



المجلس الأعلى للتربية والتكوين والبحث العلمي  
Совет Высшего Образования, Формирования и Научного Исследования  
Conseil Supérieur de l'Education, de la Formation et de la Recherche Scientifique

الهيئة الوطنية لتقييم منظومة التربية والتكوين والبحث العلمي  
Instance Nationale d'Evaluation du Système d'Education, de Formation et de Recherche Scientifique

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

# RESEARCH EVALUATION ISSUES, METHODS AND TOOLS

## OPENING ADDRESS



6-7 DECEMBER 2017 - RABAT



*Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is my pleasure to launch the proceedings of this international symposium on the « **Evaluation of Scientific Research: Issues, Methods and Tools** ». I would like to express my warmest thanks to all of you for having accepted the Council's invitation to contribute to the debate on evaluation and scientific research.

I would also like to extend my warmest thanks to the foreign experts, who have joined us today to further enrich these talks.

The planning of this symposium has been dictated by the will of the Council to initiate a reflection on evaluation, its issues, its methodologies and its practices. As you may know, one of the main prerogatives of the Higher Council for Education, Training and Scientific Research is the evaluation of public policies in the fields of education, training and scientific research; a prerogative that is fulfilled by the National Authority of Evaluation.

This symposium purports to explore the orientations that the evaluation of research should take and the methodologies and good practices to be adopted in this field.

We are well aware of the importance of scientific research in the development of countries and are equally aware of the part that evaluation should play in the promotion of our university system and our scientific production. The Council has outlined, in its Strategic vision for Reform 2015-2030, the major orientations for our education, training and scientific system, which put forward a series of recommendations in the horizon 2030, which aims for the development of scientific research in our country and in doing so, giving a prominent place to its regular evaluation. One of those recommendations namely calls for "the setting up of a rational governance and management system, with well-defined indicators to allow follow-up and evaluation of scientific and technical research and innovation".

The Higher Council is a constitutional consultative body in charge of making strategic proposals in the areas of education, training and scientific research, issuing opinion statements and carrying out studies and partial or global evaluations of the education, training and scientific research system and of public policies. It is particularly notable for having an autonomous body, namely the National Authority of Evaluation, in charge of designing and



carrying out evaluations on its behalf. Morocco, thus, has the particularity of having this unique institutional organ that targets the evaluation of the whole education, training and scientific research system.

The National Authority of Evaluation at the Higher Council carries out evaluations of scientific research, in addition to other scopes pertaining to the education system as part of its legal mandate. It is, thus, in charge of performing global, thematic or sector level evaluations of the higher education and education executives' training system, as well as the evaluation of public policies in the field of research. It is equally mandated to assess financial and pedagogical efficiency in relation to the objectives outlined by public authorities, as well as the education and training efficiency on internal and external levels. If the National Authority of Evaluation should conceive evaluation tools to carry out its mandate and contribute to the promotion of the education system, it is vital to open up to international experiences and enrich reflection on international standards and indicators used in the field of scientific research systems' evaluation.

It has been proven that evaluation of research is an indispensable tool of good governance and decision support in scientific and technical research public policies. Moreover, evaluation of scientific research has come to assume the status of a fully-fledged discipline that should incontestably be taken into account to make it an effective tool at the service of the promotion of research.

Hence the efforts of the Council, by means of the National Authority of Evaluation, to design appropriate tools and instruments for the evaluation of scientific research in such a way as to make recommendations that would ultimately lead to the promotion of the national scientific research level, the increase of its efficiency and the strengthening of its social and economic impact.

It is within this institutional framework that the Council is organizing this international symposium, which we hope will help us get acquainted with the best practices in terms of evaluation approaches and tools. It is, in fact, a great opportunity for us to discuss the most appropriate tools to evaluate our research.

This symposium equally purports to be a forum and a place for sharing ideas about the issues, the methodologies and the tools of scientific research evaluation. And because it is a constantly evolving discipline, we are in



the obligation of keeping abreast of the novelties brought by national and international experiences alike, regularly questioning their validity, scope and limits. We also intend for this symposium to be an opportunity for us to strengthen partnerships and cooperation relationships with experts, researchers and specialized institutions.

Needless to say in this respect that we don't mean to evaluate for the sake of evaluating, but rather to evaluate in order to help put scientific research at the service of our country's development at a moment when we are called upon by the Supreme Authority of the country to observe a halt and to rethink our development paradigm in order to better adjust it to the needs and expectations of our citizens. The amendments to be introduced will certainly target a fair and sustainable development that would give its due share to knowledge, science and technology and hence to scientific research.

This new development paradigm is tributary to our capacity to convert most of our economy to a knowledge/green/citizen-based and inclusive economy. The goal is therefore to bring together scientific research and innovation in its diverse dimensions; the only true conditions to the setting up of real responses and progress that are necessary to achieve the desired change. This change must go hand in hand with the advanced regionalization that has been set as a strategic choice for the country.

That is to say, the importance of the evaluation of research with appropriate tools and its capital role in giving scientific research activity its proper direction, optimizing recourses and drawing up coherent policies that would allow scientific research to play its due part as a lever for development.

Your discussions, reflections and proposals, Ladies and Gentlemen, will undoubtedly be of the greatest usefulness for the launching of a sector level evaluation of scientific and technical research in our country.

I would like to reiterate my warmest thanks to all of you here today and to wish the proceedings of this international symposium every success.