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)

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

- **Cooperation** – Collaborative research (Multi-partner projects)
- **Ideas** – Frontier Research (Individual Grants)
- **People** – Marie Curie Actions (Mobility)
- **Capacities** – Research Capacity (Infrastructures)

- **JRC** non-nuclear research
- **Euratom** direct actions – JRC nuclear research
- **Euratom** indirect actions – nuclear fusion and fission research
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)

- Ideas: €7460
- Cooperation: €32,365
- JRC: €1751
- Euratom: €2751
- Capacities: €4,217
- People: €47,280
FP7 Cooperation Programme
Thematic areas (€ million)

- Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities: €610
- Transport (including Aeronautics): €4180
- Space: €1430
- Security: €1350
- Health: €6050
- Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology: €1935
- Environment (including Climate Change): €1800
- Energy: €2300
- Nano production: €3500
- Information and Communication Technologies: €9110
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.
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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