

The Evaluation of Biological Research in EU and European Countries

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I will describe and comment on the major criteria, including impact factor, used for assessment of biological research during the last 50 years in Western European countries. The failure of some "top-down" approaches by large funding programs will be analyzed. The importance of free research carried out by small laboratories will be emphasized. The prominent role of University basic research carried out during PhD thesis projects on frontier topics will be put forward. The usefulness of further training through international post-doctoral fellowships will be discussed. Proposals will be made for decreasing some bureaucratic and political hurdles. Statistics will be presented concerning the productivity of aging scientists.