **calculations** have been made in order to fit the university available data with the agreed definition

**Personnel costs/Equipment costs - critical points:**

- to distinguish the share of research cost in different research fields,
- to identify the costs of tenured, tenure-track and temporary positions within the research staff

**Other critical points:**

- the availability of data on Government lump sum by labs and by scientific fields,
- the availability of the university Government funding by political objectives

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### KEY DIMENSIONS FOR AUTONOMY

- Research capability on the overall budget
- Capability to reduce the existing budget constraints
- Relationship between core funding and non-core funding
- Relationship between Government and non-Government funding
- Relationship between contracts and grants and University own resources
- Share of private contracts and grants on total contracts and grants
- Relationship between international, national and local source of funding
- Different structure of non-core funding by scientific fields

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