Evaluation and Monitoring of the European RTD Framework Programmes

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Dr. Peter Fisch
European Commission – DG RTD A.3
Roadmap

- Key Activities 2008
  - FP6 Ex-post Evaluation
  - FP7 Monitoring

- European Court of Auditors Report on FP Evaluation System

- European RTD Evaluation Network
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 15 experts
  - Expertise covering the FP6 research areas
  - Challenge to integrate wide range of evidence into final report
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 meeting in May/June 2008
  - Series of meetings before and mainly after summer
  - Final report due by the end of 2008.
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)?
- Networks of Excellence?
- Integration of new Member States?
- …
Inputs into the evaluation process

- Commission
  - Data, Thematic Studies, Panel Secretariat, …

- Member States
  - Impact Studies, Surveys, …

- Scientific Community
  - Methodological papers, participation in surveys, …

- Public and Media
  - Informed debate, …
Monitoring of FP7 Implementation

- Move from an external monitoring (FP6) towards an internal monitoring (FP7)
- Move from an “ad-hoc” approach towards a continuous and systematic collection of information and indicators
- Monitoring primarily aimed to support management in implementing FP7
- Annual report to be presented to the Programme Committee and to be published on internet
- Possible information source for future FP7 evaluations
- Flexible system to develop as FP7 will get more “mature”
Monitoring of FP7 Issues

- Application numbers
- Proposal Evaluation
- Time to contract
- Success rates
- User Feedback
- ...

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Special Report on FP Evaluation System

- Focus on efficiency, not compliance
- Covering FP4 to FP6 (1994 – 2006)
- Based on several “fact finding missions” worldwide
- Carried out 2005 to 2007
- Adopted December 2007
- “Institutional” Follow-Up (EP, Council) 2008
- Addressed to the European Commission …
- … but analysis is of more general interest
Key Issues 1: Intervention logic, objective setting, performance indicators

- Need for an explicit intervention logic from the outset
- Measurable objectives
- Set of limited, but balanced performance indicators
Key Issues 2: Organising Evaluations

- Overall evaluation strategy
- Involve external advice
- Adequate resources (0.4%)
Key Issues 3: Methodologies and Techniques

- “Manual” based on existing guides and toolboxes
- Better use of existing complementary data sources
- Use of full range of evaluation techniques
- “Consult with Member States on how to maximise the benefits of national-level evaluations of the FP”
Key Issues 4: Dissemination and use

- Adequate timing to maximise policy impact
- Communication and dissemination targeting stakeholders
- Need for an evaluation of the longer-term results of past programmes (after 7 to 10 years)
ERA dimension

- ERA calls for greater cooperation and integration of activities at European/national/regional level
- Evaluation cannot ignore this trend
- Important potential as regards
  - Exchange of information
  - Methodological developments
  - Mutual learning
- Potential for increased policy impact
European RTD Evaluation Network

- Created 1996, relaunch 2007/2008
- All Member States and Associated Countries (36)
- 2 members per country
  - Academic community
  - Implementing agencies
- Two meetings per year
  (28 & 29 January in Brussels)
- Explore ERA dimension
  - National Impact studies on FP
Issues for this network

- “Consult with Member States on how to maximise the benefits of national-level evaluations of the FP”
- Guides and toolboxes
- Nature of complementary data to be used
- Ways to assess longer term impact of research programmes
- Communication and dissemination practices
- …
Contact

European Commission – RTD A.3
SDME 2/41
1049 Bruxelles

peter.fisch@ec.europa.eu