

**ad-hoc ERAC Working Group on
Measuring the Impact of EU Framework
Programmes for Research and Innovation at
National Level**

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Chair of the WG**

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Mandate of the WG

- Develop a harmonised impact evaluation template
 - *core set* of evaluation **questions**
 - *common* evaluation **methodologies**
 - *common* **indicators**
 - available *common* **datasets** and available EU and national **databases** to assess the socio-economic impacts of EU Framework Programmes at national level

Expectations on the WG

- **Distinct expectations on contribution of WG**
 - WG should go beyond basic templates which most countries have been already applying
 - Challenge of addressing wider impact of participation in FPs
- **Template as guidance to different impacts**
 - Template modules according to objectives/questions
 - Comparability at each module should be promoted
 - Going beyond minimum common practices and hence contributing to respond to most challenging questions on impact
- **Feasibility – appropriate implementation**
 - National objectives that underlie assessment differ for different MS
 - Size of participation is also distinct – with implications on related assessment practices and costs
 - Need to consider MS objectives regarding the impact of participation in FPs

Development of the Work

- WG Members
 - 24 Members
- 1st Meeting
 - 12 April 2016
- 2nd Meeting
 - 6 June 2016
- 3rd Meeting
 - 26 September 2016
- 4th Meeting
 - Delayed to early 2017
- Deliverable (initially expected end 2016)
 - Report including an evaluation template
 - Template - questions / methodologies / indicators / data sets

'Impact' of Participation

- Assessment of the **impact of science on society at large**, including **'any effect on, change, benefit or limitation'**, to the research and innovation system, economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.
- Impact which results primarily from participation in Framework Programmes, either because of the direct funding, the collaborative structure, the international dimension, or other **opportunities (or barriers) provided by such participation**.

Work developed

- Initial discussion on objectives of WG
- Review of national experiences/studies on assessment of national participation in FPs
- Identification of national objectives – participation vs impact
- Understanding dimensions of analysis, methodologies, data – challenges/barriers of quantitative analysis (standardisation)
- Follow-up of ongoing relevant work promoted by the Commission
- Ongoing
 - Specification of template according to distinct dimensions

National objectives

Questions

- Understanding role of national strategies and support instruments in motivating participation and improving impact
 - How do national strategies and support instruments contribute to participation decisions/promote impact?
- Understanding organizational motivations to participate
 - What are organisations' and individuals' main motives to apply for FP funding?
- Identifying financial return of national participation in FPs
 - Are there significant differences in success of participation across instruments/orgs?
- Improving internationalization of research and innovation communities
 - Do European networks build on existing links? Do they build new international links?
- Improving research quality and promoting research careers
 - How do research results compare with other similar programmes?
- Achieving economic/innovative impact
 - What was the impact in terms of innovation in participating firms?
- Upgrading of technological/innovative capabilities
 - Has participation in FPs contributed to strengthen technological/innovative capabilities?
- Improving innovation capabilities in specific emerging fields
 - Has participation in FPs contributed to develop new technological/innovative capabilities in emerging fields?
- Creating economic spillovers at national/sectoral level
 - Does national participation cluster in specific sectors?
- Promoting societal impact of research
 - What wider societal impacts can be identified?
 - Has the third-sector organisations participation led to new lines of action/collaboration?

Challenges

- Identification of impacts
 - Long term and structural effects
 - Tracing impacts
 - Identifying counterfactuals
- Diverse methodology vs standard template
- Data
 - Comparable data sets across countries
 - Favouring existing data / reducing burden on performers
 - Quality of existing participation data
- Differences between instruments/areas
- Template which embraces standardization/comparability with flexibility/national needs

Structure of WG Report

- Executive Summary
- Introduction and objectives
- Policy context of 'impact' and methodological issues
- Recommendations for MS and EC
 - MS national objectives and participation
 - EC role in data harmonization and distribution
- Template dimensions
 - Participation Structure
 - Structuring Impacts
 - Scientific Impacts
 - Innovation Impacts
 - Economic Impacts
 - Societal Impacts
- Distinct impacts / sections
 - Evaluation methodologies
 - Data and indicators
 - Examples

Proposal to extend mandate

- Mandate scheduled to deliver by end of 2016
- Work is currently delayed
- Challenge of defining specifications across templates
 - Balancing existing data/indicators with dedicated objectives/needs
 - Reflecting current discussions/challenges on the ‘impact policy agenda’
 - Benefitting of ongoing parallel work by the EC
- Proposal to extend mandate by further 6 months (Spring/Summer ERAC Plenary)
 - Earlier presentation of draft
 - Considering eventual national timelines (ultimate objective)