



The 7th Framework Programme of the European Union and the role of evaluation

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Roadmap



- European Framework Programmes for Research (FP)
 - Context
 - FP7 (2006-2013)
- Forthcoming Evaluation of FPs
 - FP6 ex-post evaluation 2008
 - FP7 Mid-term evaluation 2010
- Perspectives
 - Evaluation in the context of the European Research Area

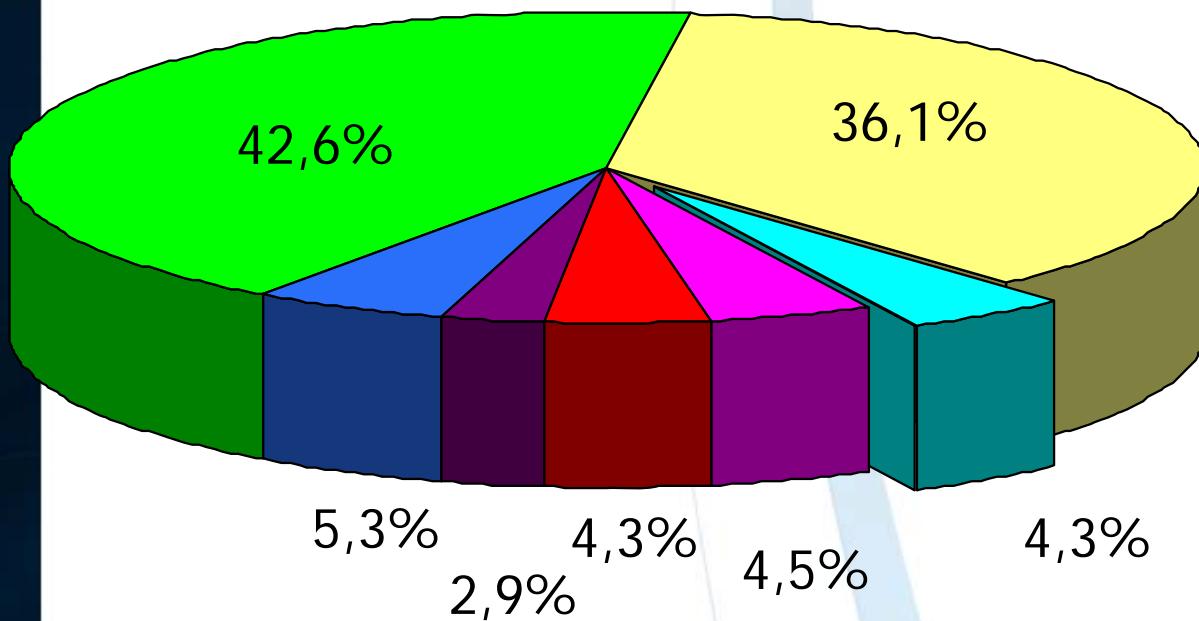


EU budget 2006

€5.3 billion for research



€ 123.5 billion expenditure
(commitments)



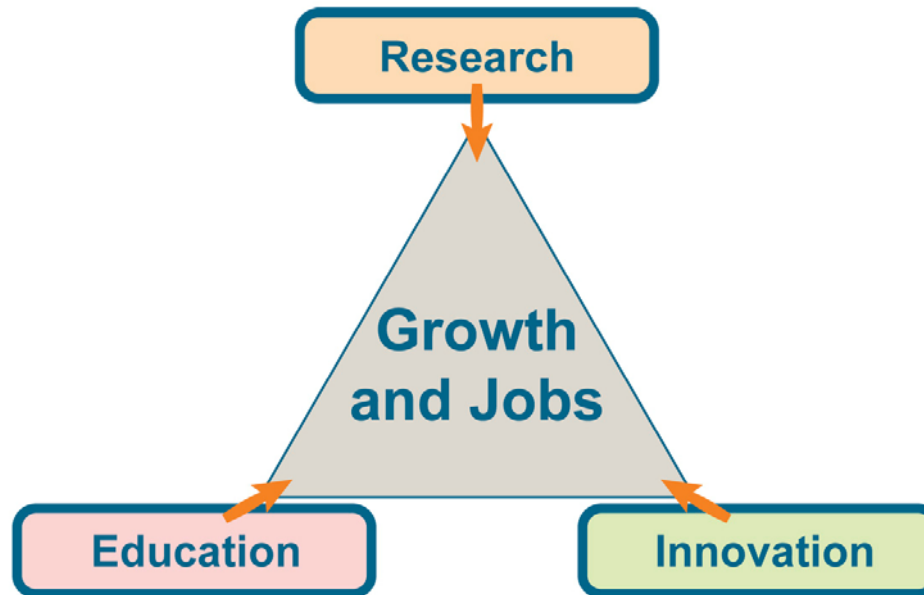
- Agriculture (€52.6b)
- Structural actions (€44.6b)
- Research (€5.3bn)
- Other policies (€5.6bn)
- External actions (€5.3bn)
- Preaccession aid (€3.6bn)
- Administration (€6.5bn)

Source: "EU Budget - The figures" EU COM, Jan. 2006, ISBN 92-79-01144-8



Framework Programmes - Context

Lisbon strategy



S&T contribute to the **Lisbon** objectives:
economic **growth, jobs**,
quality of life (GSM, remote working, safe roads, etc.)
social challenges: fight **poverty**, improve human **health**
environmental protection



The EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7, 2007-2013)

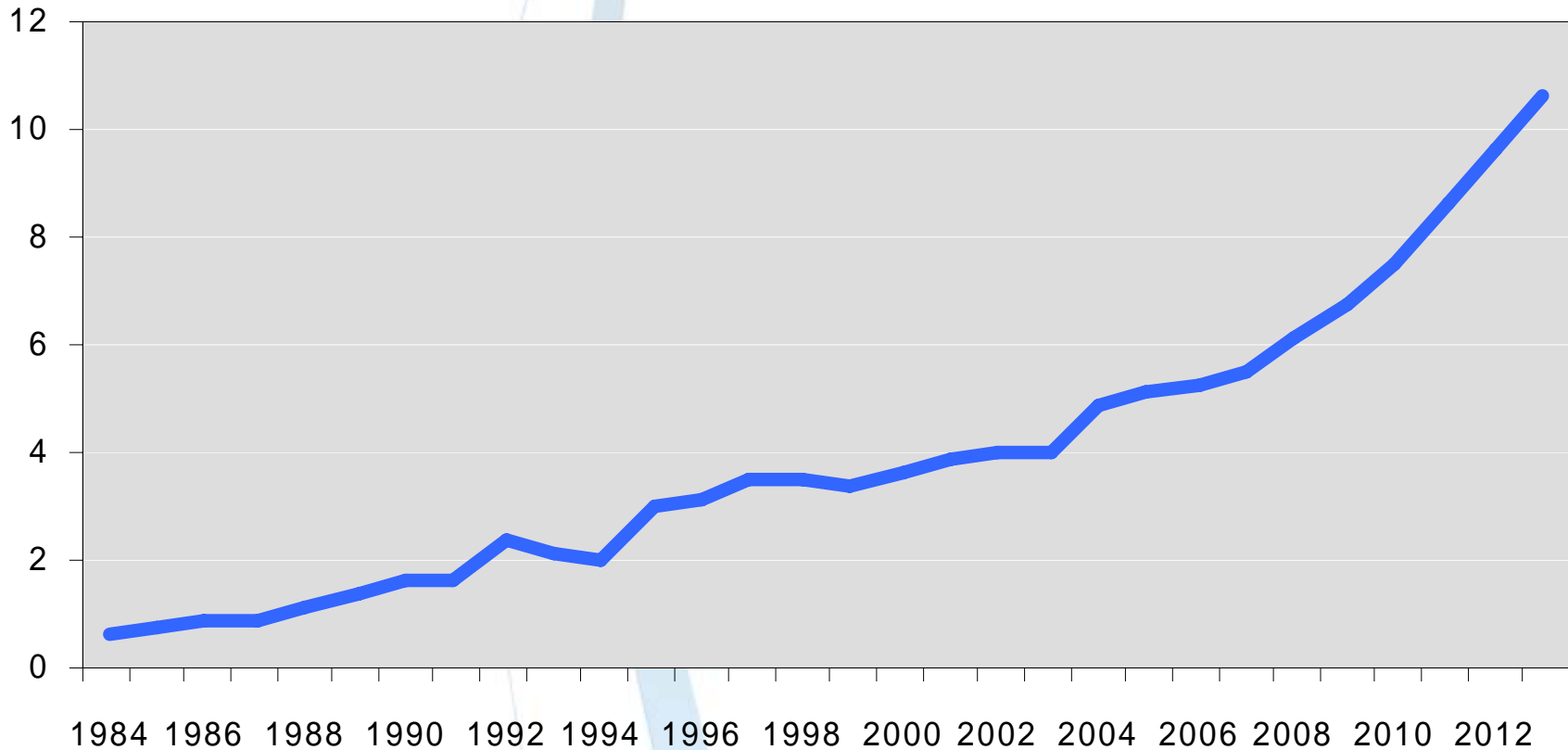
- FP7 is short for:
Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development
- It is the **European Union's** main instrument for **funding research** in Europe between 2007 and 2013
- FP7 supports research in **selected priority areas**
- It represents a **41% budget increase from FP6** at 2004 prices



EU Research Framework Programmes

Annual Budgets between 1984 and 2013

€billion



NB: budgets in current prices. Source: Annual Report 2003, plus FP7 revised proposal

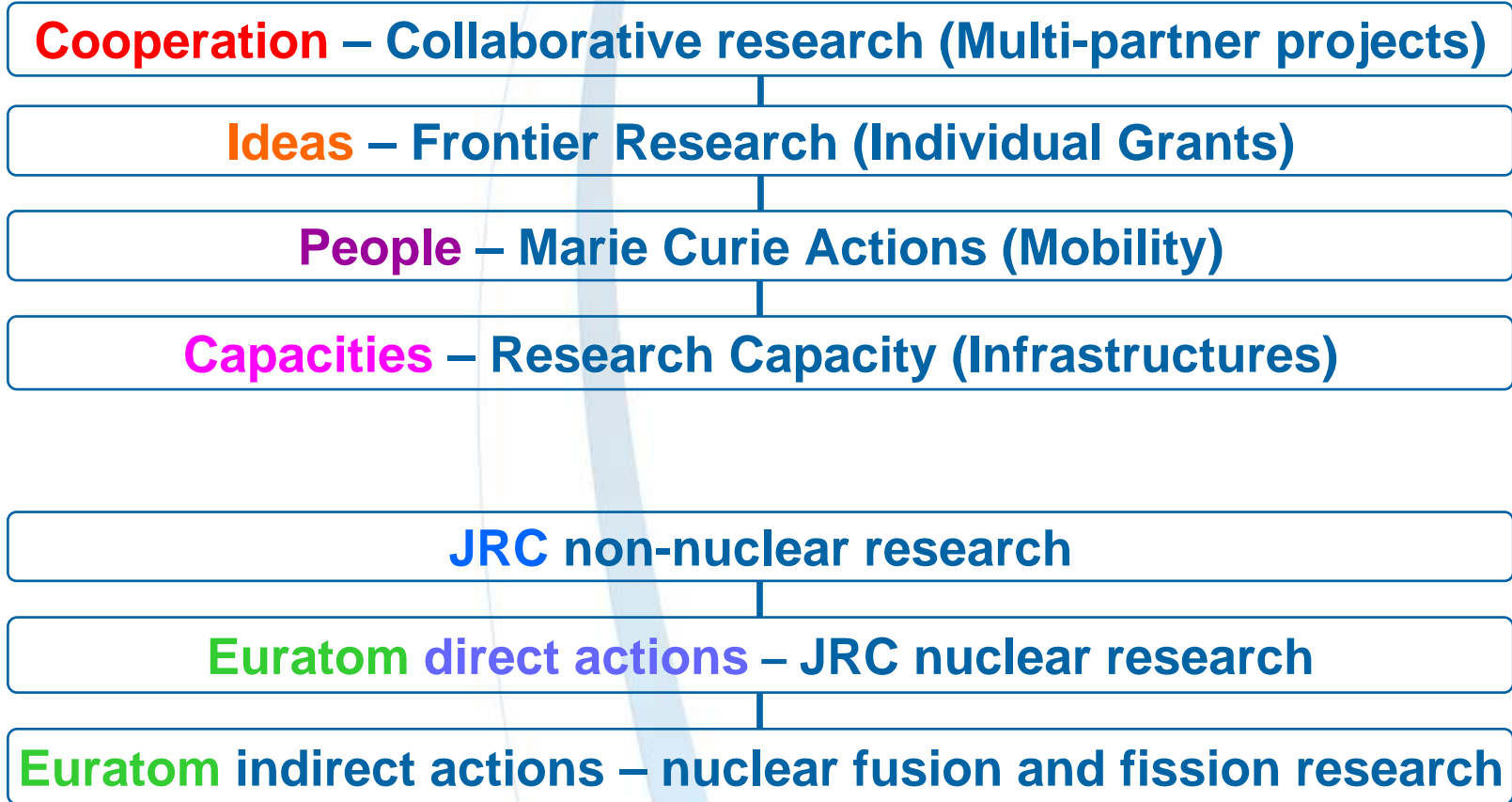


FP7 Key Features

- Substantive increase in funding
 - Budget increase FP6 to FP7: +41% on average
- More action lines – increasing complexity
 - European Research Council
- Major changes in the FP management
 - Implementing Agencies, New grant agreement
- New approach to international cooperation
 - “Mainstreaming”



FP7 (2007-2013) | The Structure





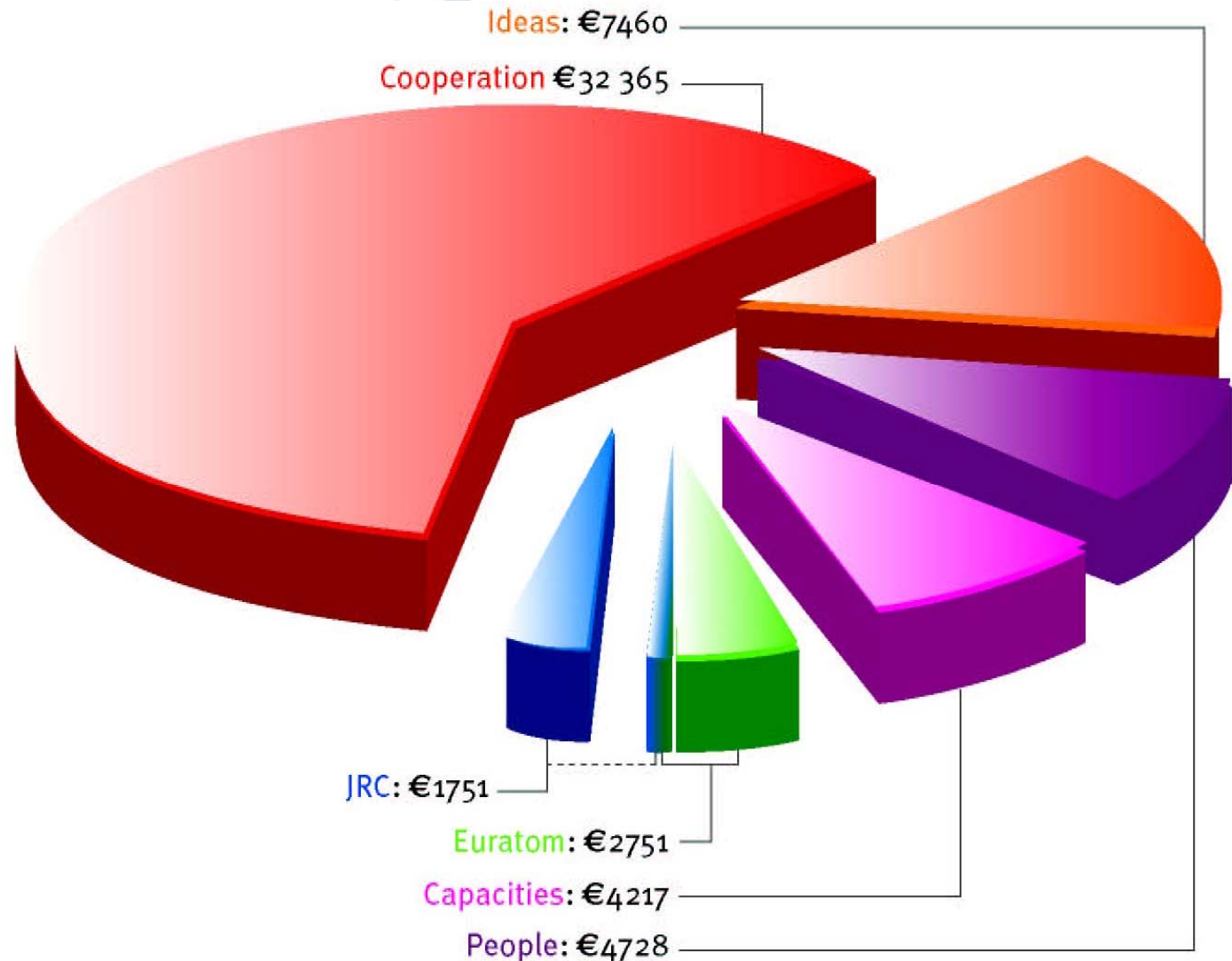
FP7 | Ideas

conducting Frontier Research- The European Research Council (ERC)

- Frontier (“basic”) Research is a key driver to innovation and economic performance
- **European Research Council (ERC)** – the first pan-European funding agency for Frontier Research
- Support **investigator-driven** frontier research over all areas of research
- Budget ~ **€1 billion per year**
- Autonomous scientific governance (Scientific Council)
- Support projects of individual teams
- “Excellence” as sole criterion



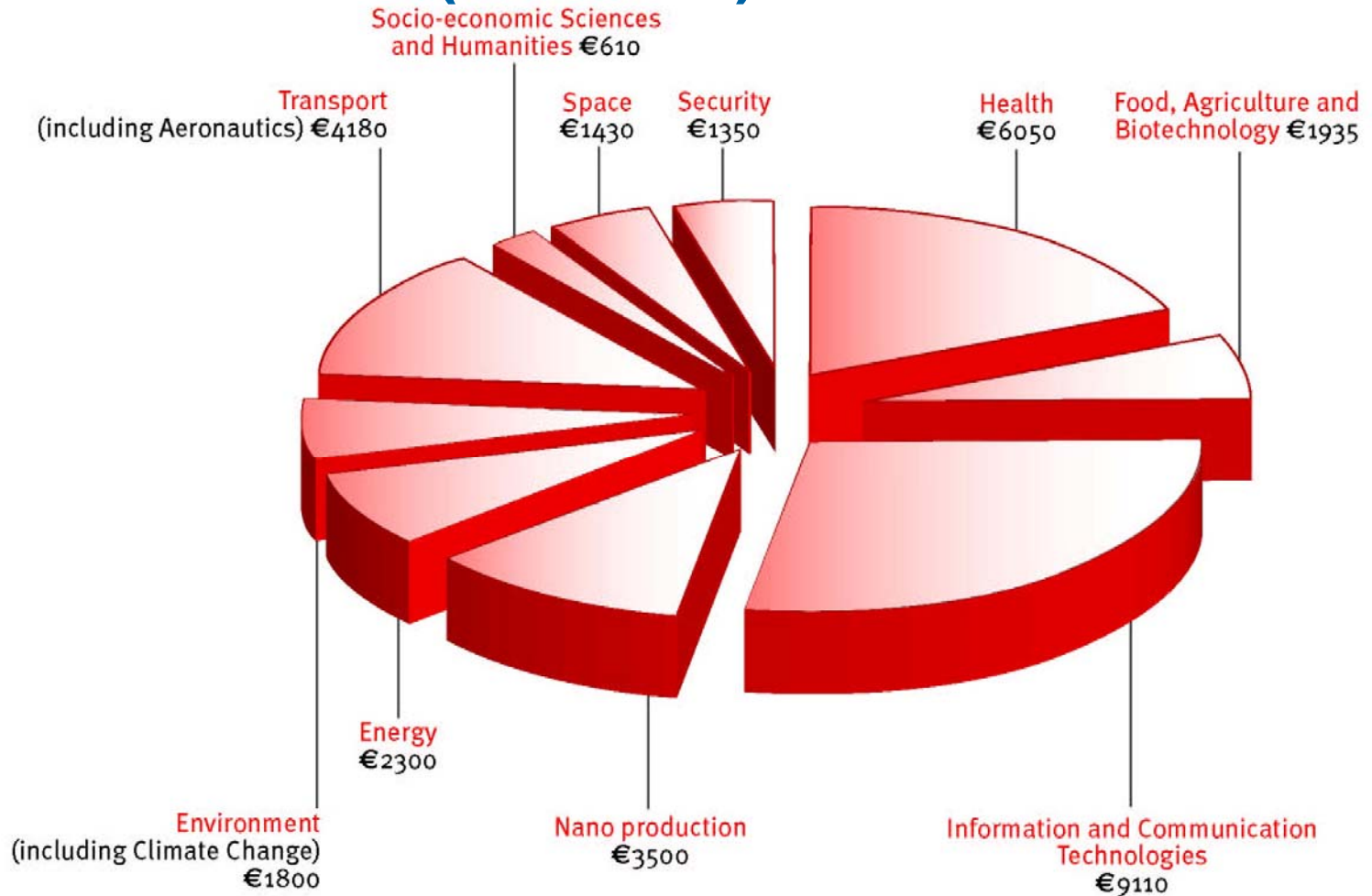
FP7 – Indicative breakdown (€million)





FP7 Cooperation Programme

Thematic areas (€million)





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 February 2008
- 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)?
- Integration of new Member States?
- Impact outside the EU?
- ...



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



- European Research Council (Grants / Implementation structure)
- New features of FP7 (Grant agreement, International Cooperation ...)
- Competitiveness (Lisbon strategy)
- ...



European Research Area



- Political concept calling for greater cooperation and integration of research activities at European/national/regional level
- Launched in 2000 as background to FP6 ...
- ... relaunched in 2007 to get more operational
- Longer term perspective of an “Internal market for research” within Europe
- Initiatives:
 - ➔ Pooling of National Programmes (“ERA-NET”)
 - ➔ Facilitating European Career development for researchers



Perspectives for evaluation



- Growing EU Research budget also means: Increased need for accountability
- Efficiency of the European RTD system under scrutiny
- Timing of forthcoming evaluations in line with need to have an informed debate on future EU RTD policy
- Need to focus more on the “fundamental” aspects and less on minor implementation issues
- Need to develop evaluation capacities in Europe as part of a broader approach towards the European Research Area - “stimulate mutual learning”



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