

FP7 ICT Interim Evaluation and more ...

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FP7 ICT Interim Evaluation Context (1)

- ◆ Interim Evaluation of FP7
 - Evaluation at mid stage
 - Reported in March 2010
- ◆ Much EC activity since the report -
 - EC communication on “Simplification”
 - Action Plan on the report
 - Green Paper on Common Strategic Framework
 - Etc
- ◆ This presentation -
 - ◆ Brief Report on FP7 Interim Evaluation
 - ◆ Comments on CSF Green Paper (EAI)
 - ◆ Which means ...

FP7 ICT Interim Evaluation Context (2)

- Input to Interim Evaluation of FP7 as a whole
 - Guidance and steering to final part of FP7
 - Input to design of any successor programme
- Builds on FP6 evaluation (Aho report)
- Issues:

- Quality of research
 - Is FP7-ICT doing the right kind of research?
 - Does it mobilise the best people (Europe / worldwide)?
- Progress towards objectives
 - ERA? Innovation? Knowledge triangle?
 - EU policy goals?
- Quality of implementation; simplification
 - WP formulation? Mix of instruments?
 - Budgetary impact of Rules of Participation?
 - Trust-based relationship?

Panel members

Alain Bravo (chair)	FR	SUPÉLEC, Alcatel
Hartmut Raffler	DE	Siemens AG
Steve Wright	UK	British Telecom
Gonzalo Leon	ES	Polytechnic University of Madrid, Sec. State Research
Staffan Truvé	SE	Swedish Institute of Computer Science, Venture Capital
Tertuu Luukkonen	FI	Research Institute of the Finnish Economy, Evaluation of public policies
Ziga Turk	SL	University of Ljubljana, Gov't of Slovenia

Sources of evidence

- FP7-ICT information
 - Work-programmes
 - Implementation indicators (Success rate, TTG, TTP, etc.)
- FP7-ICT Self-assessment
 - Challenges (technology, societal)
 - Breakdown of funding / area
- Survey + interviews of participants
 - Nature of the projects,
 - Perceptions and expectations of participants
 - Issues / barriers
- Specific studies
 - Portfolio of participants (IPPA)
 - Non-retained proposals
 - Patents and publications
 - ...



Conclusions and recommendations (summary)

- ICT programme is
 - Relevant
 - Solid and largely well implemented character
- Progress at FP level on many issues in Aho is modest
- Backwards progress on simplification
 - " ... *not 'merely' a matter of imperfect implementation ... an existential challenge to the Programme itself*"
- 11 Recommendations:
 - A) To strengthen European ICT research in a globalising world
 - B) To exploit the pervasiveness of ICT via integrated policies
 - C) To improve risk sharing (*"simplification"*)

Recommendations (1/3)

A) Strengthening European ICT research in a globalising world

- **Continue with ICT in FP8 in a further strengthened form**
 - flexibility and interdisciplinarity are needed to support dynamic and radical ICT innovation
- **Continue to build ERA combining national and European programmes** (but)
 - **clarify** (fit for purpose) of **portfolio of instruments** and
 - **address issues of dual management**
- **Ensure balance between consensus-based R&D and longer term**
 - e.g. **expand** (FP7) and **extend FET** (FP8)
- Keep extending **global reach of FP7-ICT**
 - taking into account characteristics and capabilities of various parts of the world
 - **more proactive policy and EU presence** in **pre-normalisation** and **standardisation**



A strong 'core' of participants involved in successive FPs

- Includes ~70% of the Higher Education participants and ~50% of the Research Institutes and Large Enterprises
- Allows for the creation of critical mass in specific S&T fields at European level and for stability over time
- Greatly increases the likelihood that results will be implemented
- Fosters an ongoing strengthening and expansion of strategic R&D partnerships
- Constitutes the backbone also for the research in the new initiatives & the ETPs
- Represents the established, major stakeholders on the European stage – the 'usual suspects'

Constitutes a risk for lock-in

→ **Need for countervailing activities that can unseat the established players & unleash the development of new industries**

Recommendations (2/3)

B) Exploiting the pervasiveness of ICT via integrated policies

1) **ICT task force** spanning **across DGs** to coordinate **ICT-relevant policy development**

- 2) Explore opportunities for **demand-based measures** that open new arenas for innovation ...
- (aggregating and) **making visible user needs**
 - deepen the role of demand side in the **ICT programme** and
 - its **links to take-up and practice**

1) use the power of **higher education** system in spreading innovation and providing **new skills and competencies**

- encourage participants to **develop curricula in new and emerging areas**

1) To reach the Programme's immediate ICT objectives two major actions are needed

- **reverse the downward trend in industry participation**
- incorporate plans for **large-scale ICT test-beds for advanced services**

Recommendations (3/3)

C) To improve risk sharing...

- to ensure **participation of key European players**, EC must:
 - reduce damaging administrative burden and arbitrariness of auditing practice
 - radically overhaul the financial regulations ensuring the principle of shared risk and mutual trust
- to **increase SME participation**:
 - simplify and reduce the burdens of their participation with a **lightweight form of subcontracting or associate partnership**
- To **reduce the waste of effort in proposal writing**:
 - test a more sophisticated **2-stage application process** with proposals going into **2nd stage** having **30-50% chance of funding**

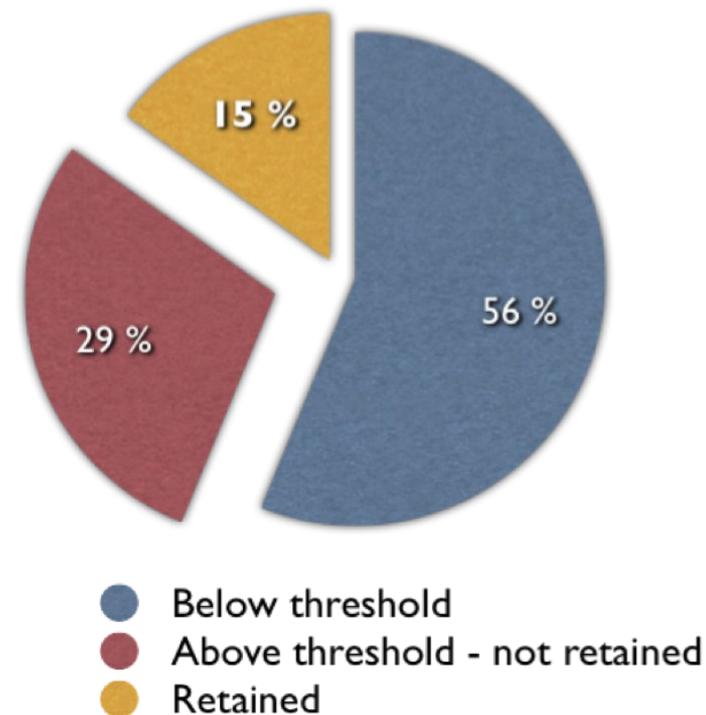
“Simplification”

*“ ... not ‘merely’ a matter of imperfect implementation
... an existential challenge to the Programme itself”*

- The approach to management of financial risk goes far beyond what is consistent with sound management of Community resources and does not take into account the intrinsically uncertain nature of RTD investments
 - The culture of control and audit, taken together with the complexity of the rules leads to potential for misunderstandings and inconsistencies of interpretation - often not discovered until after the fact
- Even where the Framework Programme and DG INFSO have taken steps with a view to simplification and reduction of burdens, these have been stifled by the overarching EC Financial Regulation and how this is interpreted.

FP7-ICT calls 1-3: success rate

- 3,564 proposals
- 1957 below threshold
- only 538 retained
- For some objectives success rate < 10%



Response to EC Com(2011) 48-

GREEN PAPER

From Challenge to Opportunities: Towards a
Common Strategic Framework for EU Research
and Innovation Funding

"...the competitiveness of Europe ... must be the overarching principle ..."

- Collaborative research (FP7)
 - Very positive impact on European S&T
 - Less positive impact on later stages of Innovation Cycle
 - Poor translation into societal benefit
- Many barriers are well known (and described in Green Paper)
- We believe there are two structural issues that have prevented this:
 - Financial Regulations
 - Commission silo structure
- The programme is now daunting in complexity
 - "Simplify or die"

"...the competitiveness of Europe ... must be the overarching principle ..."

- Create a single coherent framework for R&I, with the architecture driven by an Innovation mindset.
- Ensure that new mechanisms are specifically appropriate for the intended outcomes and actors (e.g. SMEs)
- Dramatically reduce the barriers within the Commission that fragment responsibilities for the Innovation Cycle.
- Provide a single and consistent interface to potential users.
- Ensure continuity and familiarity for contributors to the current programme (Collaborative programmes, FET etc).

"...the competitiveness of Europe ... must be the overarching principle ..."

- Innovation Partnerships rather than silo projects
- Best practice sharing
- Advice and support agencies for "crossing the (many) chasms"
 - IPR
 - Funding
 - Standards
 - Global markets
- Pre-competitive procurement
- Regulatory intervention (e.g. services)
- etc

"...the competitiveness of Europe ... must be the overarching principle ..."

- **Design for purpose**
 - Not "how do we get more SMEs in Collaborative projects ?"
 - Rather "what intervention will best help SMEs ?"
 - Good examples in national programmes
- **Where to support Innovation?**
 - European vs national vs regional
- **Simplify or Die**
 - Financial Regulations, trust culture
 - Political will

For FI, this means ...

... personal view

- Research AND Innovation ...
- Pervasiveness of ICT
 - User driven, sector specific
 - Multi-disciplinary innovation
- FI PPP, Strategic Research Agenda, etc
 - Consultation with the “usual suspects”
 - How to support radical disruption and the potential new players??
- Internet has transformed the PROCESS of innovation
 - Is this reflected in the FI programme, structure?