

How Meta-Evaluation Helps Us Understand the Effects of the Framework Programmes

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What is meta-evaluation?

- Using lower-‘level’ evaluation results to reach evaluative conclusions at a higher level, eg a portfolio or a policy?
- Reviewing the quality of a collection of evaluations, normally on related themes?
- Both?
- What about ‘systematic review’? “The case for using systematic review in policy research rests on a stunningly obvious point about the timing of research vis-a-vis policy: *in order to inform policy, the research must come before the policy.* Under the traditional running order, programme design is often a research-free zone.” (Ray Pawson)

What did we already know?

Issue	Findings
Cost-effectiveness Meets goals?	Satisfactory Goals are largely technical; generally met Participants say they meet their own goals
Participation levels Activities support goals?	Little comment except on lack of SMEs Yes - the goals are mostly to do the activities
SMEs	Sometimes more, sometimes fewer, results than big companies
Additionality Socio-economic impacts	60%+ pure additionality; some free riding Participants believe these are good

What else did we already know?

Issue	Findings
Competitiveness S&T results EU policy Missing elements ERA/EVA	Yes, at the participant level Generally rather productive Sporadic contribution Few comments, eg lack of bioinformatics Traditional networking benefits being recast as EVA
Research objectives Future? Structuring	- can be used as arguments for ERA progress More of the same, please! And a bit more! Need critical mass, better assessment, project data for monitoring and evaluation Up to and including FP5: Not a lot

What's changed in FP6 evaluation?

- **Policy context and planning**
 - *From FP5 “A successful and scientifically strong European industry and high quality of life for citizens”*
 - *To FP6 as an instrument for reaching Lisbon, Barcelona, ERA - introduction of (shifting) policy goals*
- **From 5-Year Assessment to FP Evaluation**
- **Size and nature of the evidence base dramatically improved**
- **Role of a panel in a shift to evidence-based evaluation**

Structure of the Framework Programme

- **6FP for RTD and Demonstration (93%)**
 1. Focusing and integrating Community research (76%)
 1. *Thematic priorities (65%)*
 2. *Specific activities covering a wider field of research (7%)*
 3. *Non-nuclear activities of the JRC (4%)*
 2. Structuring the ERA (15%)
 3. Strengthening the foundations of the ERA (2%)
 - **EURATOM (7%)**
 1. Priority thematic areas (5%)
 2. Other activities in the field of nuclear technologies & safety (0.3%)
 3. Nuclear activities of the JRC (2%)
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What's evaluated in the 6FP for RTD and Demonstration?

1. Focusing and integrating Community research (76%)

1. *Thematic priorities (65%)*

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Life (13%) | NO |
| 2. IST (21%) | YES |
| 3. Nano, materials, processes (7%) | Coming |
| 4. Aeronautics and space (6%) | NO |
| 5. Food (4%) | Coming |
| 6. Sustainable development (12%) | Some / More coming |
| 7. Citizens and governance (1%) | NO |

2. *Specific activities covering a wider field of research (7%)*

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Policy support/NEST (3%) | NO |
| 2. SMEs (2.5%) | NO |
| 3. International Cooperation (2%) | Some |

3. *Non-Nuclear Activities of the JRC (4%)*

YES

(More...)

1. Focusing and integrating Community research (76%)
 2. Structuring the ERA (15%)
 1. *Research and innovation* (2%) *Some*
 2. *Human resources* (9%) *NO (but ...)*
 3. *Research infrastructures* (4%) *Coming*
 4. *Science and Society* (0.5%) *YES*
 3. Non-nuclear activities of the JRC (4%) *YES*
 - **EURATOM**
 1. Priority thematic areas (5%) *YES*
 2. ... nuclear technologies & safety (0.3%) *NO*
 3. Nuclear activities of the JRC (2%) *YES*
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The Commission's FP6 evaluation has focused on the new

- New member states
 - New instruments (*In toto*, NoEs, ERANETs x2, ETPs, OMC ...)
 - Activities of DG-ENTR
 - Behavioural additionality
 - International standing of FP6 (+China + Bilaterals)
 - Bibliometric profiling
 - Network formation in FP6
 - Gender equality
 - Ethical review
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- Plus the traditional 'participation survey' across the board
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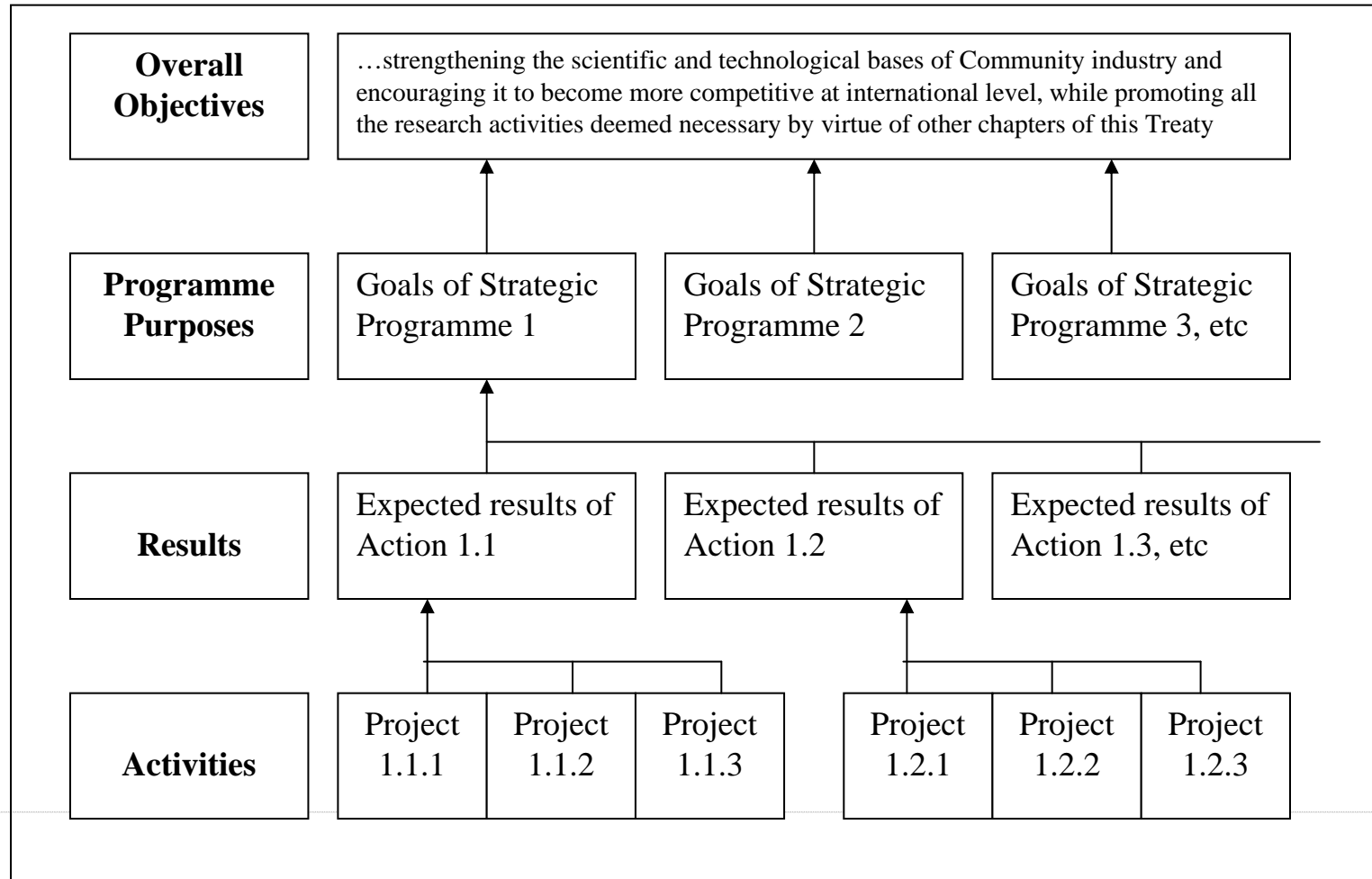
The Member States and others

- Continuation of traditional impact studies in some countries
- Those who need evaluation the most do the least ...
- From snapshot to video: Sweden and the 'Gang of 4' (Sweden, France, Spain, Czech Republic)
- Associated States: Norway, (Switzerland)
- 'Third Countries': China

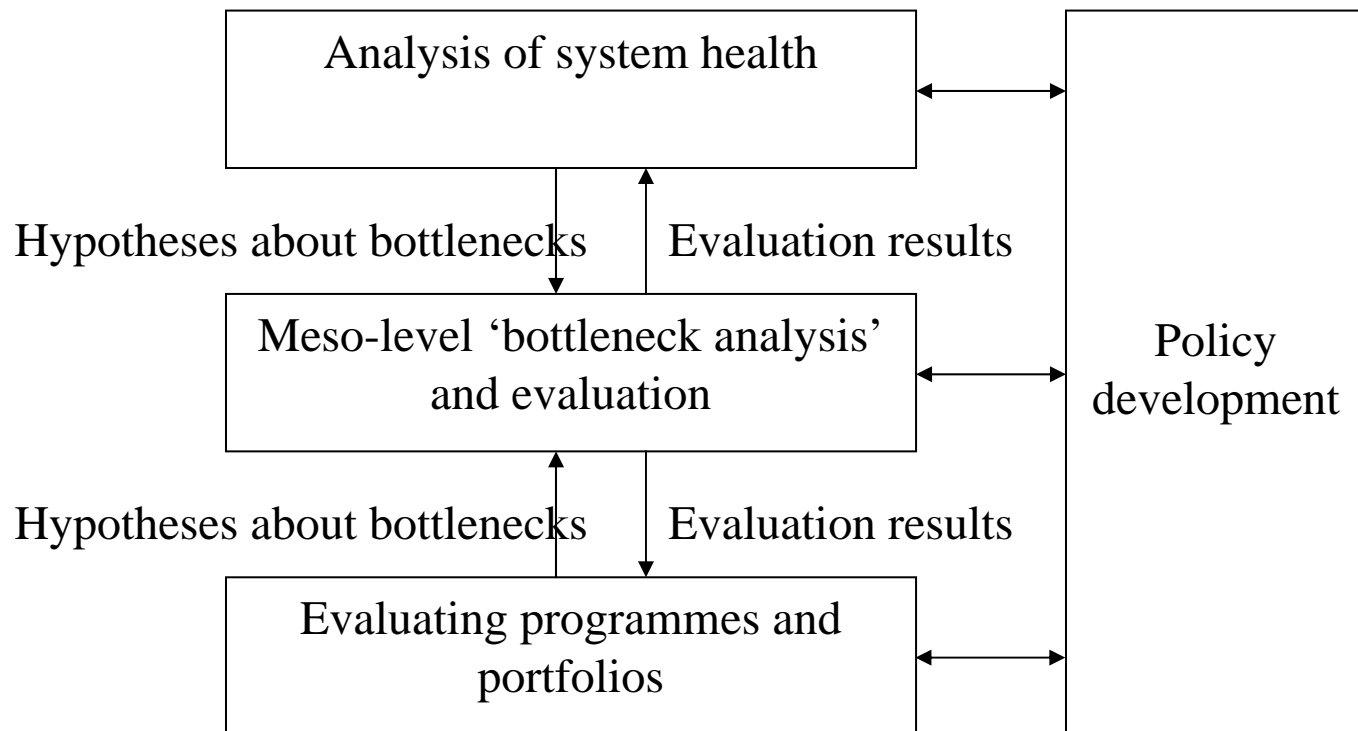
What are we learning?

- There's a strong core that lumbers on from FP to FP - and probably does rather a good job
- There's something wobbly about Life Sciences - do they fit?
- The new instruments are a mixed bag - but the power of self-organisation is strong (Sweden; new instruments)
- The FP is insufficient as a structuring device
- It's a Framework, not a Programme
- If you keep asking the same questions you keep getting the same answer
- Snapshots tell you little about dynamics or impacts
- Overwhelming the evaluators through bunching
 - *In the Commission*
 - *The 'supply side'*

The 'law of the missing middle' has not been rewritten



But we are making progress towards systems evaluation



Some policy issues

- Centrality of consultation and design in making the FP effective
- More than one dynamic is at work
 - *Policy-driven interventions to support EU economic and social development*
 - *Bureaucratic competition, budget-maximisation, minimisation of administrative costs*
- Value of the 'core continuity'?
- Outsourcing the Framework
 - *To the beneficiaries?*
 - *Governance?*

Thank you

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