



ESF Forum on Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes

Structure, Activities and Perspectives

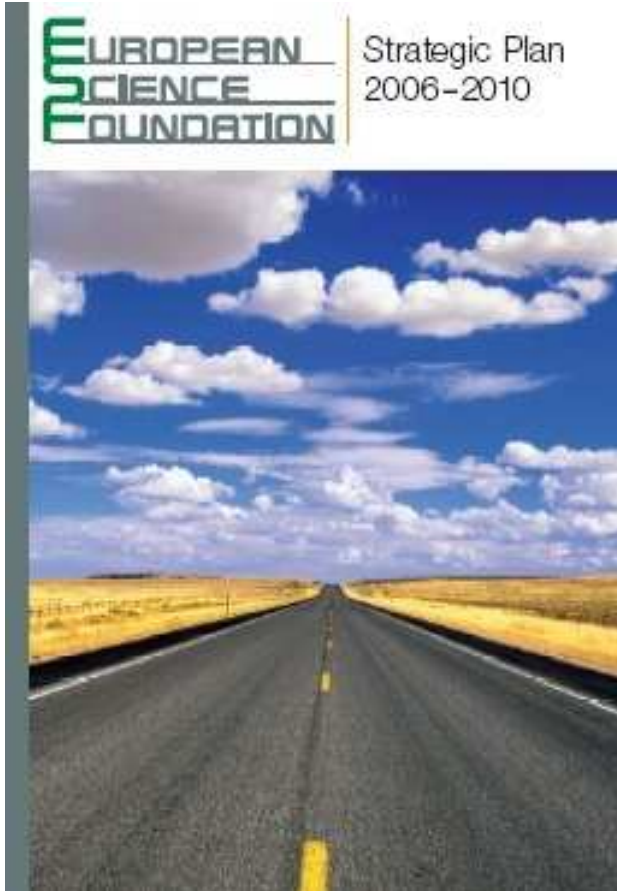
**Dr. Alexis-Michel Mugabushaka
Science Officer, Corporate Science Policy**

European Foundation Center, Brussels, 5 November 2008

Outline of the presentation

- ✓ **What are the ESF Member Organisation Fora ?**
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- ✓ **Forum on Evaluation of funding schemes
and research programmes**
.....

ESF Member FORA: Rationale

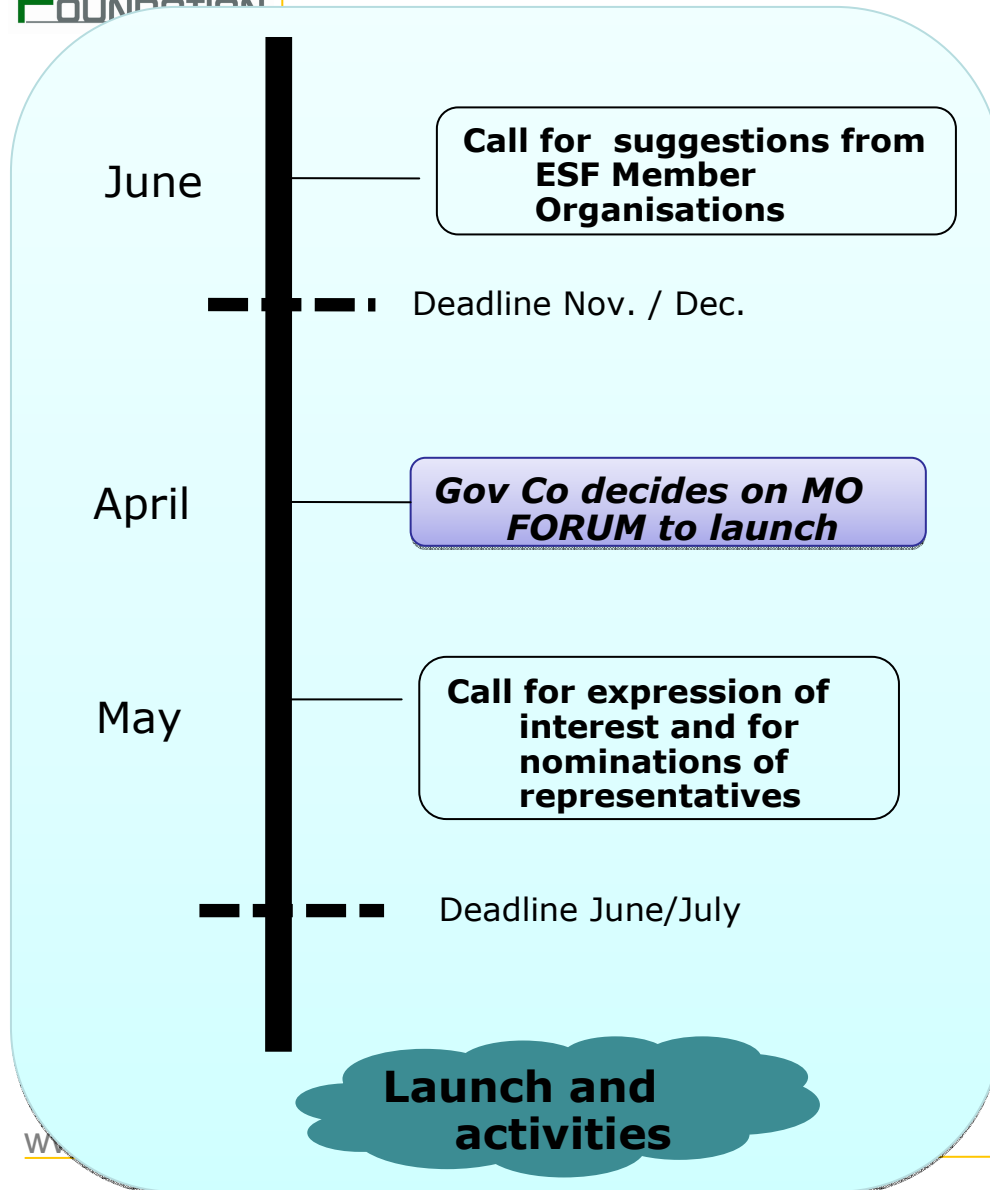


“ESF Member Organisation FORUM” was developed in response to clearly expressed needs from MOs in consultations on the Strategic Plan 2006-2010

“MO Fora are ... output-oriented, issue-related venues for MOs, involving others as appropriate, (to exchange information and experiences and develop joint actions”.

“ESF aims to be the actor of choice and preferred partner when national research organisations develop joint activities.”

Choice of Topics



4 FORA running

1. Peer Review
2. Research Careers
3. Research Integrity
4. Evaluation of funding schemes and research programmes

2 FORA in preparation

1. ESF member Forum on Medium Size Research Infrastructure
2. Data sharing policies (funding policies to encourage sharing of raw data)

1 FORUM completed

Promoting Internationalisation of Social Sciences in Central and Eastern Europe

MO FORUM On Peer review

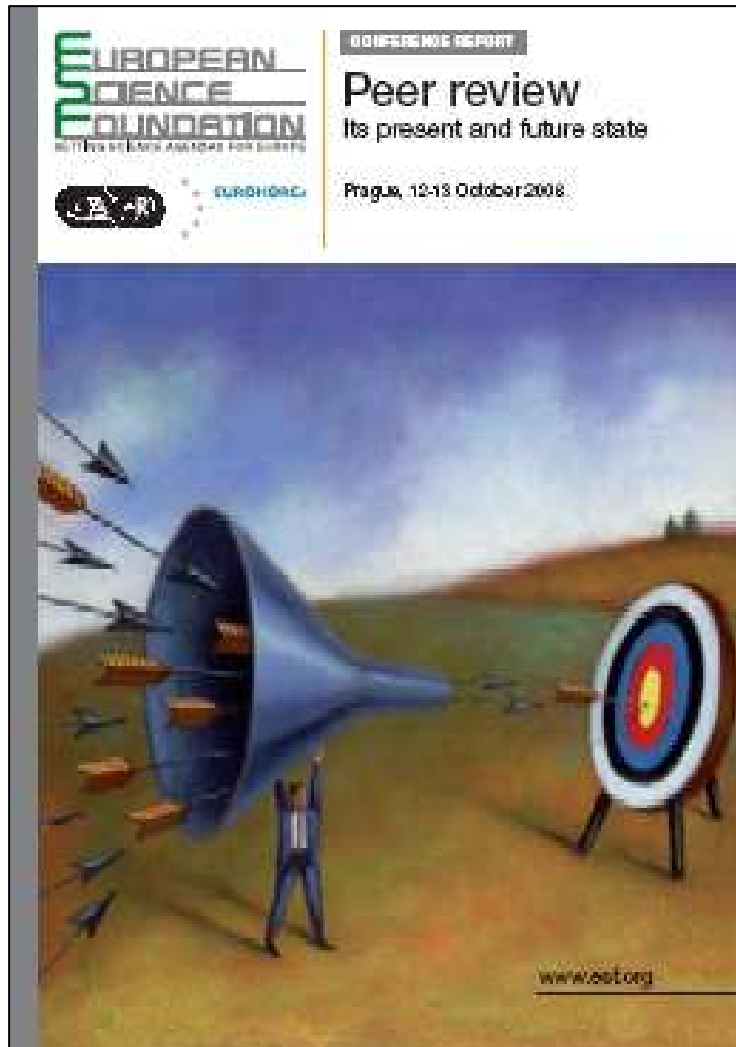
Started with the Conference **Peer Review: Its present and future state** Prague **October 2006** (ESF/EUROHORCS/CSF)

Objectives

- exchange experiences
- develop best practices across Europe

Action Items

1. ESF Peer Review Guide - A Management Tool Box for Research Funding Organisations
2. A pilot study on practices regarding incentives for peer review
3. Referee Databases: quality of contents
4. Web-based Database of Peer Review Practices on the ESF web site



Other FORA



Research Careers

- create or improve programmes aimed at promoting different career stages
- work on marketing campaigns to raise the international visibility of the ERA in the global competition for research talents.

Research Integrity

- platform for various organisations to present each other's approaches, to discuss their strengths and shortcomings (if any), and thus to act as a vehicle for exchange of good practices
- support and encourage organisations which do not yet have appropriate structures to learn from the experiences of others and to initiate debates in their respective communities on adequate models.
- channel European input to the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity (June 2010)

www.esf.org



Evaluation of funding schemes and research programmes I



Focus:

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

Objectives

- exchange and document experiences with current practices
- facilitate networking of science officers engaged in evaluation
- explore needs and possibilities for collaboration in future evaluation exercises.

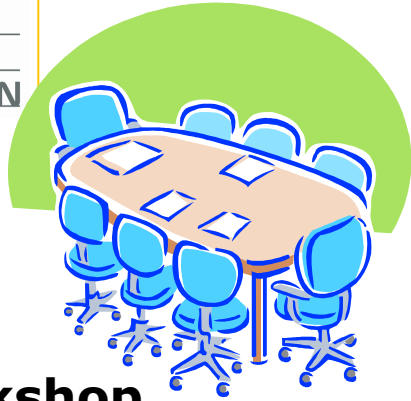
Participation

41 Organizations (ESF Mos, EC as observer)

<http://www.esf.org/activities/mo-fora.html>

Activities

EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION



- Workshops
- Working Groups

1st Workshop

"Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes: Expectations, Practices and Experiences"

DFG Berlin Office , 22 and 23 October 2007

2nd Workshop

Quantitative Indicators in ex-post Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes: Case studies and Rationales (including a session on the use of progress and final reports in indicator-building for ex-post evaluation of funding schemes) INFN Headquarters, Rome 31 March – 01 April , 2008

3rd Workshop

Quality of Quality Assurance. Striving for Highest Standards in ex-post Evaluation. Vienna, 6 – 7 October 2008(hosted by FWF)

Where do we stand ? (1)

□ facilitate networking of science officers engaged in evaluation

✓ After 3 workshops, we hope that people get to know each other and will know whom to contact in their sister organisations should the need arise

❖ **Challenge: how to maintain this network ?**

Where do we stand ? (2)

- ❑ exchange and document experiences with current practices
 - ✓ The 3 workshops provided the opportunity to inform each other on how evaluation is done in our respective organisations
 - ✓ Two papers are in preparation to document existing approaches and experiences (1) *"Evaluation activities in research funding agencies: Approaches and case studies"*(2) *"Indicators used in evaluation of research performing organisations"*
 - ✓ Internet platform to collect existing studies

- ❖ **Challenge: how to inform each other about new evaluation exercises , new approaches and future experiences ?**

Where do we stand ? (3)

- ❑ explore needs and possibilities for collaboration in future evaluation exercises (*This proved the most difficult objectives ...*)

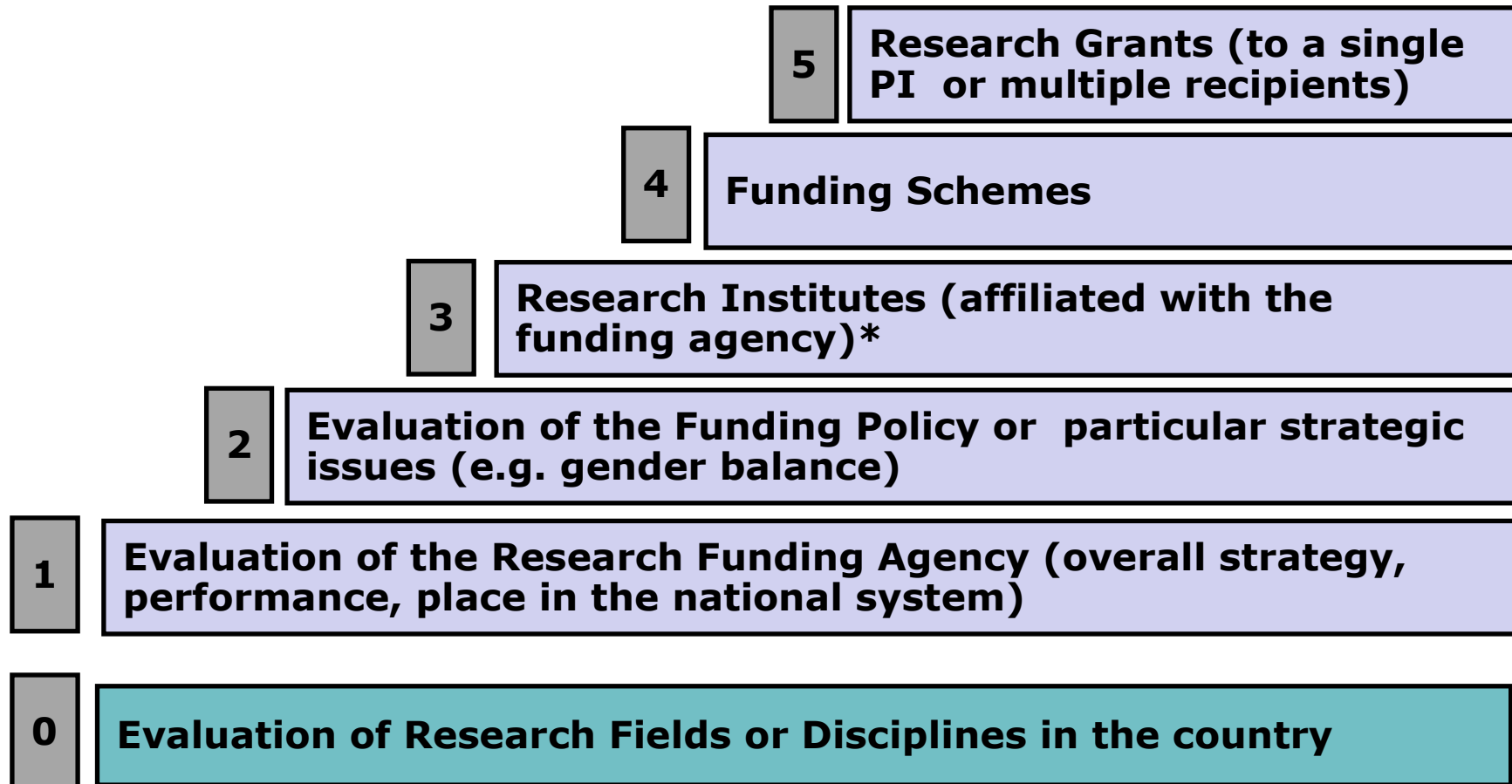
Action Items in Working Groups

- Mapping of funding portfolio of research funding agencies (comparing schemes in terms of "intervention logic" and target groups") as a pre-condition for joint evaluation exercises

Working Group on "Indicators"

- design a pilot study on "indicators" used to assess the "internationalization" in research performing organisations
- organize consultation on bridging the gap between scholarly work on indicators and indicators used in evaluation practice.

Evaluation in research funding agencies Approaches and cases studies (in prep.)



* Some Research Funding Agencies are mandated to evaluate the performance of external research-performing institution)

Thank you for your
attention