



European Forum on Philanthropy & Research Funding



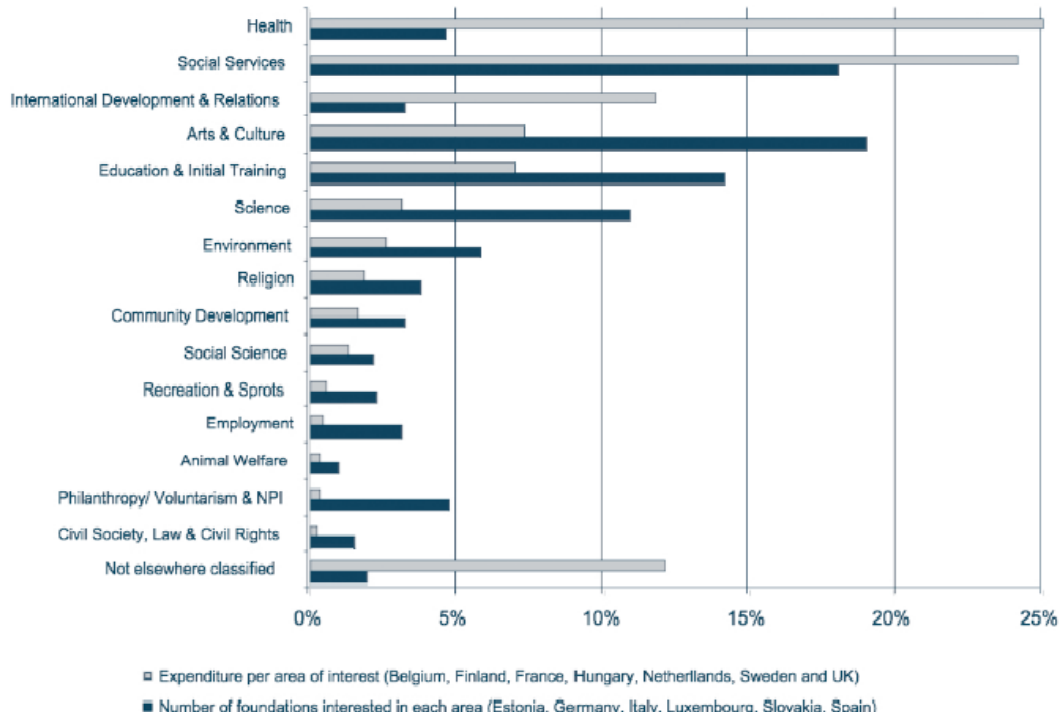
**European
Science
Foundation:
Ex-post
evaluation forum
29 NOVEMBER
2010**

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Forum Officer**

Foundations in Europe



Figure 1: Distribution of Foundations' support by fields of interest (source: Foundations in the EU: Facts and Figures, EFC 2008)



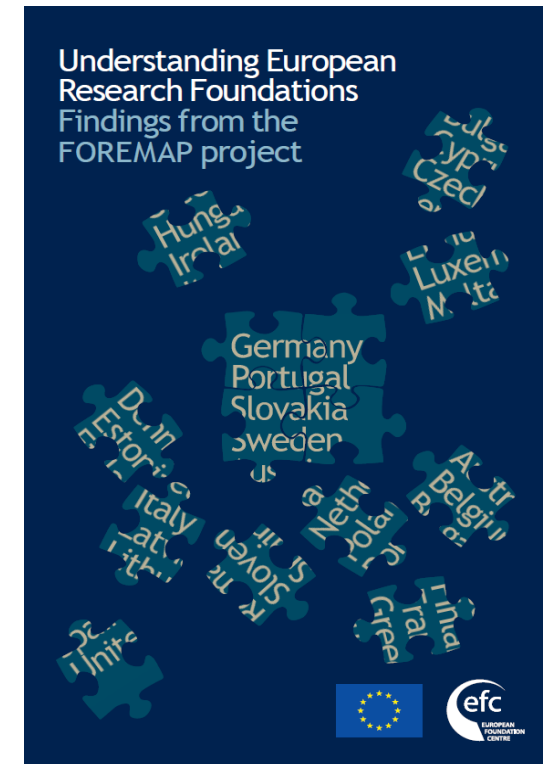
- A large and dynamic sector
- 110,000 foundations
- Annual expenditure €83Bn
- larger than US

European Research Foundations



- .10,000 research foundations
- .Annual expenditure €4.2Bn
- .2% of European Research Spending

- Multi-purpose
- Complement public funding
- Working across borders
- Active in all scientific fields



Breakdown of research expenditure by country and field (2007)

Field of expenditure	Germany <i>n</i> = 32	Portugal <i>n</i> = 12	Slovakia <i>n</i> = 20	Sweden <i>n</i> = 41	Four countries <i>n</i> = 105
Natural sciences	73.19%	10.70%	4.17%	10.15%	48.75%
Social sciences	6.81%	16.91%	1.13%	28.36%	14.21%
Medical sciences	6.85%	51.49%	79.61%	18.81%	11.42%
Engineering and technology	2.93%	3.64%		25.97%	10.85%
Humanities	5.98%	11.72%		8.96%	6.91%
Agricultural sciences	0.17%	0.07%		7.76%	2.8%
Other*	4.07%	5.47%	15.09%	0.00%	5.07%

Percentages of total annual research expenditure of the 112 foundations surveyed in the FOREMAP study (see figure 39).

* Category 'other' includes: interdisciplinary research, law, research in energy, child obesity, university research, nuclear energy and other non-specified fields.

Why a Forum?



1. To create opportunities for cooperation and sharing knowledge

➤ *Important to we foster better understanding between foundations and other European research stakeholders.*

➤ *because we can all learn from each other in sharing our practices and expertise.*

2. To advocate for a better enabling environment for research funding

➤ *Issues that would benefit from being discussed and furthered at European level e.g. VAT on research,*



Forum steering group



- Forum launched in 2007 with help from Commission (observer)

- Fondazione Cariplo (IT, 2007)
 - Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (PT, 2007)
 - The Wellcome Trust (UK, 2007)
 - **European University Association (2007)**
 - Foundation for Polish Science (PL, 2007)
 - Robert Bosch Stiftung (DE, 2008)
 - Lundbeckfonden (DK, 2008)
 - Volkswagen Stiftung (DE, 2009)
 - Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (SW, 2009)
 - Fundacion 'la Caixa' (ES, 2010)
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Objectives

- More effective philanthropic support for research through *improved legal and fiscal environments*
- *Enhance cooperation* between philanthropic bodies, and with other research stakeholders
- Document and *better understand the added value* of foundations' contribution to research
- *Increase awareness* and visibility of the role of philanthropy in supporting research



Current activities

- ☞ Better networking of sector at annual stakeholders conference, workshops and other events
- ☞ FOREMAP pilot study – mapping research foundations in Europe
- ☞ Incubator for cross-border collaboration e.g. Neglected Tropical Diseases Initiative
- ☞ Capacity building
 - ❖ Staff Exchange (Tiepolo programme)
 - ❖ **Research evaluation guidelines**
- ☞ Increase awareness through website, newsletter, liaison with European institutions e.g. Belgian Presidency workshop 2010



Evaluation Working Group



- Funding policies of Foundations → Evaluation
 - Accountability and impact
 - Lead coordinator: Dr Anne-Marie Engel, Lundbeckfonden
 - Ad-hoc coalition of foundation staff and evaluation experts
 - 4 workshops 2008-2009 (e.g. bibliometrics, tracking impact)
 - Focus: ex-post evaluation
 - Output: guidelines for Foundation staff who are approaching issue for first time
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How did we do it?



- Decide Format
 - 4 separate pamphlets with different focus
 - Why evaluate? (rationale and theoretical framework + practical tips)
 - What to evaluate? (outputs v impact)
 - How to evaluate? (tools)
 - Case studies
 - Lead author for first 3 pamphlets
 - Identity Foundations for case studies
 - Structured template
 - Illustrate different types of Foundation and approach
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How did we do it pt.2?



- First editing of material (consistency, style)
 - Virtual working group (experts, foundation staff, public agencies)
 - Workshop in Brussels with Foundation community
 - Re-draft on the basis of feedback
 - ‘Beta-testing’ with target group
 - Structured feedback via questionnaire
 - Final editing, design printing
 - Timeline: approx 1 year from decision on format to printing
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Basic Structure



- Drivers (accountability, organisational learning etc.)
 - Before you start...
 - Emphasis on monitoring arrangements/stakeholder engagement
 - Overview of Evaluation Process
 - Overview of different funding levels
 - Do's and don'ts of evaluation
 - Be proportionate, over-reliance on quantitative data, perverse incentives
 - Glossary of key terms
 - Bibliography
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FIGURE 1: THE EVALUATION PROCESS

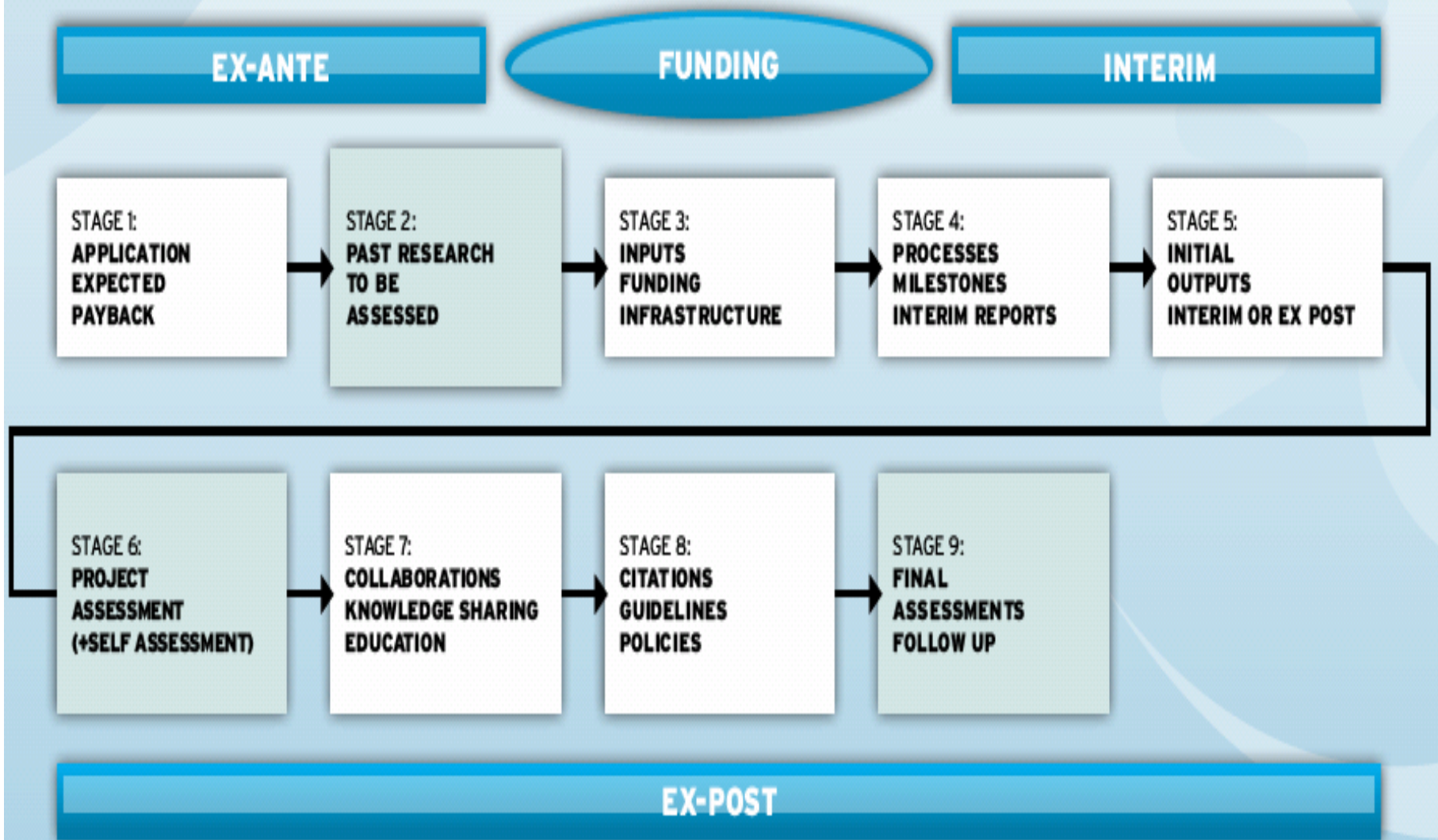
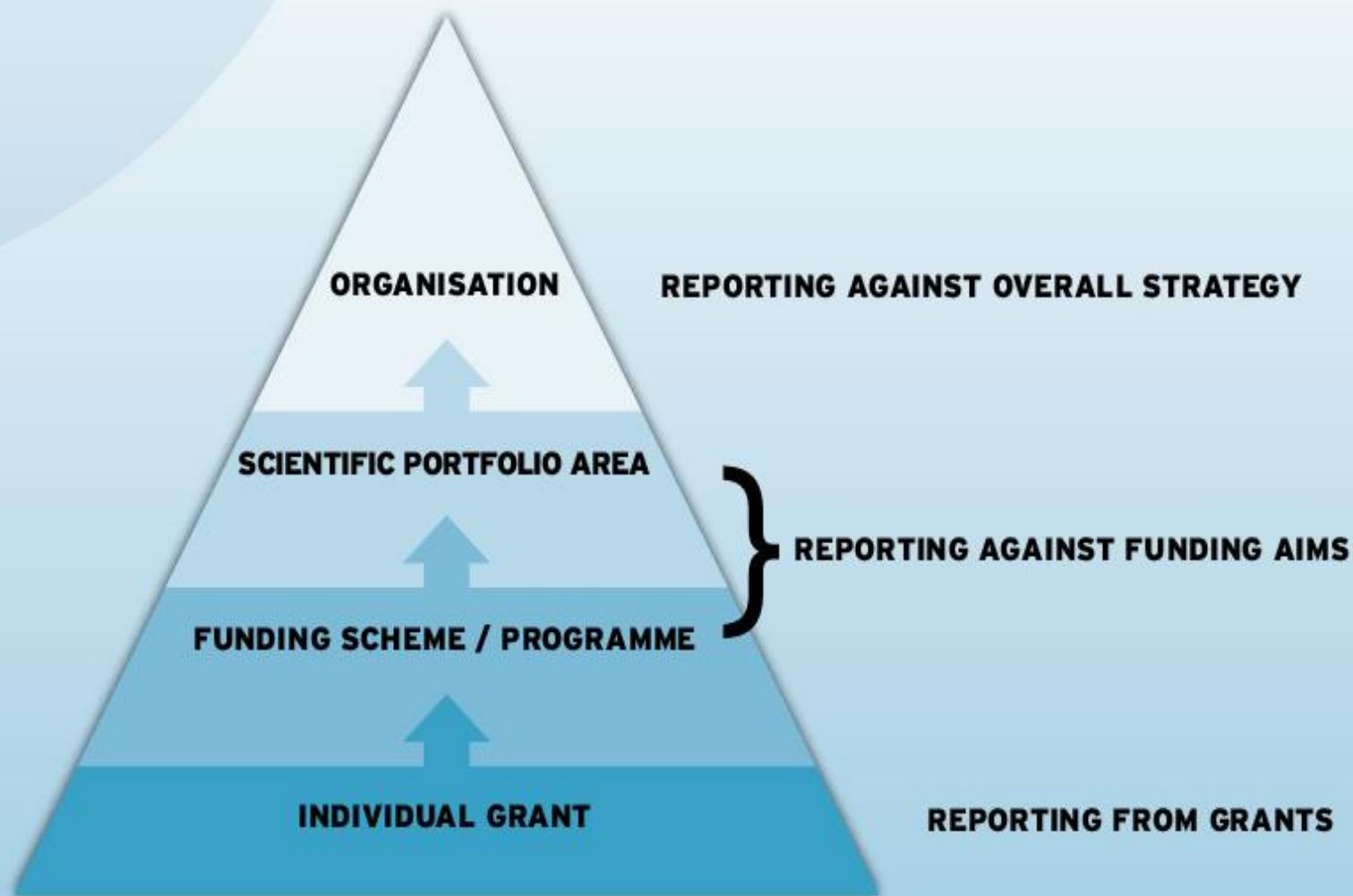


FIGURE 2: **EVIDENCE OF 'IMPACT' - FUNDING LEVELS**



Source: Wellcome Trust

Lessons learned



- ✓ Positive feedback – a real need
 - ✓ Perception: ex-post evaluation is for consultants
 - ✓ Not many examples of Foundations engaged in ex-post evaluation
 - ✓ Balance between comprehensiveness and generality
 - ✓ Balance between relevance and theoretical sophistication
 - ✓ Pamphlet path dependency!
 - ✓ Most valued: bibliography and case-study contacts
 - ✓ **Solution? Evaluation wiki**
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Upcoming events



- Annual conference: *'Nurturing Talent'*
 - Stuttgart, December 7 & 8 2010
- Intellectual Property Seminar
 - Brussels, 14 January 2011

www.efc.be/researchforumconference2010





Thank you for your attention!

Further details and contact

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Research Forum
