Policy Support Facility

Introduction

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Workshop on the
Policy Support Facility
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Policy Support Facility - why?

Countries can increase the impact of R&I through reforms to improve the quality of strategies, programmes and institutions.

Designing and implementing those R&I reforms is very complex:

- Limited evidence base
- Lack of in-house expertise
- Need to tailor policies to country specific circumstances
Is there a demand for the Policy Support Facility?
Examples of requests the Commission has received

A Prime Minister wanted advice on the establishment of a new National Council for S&T

A vice Prime Minister asks for help to evaluate sustainability of research infrastructures

A research Minister requests help to designing clear and transparent rules for allocating R&I funding
Examples of R&I reforms identified in the Semester (European Council conclusions, June 2-14)

15 Country Specific Recommendations, including:

**Streamline R&I priorities:** Estonia, Slovenia

**Increase competition in R&I funding:** Czech Republic, Italy, Spain

**Enhance public private cooperation:** Portugal, Slovakia, Luxembourg

**Improve innovation support:** Belgium, Finland

**Reform R&D tax incentives:** France, Poland
Examples of policy challenges

Experience with peer reviews and mutual learning very positively recognised by ERAC (2 October 2014, Venice)

Strategies
- Monitoring indicators for R&I strategies and programmes
- Strategies for financial sustainability of national research infras

Programmes and instruments
- Design and evaluation of R&I tax incentives schemes
- Effective tools to mobilise private spending
- Incorporating international peer review in national evaluations
- Evaluating outputs and impacts of R&I spending

Institutions
- Concrete practices on linking H2020 and ESIF funding
- Incentivising Public Research Organisations to exploit results
Priority reforms to increase quality and impact of public spending

Identified in Commission Communication "Research and Innovation as Sources of Renewed Growth", 10 June 2014

Quality strategies
(multi-annual, evidence based, impact)

Quality programmes
(clear goals, competition-driven, red tape)

Quality governance
(flexibility, open recruitment, evaluation)
How could the Policy Support Facility respond to these demands?
Build on successful experience

ERAC peer reviews
- Successful! Direct impacts on new R&I strategies
- But only 5 MS 'daring' since 2010
- Need to improve the process to maximise policy relevance

ERAC mutual learning seminars
- Policy-makers keen on hands-on discussion
- But needs to be more in-depth to meet policy needs
- And enable sharing of practical experience on reforms
Filling gaps

**Responding to ad-hoc requests**
- Policy advice and guidance to help interested countries introduce specific reforms

**Improving access to existing information**
- Peer reviews, policy analysis, country profiles, indicators
Accelerating reforms in low performing countries

- Horizon 2020 "Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence" aims to reduce disparities in R&I performance
- Applies to: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
- PSF Support will be complementary to the existing Smart Specialisation Platform