

ESF MEMBER FORUM EVALUATION OF EVALUATION OF FUNDING SCHEMES AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

SECOND WORKSHOP OF THE FORUM ROME 31 MARCH / 1 APRIL 2008

CONCLUDING SESSION

During the closing session, following issues /ideas which should be taken into account in future activities of the forum were discussed.

- Going beyond information exchange: It was proposed to develop a set of indicators of evaluation indicators which can be used at the European level.
- Given that there are common concerns between the MO FORUM on Evaluation of Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes and MO Forum on Peer Review, the two fora should exchange information and consider joint activities/workshops
- Clear definition of terms and concept, not least to ensure that the discussions are focused and that we are talking about the same things. This can be achieved for example by developing a common glossary.
- Mapping the funding schemes of European funding agencies as first step to develop common approaches in their evaluation. This could be done by using already existing information (in ERANETS). Care should be taken to include the mapping of “funding structures” in the scope.
- In the development of new approaches to evaluate research funding schemes and research programmes, the views and perspectives of active researchers should be taken into account.

Next steps

- The Forum will organize two more workshops (one in October 2008 and the last one in April/May 2009, with the FWF agreeing to host the first one in Vienna). Potential topics for those workshops: quality assurance of evaluation /standards for evaluation; development of a common set of indicators and the evaluation of socio-economic impact of research. The next workshop could be organized jointly with the MO FORUM on Peer Review.
- The Forum will produce a mid term report by September 2008 to provide an input to the EUROHORCS/ESF Taskforce. A small committee supported by ESF, will be in charge of drafting the mid-term report which will be circulated to the Group.
- The development of the a common set of indicators will be further discussed in a working group which also could be charged to identify indicators already in use and draft a tentative list of common European indicators. ESF will ask members of the forum who are interested in this topic if they would like to be member of the working group.