



ERAC Workshop on Methodologies for evaluating the impacts of FP7 Lessons learnt and future steps

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Context

Political context

Legal requirements

Better Regulation requirements



"Make sure that every action we take delivers maximum performance and value added"

Jean-Claude
Juncker

Better Regulation Guidelines - five mandatory evaluation criteria

- ✓ *Effectiveness*
- ✓ *Efficiency*
- ✓ *Relevance*
- ✓ *Coherence*
- ✓ *EU-added value*



"Your evaluation will be based on what you do in the next thirty seconds. Go!"

Evaluation studies

Horizontal studies

On-going/finalised

- Contribution of FPs to the development of Human Resource Capacity
- Research Management Performance of FP Projects
- Research Management Performance of FP Projects
- Network Analysis of the FP7 Participation
- Contribution of FPs to Major Innovations
- 3 studies on FP impact on:
a) Universities b) RTOs and c) Industry

Planned

- Assessing the Union Added Value and the Economic Impact of the EU Framework Programmes (FP7, Horizon 2020)
- Assessing the Impacts of EU Regulatory Bottlenecks on Innovation"
- Impact of Framework Programmes in Member States



Methodologies used in evaluations feeding into the FP 7 Ex-post Evaluation

A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods based on:

- ✓ Desk research including literature review
- ✓ Project Surveys
- ✓ Interviews
- ✓ Case studies
- ✓ Statistical analyses including econometric analysis
- ✓ Bibliometric analysis
- ✓ Network Analysis
- ✓ Analysis of the intervention logic to identify impact pathways
- ✓ Counterfactual impact evaluations



Example: Eurostars Ex-post evaluation

What is Eurostars?

- Joint Programming initiative supporting R&D-performing SMEs
- The programme was set up in 2008 and 33 countries have participated in it.

Methodology based on:

- (1) desk research
- (2) interviews with stakeholders and SMEs
- (3) online survey of SMEs which applied for Eurostars
- (4) Counterfactual impact evaluation comparing SMEs benefiting from Eurostars with those who have not received funding. (the Amadeus database for setting up a control group).

Main findings

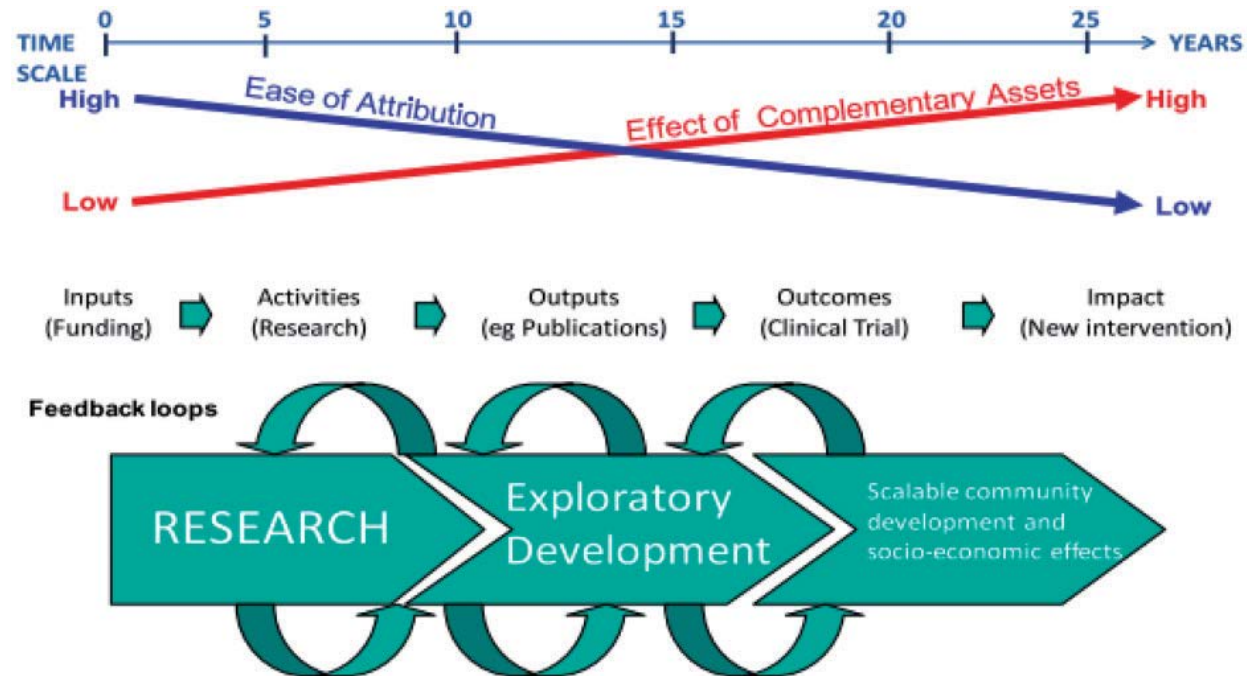
- Eurostars had a significant positive impact on the technological potential of funded firms. The estimated number of patent applications by funded firms exceeded the number of patent application of non-funded programme applicants.
- Eurostars stimulated new partnerships of young and small SMEs between participating countries. The results pointed to some long-lasting impacts of the programme, as about 90% of the firms intended to continue the initiated partnerships with other R&D-performing SMEs in Europe whether the consortium was funded or not.
- Eurostars contributed to employment generation by R&D-performing SMEs in Europe. The causal impact of Eurostars funding on employment growth was calculated using different regression designs analysing the growth-rate differentials between funded and similar but non-funded firms.
- The matching approach implies that the employment growth rate of funded firms was nearly twice the employment growth of observably equal non-funded firms.

Types of impacts that have been assessed in the FP7 ex-post evaluation

- **'Economic'** such as impact on growth, contribution to industrial competitiveness
- **'Social'** such as impact on jobs
- **'Environmental'** such as contribution to sustainable development
- **'Soft impacts'** such as behavioural additionality, knowledge accumulation

Main methodological challenges to assess impact

- Time lag
- Causality
- Data availability
- Methodologies to quantify wider socio-economic impacts



Source: Hughes & Martin (2012)

Conclusions

- In times of budgetary cuts, there is an increasing need to evaluate the impact of R&I funding both at national and EU level
- Better Regulation Agenda: Enhanced focus on evaluations in line with 'Evaluate first' principle
- Commission is ready to assist member states in their evaluation efforts linked to the FP
- There is a need to facilitate mutual learning and exchange of experiences regarding the approach taken to measure the societal impact of the framework programme



Thank you for your attention!