Evaluation on European Level:
- A short overview -

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Washington, D.C., November 2008
What are the "EU Research Framework Programmes"?

- **Research Framework Programmes (FP)** represent the core of the EU Research funding
- Existing since 1984 (FP I); now: FP VII (started 2007)
- And before?
  - 1950s: only some paragraphs about steel, coal, atomic energy
  - 1960s-1970s: only a general clause allowing research funding
- **What is the purpose of the FPs?**
  - Supporting the international competitiveness of European Industry/Economy (1987)
  - Supporting other European Policies
- **Any money in it?**
30 Years of EU FP Budget: Now does that look fine!
Is it really significant?

**At first sight:**
- Only about 6% of R&D Spending in Europe is EU
- Only about 6% of third-party funds at German Universities is EU

**But:**
- Important as “project money” even for institutions in France, UK
- For new EU-members/Greece, Spain, Portugal etc: almost as important as domestic money
- Influencing research priority setting in the member states
- Strong restructuring & internationalizing effects on institutions
- Works in parts as a benchmarking system for Europe (ERC)
- EU research funding growing faster than national funding

**=> Relevant factor in the competition with USA/Asia**
FP Evaluation Activities – two Types

- **On national level:**
  - Conducted by member states
  - National impact of the EU framework programme funding
  - Studies on aspects like the national support systems etc.

- **On EU level:**
  - Conducted by EU Commission (in charge: DG Research)
  - FP VI: ex-post evaluation of the framework programme
  - FP VII:
    - Mid term review (2010)
    - Ex-post evaluation (after 2014)
Why?
- Is it worth the national money given to Europe?
- What can we learn for future engagement in Europe?
- Are we capable to do this kind of assessment?
- A tool to influence FP 8, a tool for national policy making

De facto in November 2008:
- Only a smaller number of EU-member states/associated countries has done or started an FP impact assessment
- E.g.: Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland
National Impact Assessment – Issues (1)

- **Indicators:**
  - Output vs. Outcome – what does “impact” mean?
  - Number, origin, weighting

- **Outsourcing?**

- **Monitoring vs. “snapshot”**

- **Methodology (Data Sources):**
  - Process generated data (eCorda)
  - Survey based data
  - Interview based data
  - Publications and citations (Thompson vs. Scopus)
Drivers:
- Ministries, Economy, or Science?
- Influence on indicators?

Overall approach vs. selected sectors (comparability)

Availability?
- Language(s) of publication?
- Internal use or open access?
- Special Forum for discussion needed or desirable?
- Role of the Czech EU-presidency in 2009?

=> Big differences in approach, content, background
Actors:
- New approach: external Know-how (Experts) and “internal” expertise (EU Commission & science community) combined
- Expert Group (Chair: Ernst Rietschel, Leibniz Association, GER): Andrew Dearing, EIRMA, & Derek Pooley, UKAEA, both UK; Nicoletta Stame, Rome University, IT; Sylvie Jaussaume, CNRS, F; Irwin Feller, Penn State University, USA, etc.

Output:
- Expert Group report (findings and recommendations)
- EU Commission response

Timeline: Expert Group report by end of 2008
Input:
- Reports from EU Commission (DG INFSO, JRC)
- Evaluation support studies: Networking patterns, new instruments, impact on new EU member states etc.
- Studies from EU member states
- ...

General approach:
- Vertical issues ("topic/programme-driven") & horizontal issues
- Looking at the whole range: from FP VI objectives to outcomes
- Move towards a monitoring system: collect/use information and indicators on an ongoing and systematic basis (for FP VII)
EU Level: FP VI Ex-post Evaluation – Basics (3)

- **Indicators:**
  - Quality of science resulting from FP funding
  - Implementation and design of the FP via
    - “Time to contract”, success rates, demand etc.
    - User feedback from the science community
  - ...

- **Why?**
  - Growth of budget
  - Growth of complexity and diversity
  - Changes in FP management (“Outsourcing” etc.)
  - Accountability
Next year in Paris, more details will be available ...

- ... concerning the German study on the national impact of FP VI (results to be published very soon);
- ... concerning the ex-post evaluation of FP VI (results to be published in the beginning of 2009);
- ... concerning the mid term evaluation of FP VII
Thank you for your attention!

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