



ESF Member Forum on Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes

**Where do we stand ?
Where do we go from here ?**

Input in the discussions

ESF Member Organisation Forum on Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes

- ❑ Launched in April 2007 by ESF governing (following a proposal by the DFG)
- ❑ Initially discussed timeline: 2 years

Objectives

- ❑ facilitate networking of science officers engaged in evaluation
- ❑ exchange and document experiences with current practices
- ❑ explore needs and possibilities for collaboration in future evaluation exercises.

Where do we stand ?

- ❑ facilitate networking of science officers engaged in evaluation
- ✓ After 3 workshops, we hope that people know each other and will know whom to contact in their sister organisations should the need arise
- ❖ **Challenge: how to maintain this network ?**

Where do we stand ?

- ❑ exchange and document experiences with current practices
 - ✓ The 3 workshops provided the opportunity to inform each other on the how evaluation is done in our respective organisations
 - ✓ The papers (1) *“Evaluation activities in research funding agencies: Approaches and case studies”* (2) *“Indicators used in evaluation of research performing organisations”* will document existing approaches and experiences
 - ✓ Internet platform to collect existing studies

- ❖ **Challenge: how to inform each other about new evaluation exercises , new approaches and future experiences ?**

Where do we stand ?

- ❑ explore needs and possibilities for collaboration in future evaluation exercises

This proved most difficult objectives ... not yet clear how cooperation in evaluation can look like

- ✓ The benchmarking exercise (Strand B) will show how this can be done on selected topic(s)
- ✓ The mapping exercise will help identify schemes which can be evaluated in similar way (and possibly lead to joint evaluation activities)

Planned activities / actions ...

Action items

- Documenting evaluation approaches and experiences of research funding organisations (A1) – **Brendan**
- Mapping of funding portfolio (A2) - **Frank**
- Pilot study on internationalization of – **Working Group Strand B**
- Bridge the gap between scholar work on indicators and evaluation practices in research organisations – **Working Group Strand B**
- Internet platform to collect existing studies – **Anke/ Ruth (follow-up to Brendan/Frank)**
- Collection of documents / form used in evaluation (mind the language) – **Ruth (follow-up to Brendan/Frank)**

WORKING GROUPS !!!!

Suggestions

Next workshop (27/28 April 2009 , Budapest)

- to focus on finalizing the documents
- present recent evaluation activities (thematic focus: Socio-economic impact or Funding scheme Portfolio).

Further exchange of information, experiences and continuing the network in the form of network meetings (on annual basis?); those meetings could take place as satellites events of other meetings / conferences related to evaluation (either before or after)

could be facilitated by ESF.

For discussion

Initiate a conference series (possibly annual) which would bring together

- Practitioners (i.e officers dealing with evaluation in various organisations)
- Evaluation specialists (science policy studies experts, consultancies doing evaluation etc);
- Policy makers using evaluation;
- Member of the scientific community involved in or interested in evaluation

The network meetings could then take place as satellite events to those conference

The debate on where we
go from here is open