The Future of the Forum – an Outlook

Brainstorming among Strand A members
Dublin, November 2009
The proposal on the second “MF on Ex-Post Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes” includes the following aims:

► establishing a network of people involved in evaluation within the national research agencies, provide a platform to exchange information and experiences on the rapidly changing evaluation practices on a regular basis

► updating and building upon the work done during the first Forum (mapping exercise)

► identifying best practices in research evaluation

► establishing working groups to look into the possibility of cooperation on a number of common concerns, for example

  ● current trends and important topics

  ● data organisation and management (common formats or classification to allow better comparability)

  ● cross-country comparison
The ESF-Member Forum on Research Evaluation
Discussion of the following questions

► How should the report be disseminated?
► How should it be updated?
► What are potential future topics?
► What are potential future projects?
► How should be organise our work?
Members of the Forum:

- could distribute it in their own organisation (send out an email, present it to key actors personally, ...)
- could put the Report/a link to the Report on their website
- could identify their key audiences on a national level (e.g. ministries of science/research, evaluation agencies/scholars, ...)

ESF should identify key audiences on an international level (e.g. other ESF Members who are not participating in the Forum, EC, ...)

there should be an executive summary that can be circulated (which highlights the „germs“/main ideas of the report)
Update of the report

- not necessarily update the report as such, but:
  - ESF should provide a platform to inform about completed evaluation studies (links), update on an annual basis
  - sort by evaluation level/funding modes
  - use the template developed during the first Forum

- possibility to announce current and future projects

- online discussion board

- mailing list
Potential future topics

- organisation of the evaluation process
  - connection between a successful evaluation and the follow-up
  - how is the „evaluation function“ organised with the organisations?
  - quality control/assurance – guidance/quality thresholds
  - how to go about longer term follow-up?
  - evaluation circle – ex-ante evaluation of programmes

- new developments in evaluation strategies (e.g. Eric project)

- cross-cutting issues to the levels of evaluations, e.g.
  - training (e.g. education of PhDs)
  - socio-economic impacts
  - gender issues
  - link between inputs and outputs/contribution vs. attribution
  - data collection and data management issues
Potential future projects

- „best practise“-handbook
- toolbox of indicators/methodology suitable for the funding modes
- tracking of state of the art/new developments in certain fields (such as socio-economic impacts)
- web resource of evaluation studies
Work organisation

- ESF is going to send out letter of invitation to organisations
- use the next workshop to develop work plan/road map with distinct work packages which should then be published
- combine plenary sessions with working groups
- give working groups more room
- give discussions more room
- each workshop should have one overriding topic
  - collect information on that topic in before-hand
  - present „state of the art“ among the members during the workshop
- give new members the chance to bring in their ideas
Thank you for your attention