



Time to Account

Towards a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of ESF Activities

Dr. Alexis-Michel Mugabushaka
Science Officer

- ✓ **1 x 3 = 6**
.....
- ✓ **ESF reporting and evaluation activities**
.....
- ✓ **A Six Dimensions Framework**
.....
- ✓ **Planned activities**
.....
- ✓ **ESF MO Forum on Research Evaluation**
.....

One Simple question

Stakeholders



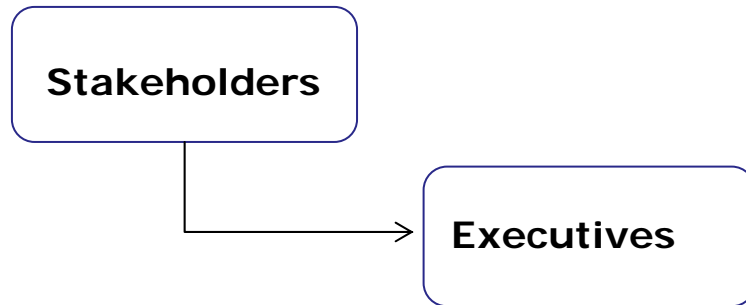
Parliament/congress; ministry of research; general assembly...

have one question.....

...one simple question

**What do you
pay you for ?**



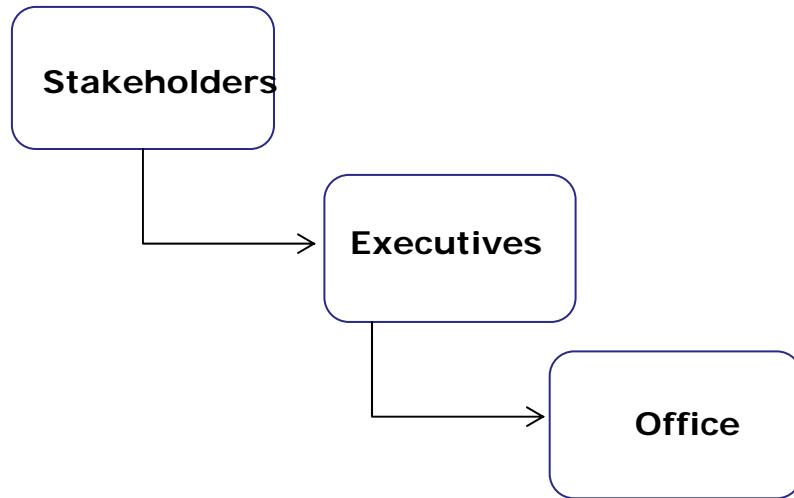


The executives

„...the world is more complicated than that“

What ***THEY*** REALLY mean:

- What do you do ?
- How do you do it ?
- What results are you achieving ?



The office

"...the world is more complicated than that"

What *THEY* REALLY mean:

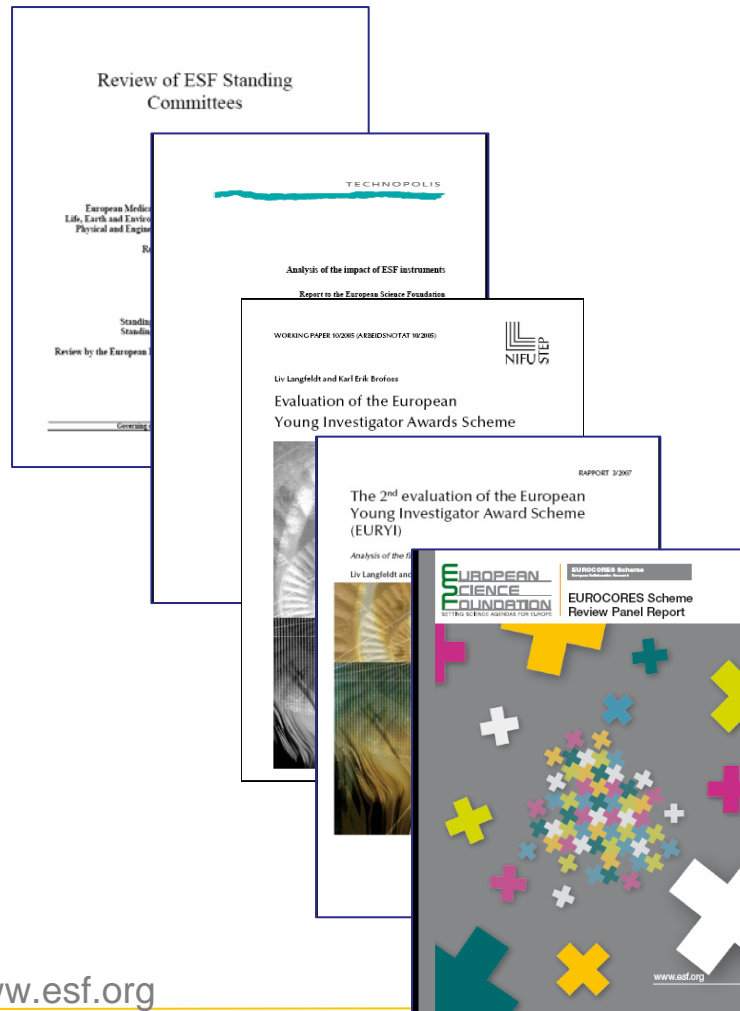
- *What do you do ?*
 - ❖ Your activities ?
 - ❖ Should you do it at all ? (Relevance and mandate)
- *How do do it ?*
 - ❖ Efficiency
 - ❖ Quality of operations
- *Achieved results*
 - ❖ Output
 - ❖ Outcomes / Impact

Outline

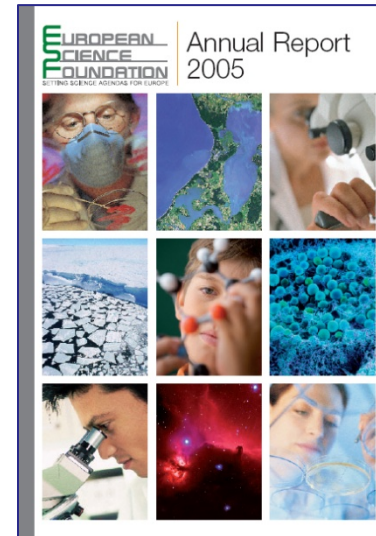
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ESF efforts to answer the six questions

Externally commissioned studies



ESF corporate publications



+

Ad hoc statistical analysis done by ESF office:

- number of applications
- success rate etc ...

Externally commissioned studies



03.2002*	Review of Standing Committees EMRC, LESC and PESC by the Royal Society
01.2003	Review of Standing Committees SCSS and SCH by ALLEA
07.2005	Impact of ESF Instruments by Technopolis
10.2005	First Evaluation of the EURYI Award Scheme by NIFU STEP
03.2007	Second Evaluation of the EURYI Award Scheme by NIFU STEP
04.2007	EUROCORES Scheme Review by the Grunwald Panel
09.2007	Survey of ESF applicants on their Views and Experiences with procedures by GES Kassel

*Date of publication

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Answering the six questions: Approaches, Methodologies and Indicators

1 . ESF Activities

Well accounted for, but ..

➤ Some activities unreported (e.g. activities *outside the instruments*)

➤ Information scattered (Annual reports; About ESF; Reports of Standing Committees and Expert Boards);
Report of the Chief Executive

➤ Need for statistical analysis showing outreach, trends and patterns

2 . Relevance and mandate

Key questions

➤ Do the Instruments respond to a need of the scientific community ?

- Statistics on applications
 - Corresponding questions in the surveys of applicants

➤ Do the Instruments respond to a need of the MOs ?

- Corresponding questions in surveys of MOs and in consultations Workshops with MOs

➤ with the changing landscape in the ERA, are there alternatives ?

- Desk top research
 - Corresponding questions in surveys of applicants

3 . Efficiency

Key questions

➤ Cost / Benefit analysis

Benchmark administrative costs of ESF activities against a similar activities in other organisation and a baseline

➤ Process efficiency
(e.g. how long does it take to process applications ?)

Statistics on applications

4 . Quality of operations ...

Key questions...

<p>➤ „Does it work“ ?</p>	<p>‚delivery of the service‘ (functional quality)</p>
<p>➤ Are the clients satisfied with the quality of services ? (quality is about perception)</p>	<p>-Corresponding questions in <u>surveys of applicants</u> and <u>surveys of MOs</u> (as well as consultation workshops)</p>

5 . Output

➤ Immediate results

- Documentation
- Scholarly publications

Depends on instruments / activities

Information gathering : project management and reporting

6 . Outcome / Impact...

Key questions...

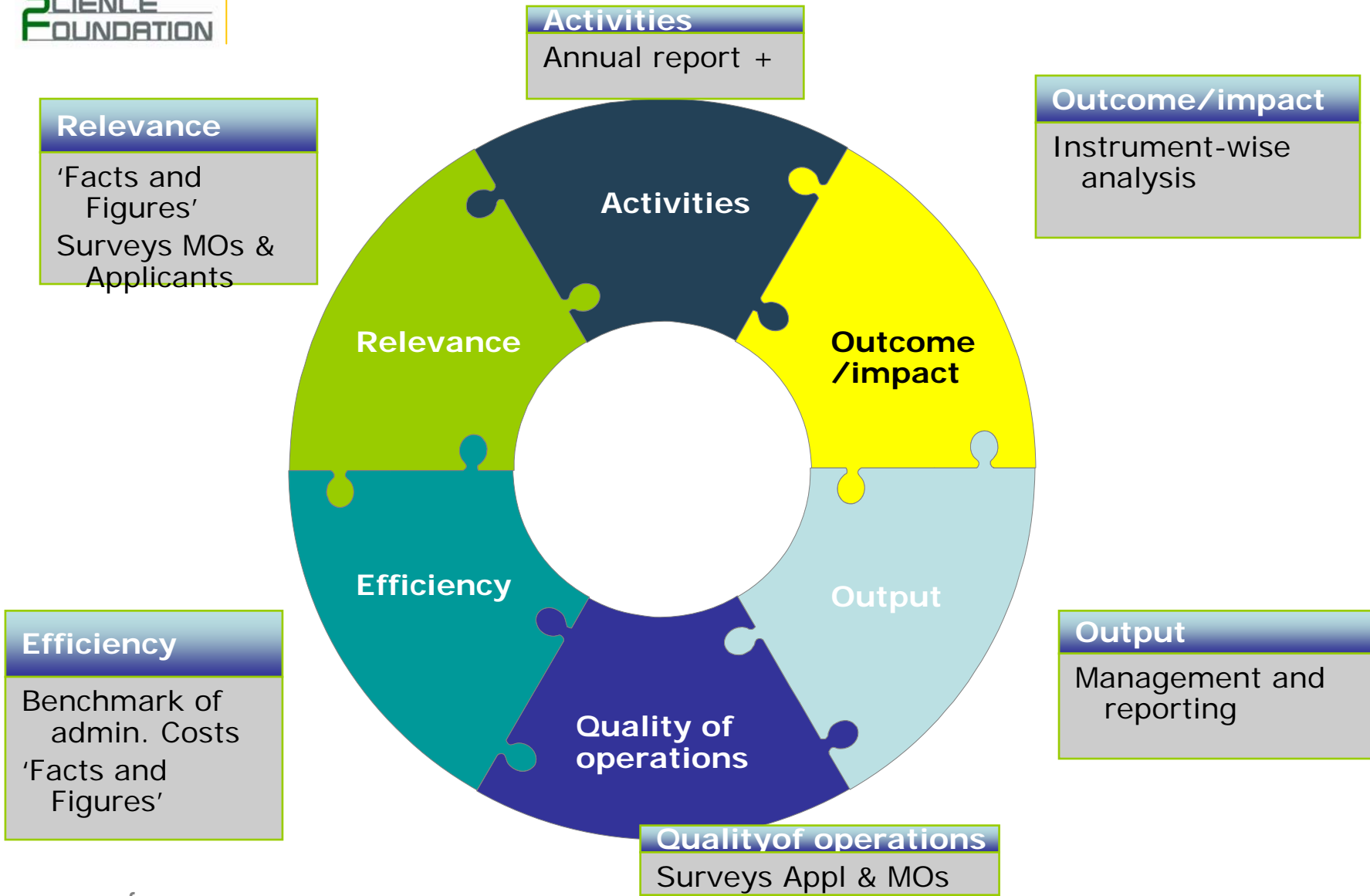
➤ mid-and long-term effect

- standing of scholarly publications (impact)
- Networking effects (co-publications, joint activities)
- Follow up activities
- Implementation of results or consideration in policy making process

Depends on instruments / activities

Information gathering : surveys and desk top research

Integrated Monitoring Framework



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Planned activities

1. Survey of applicants

Publication of the report
Office „lessons learnt“

2. Facts and Figures

Statistics on Instruments outreach, patterns, trends
(basis: operational database)

3. Desktop research

Collecting information on output and impact
(develop a reporting system and to design of the impact study)

4. Survey of MOs

Survey of MOs offices
Consultation workshop to discuss findings

5. Annual report +

New structure to include activities outside the
instruments and statistics on outreach, trends and
patterns

6. Benchmarking

Benchmarking of administrative costs of Instruments
(against comparable schemes and a baseline)

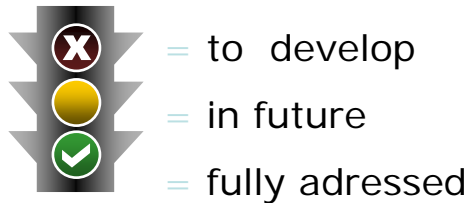
(DAF)

















7. Impact Study

To assess the impact of ESF Instruments and Activities
(at the end of the Strategic Plan ?)

- Develop „Policy audits“ rules of procedures „
- Statutory Reviews of Standing Committees

Addressing the six questions



	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Relevance</i>	<i>Efficiency</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Output</i>	<i>Outcome/Impact</i>
Annual report +						
Survey of Applicants						 *
Survey of MOs						
'Facts and Figures'						
Benchmarking						
Impact Study						
Desktop research (output/ impact)						

* The 2006 survey had a limited scope

Comparing the Six Dimensions to six windows:

- *Even with all windows open, you can't see everything in the house*
- *But
the more windows you open at the same time the more you see*



Challenges – II

Overfishing

Risk of „overfishing“ in surveys of Applicants and MOs

COST

Target : not to exceed 1% of operational budget

Overlap

Overlap with other activities : clear purposes for „Policy Audits“ and Statutory Reviews of Standing Committess

Outline

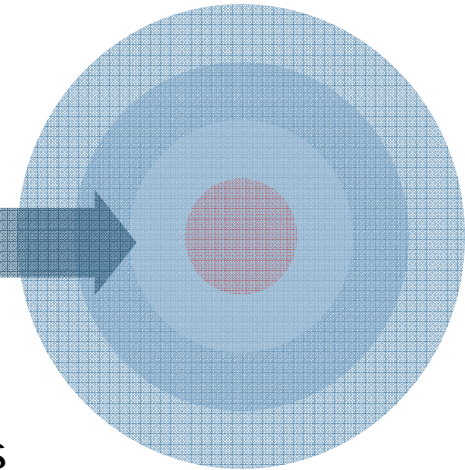
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ESF Member Organisation on Evaluation of funding schemes and Research Programmes



“Post-Grant” Evaluation i.e. if the funding schemes or the research programmes achieve their stated aims.

Objectives of the Forum



- ❑ Platform to exchange and document current practices in the different national organizations
- ❑ Facilitating the networking of officers engaged in evaluation and help them to share practical information in an informal way
- ❑ Explore the needs and possibilities for collaboration in future evaluation exercises.

***Thank you for
your attention***