

**NEUES ENTDECKEN**

**TALENTE FÖRDERN**

**IDEEN UMSETZEN**

**WIR STÄRKEN  
DIE WISSENSCHAFTEN  
IN ÖSTERREICH.**

# **The MO Forum Consultation Process**

## **A Member Experience, Austrian Science Fund (FWF)**

5th Workshop, Member Organisation Forum on  
“Science in Society Relationships”

Stockholm, 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2012

Stefan Bernhardt

## MO Forum main recommendations

- FWF Mission Statement comprises SiS activities – a moral standard
  - Own SiS Mission Statement: Not necessary
  - Common Agreement like the High Level Committee: Not useful
  - High Level Committee: Not necessary
  - Exchange of experiences and best practices: Very useful
  - Indicators and evaluation for SiS actions: Exaggerated approach
- Better Science in Society practices are needed: Yes
  - Different recommendations for RPOs and RFOs: Makes sense
  - Infrastructures: part of best practice issue
- Scientists and institutions should be funded and rewarded:
  - Intrinsic vs. extrinsic (motivation): Serious doubts!
  - Evaluation methods / indicators: Objections!

## Suggested Interview Questions

- Opinion on priorities and recommendations:

**SiS is an important issue** and there are (very good) reasons for doing it. Nevertheless, tribute should be paid to the existing international differences, the different traditions which have to be faced and the different dynamics which can be observed
- ‘Common Agreement’ and the ‘High Level Committee’

**No, neither** a ‘Common Agreement’ nor a High Level Committee makes sense. It does make sense, to establish a Forum for defining and exchanging best practice examples, to establish a methodology to check the scalability and transferability of SiS formats, etc. There might be a value added if best practice cases are labeled as such
- Follow up of the recommendations / structure, system, funding?

**Yes, we have** an adequate structure. We also have legal instructions paving the way for allocating funds for SiS activities

## Free comments

- Are researchers and scholars stakeholders or service providers?
- Which role do politicians play? Stakeholders or observers?
- Is the narrative ‘publicly funded hobbies in ivory towers’ the driver?
- Is the ‘stakeholder/service provider-dilemma’ inescapable?
- Which role do SiS activities play – a source for fostering the narrative?
- Does the dilemma (wearing too many hats) devalue the endeavours?
- ... maybe more to come ...
  - ...
- Nevertheless: Things are moving ... 😊

## **(Small) Steps towards more SiS resources 😊**

- A small pilot programme is planned to be launched ...
- Project specific SiS activities, 5% mark up (lump sum) is available
  - This message has been sent out actively for the first time ...
  - This is a very important reference point / milestone
  - In theory, large sums are officially available for SiS activities
- The FWF is a strong endorser of open access
- ...

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