



Evaluation and Monitoring of EU RTD Framework Programmes in the context of the European Research Area

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Roadmap

- Definition
- Context
- Key Activities related to FPs
 - FP6 Ex-post Evaluation 2008
 - FP7 Monitoring
 - FP7 Mid-Term Evaluation 2010
- Contributions
- ERA dimension
- European RTD Evaluation Network
- Perspectives



Definition: Ex-post FP evaluation

- Ex-post
 - Evaluation ex-post, not ex-ante proposal evaluation
- Framework Programme
 - Evaluation of thematic programmes or the entire Framework Programme, not of individual projects
- Evaluation
 - “Judgement of interventions according to their results, impacts and the needs they aim to satisfy”



Context

- Research funding is a booming industry
 - Budget increase FP6 to FP7: +41% on average
- Complexity of FP is increasing
 - ERC, International Cooperation
- Major changes in the FP management
 - New Agencies, New grant agreement
- Transparency and Accountability
 - Better communication with the public
- European Research Area
 - Evaluation as key factor



Key Activities related to FPs

- Ex-post Evaluation of FP6 in 2008
- Monitoring of FP7 activities
- Mid-term Evaluation of FP7 in 2010
- Ex-post Evaluation of FP7 in 2014



Ex-Post Evaluation of FP6 Implementation - 1

- Legal basis
 - FP7 Decision
 - Ex-post evaluation of each FP within 2 years of its completion.
- Scope
 - Comprehensive assessment of rationale, implementation and achievements at FP level
- Panel approach
 - Independent Panel of around 15 experts, to be nominated by the Commission.
 - Expertise covering the FP6 research areas
 - Balance between factors such as gender, sectors, geographical spread etc.



Ex-Post Evaluation of FP6 Implementation - 2



■ Evidence Base

- Evaluation to be supported by more than 30 evaluation reports and studies.
 - “Vertical” analysis by thematic programmes
 - “Horizontal” analysis of overarching issues
- Evidence from National Impact Studies carried out in the Member States/Assoc. Countries

■ Timetable

- First panel meetings at the end of 2007
- Series of meetings from May 2008 onwards.
- Final report due by November 2008.



Ex-post evaluation of FP6

Issues at stake



- Longer term impact and consequences of FP activities?
- Changes in behaviour of participants?
- Networking patterns (geographical / institutional)?
- Networks of Excellence?
- Integration of new Member States?
- ...



Monitoring of FP7 Implementation



- Move from an external monitoring (FP6) towards an internal monitoring (FP7)
- Move from an “ad-hoc” approach towards a continuous and systematic collection of information and indicators
- Monitoring primarily aimed to support management in implementing FP7
- Annual report to be presented to the Programme Committee and to be published on internet
- Possible information source for future FP7 evaluations



Monitoring of FP7 Issues



- Application numbers
- Proposal Evaluation
- Time to contract
- Success rates
- User Feedback
- ...



Mid-Term Evaluation of FP7 Implementation - 1

- Legal basis
 - FP7 Decision
 - Due in 2010
- Scope
 - First assessment of rationale, implementation and achievements
 - Focus on programmes and FP as a whole
- Learning
 - Build on experiences gained from the FP6 ex-post evaluation



Mid-Term Evaluation of FP7 Implementation - 2



- Evidence Base
 - Crucial issue, as 2010 is very early ...
- Political context
 - Mid-term review of FP7
 - Financial perspectives of the EU
 - Preparation of next Framework Programme



Mid-term evaluation of FP7

Issues at stake



- ERC (Grants / Implementation structure)
- New features of FP7 (Grant agreement /RSFF/ Cost models/ ...)
- Competitiveness
- ...



Ex-post evaluation of FP7



- To be carried out in 2014 ...
- Beyond the reasonable time horizon ...
- ... but preparing the ground starts with proper collection of the systematic monitoring data
- ...



Inputs into the evaluation process



- Commission
 - Data, Thematic Studies, Panel Secretariat, ...
- Member States
 - Impact Studies, Surveys, ...
- Scientific Community
 - Methodological papers, participation in surveys, ...
- Public and Media
 - Informed debate, ...



ERA dimension



- ERA calls for greater cooperation and integration of activities at European/national/regional level
- Evaluation cannot ignore this trend
- Important potential as regards
 - Exchange of information
 - Methodological developments
 - Mutual learning
- Potential for increased policy impact



European RTD Evaluation Network



- Created 1996, relaunch 2007
- All Member States and Associated Countries (36)
- 2 members per country
 - Academic community
 - Implementing agencies
- Two meetings per year (22 Nov in Brussels)
- Explore ERA dimension
 - National Impact studies on FP



Perspectives



- Growing EU Research budget also means: Increased need for accountability
- Efficiency of the European RTD system under scrutiny
- Need to develop evaluation capacities in Europe as part of a broader approach towards the European Research Area
- Need to focus more on the “fundamental” aspects and less on minor implementation issues



Contact



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