

17.3.2026

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Title

Alternative model of funding for academic research in Nigerian universities

Publication year

2010

Source/Footnote

In: Higher education quarterly. - 64 (2010) 2, S. 149 - 160

Inventory number

28143

Keywords

Ausland : Nigeria : Hochschulwesen allgemein ; Ausland : Nigeria : Forschung, Hochschullehrer ;
Ausland : Großbritannien : Forschung, Hochschullehrer ; Forschungsförderung

Abstract

Funding of academic research in Nigerian universities by Government (5 per cent recurrent grants) is a policy dictated by the National Universities Commission (NUC) as the central body for allocating research funds. This research fund, little as it is, is irregular and inadequate and to make it worse is difficult to access. These aforementioned factors have contributed to the decline in research activity as a means of attaining sustainable development in Nigeria. Thus, this article proposes a dual support system of funding academic research as follows: a devolution of the power of the NUC as the central body for administering research funds and the encouragement of another separate body such as the Education Tax Fund (ETF) to promote a healthy competitive research process and collaborative research among university research groups and individuals. These separate bodies (NUC and ETF) should be similar to the dual support system of operation, policies and procedures in the UK, where there is the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Research Councils. These bodies collaborate to build and maintain a sustainable research base in the UK. The dual

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support system as it is operated in the UK is very efficient in backing research in universities, because the research is supported at a marginal cost and provides a research council component of provision irrespective of geographical location. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)