

Evaluating Research Outcomes and Impact

1st meeting (brainstorming)

Practices, obstacles, solutions

Development of common tools?

Background [1]

- In 2006 the EFC and the European Commission launch a consultation to identify the key issues related to philanthropic support for research that would benefit from being debated at European level.
- Four issues were identified:
 - Philanthropic organisations' research funding policies
 - Legal, regulatory and fiscal issues relating to donors and philanthropic organisations
 - Governance and ethical issues relating to philanthropic support for research
 - Fundraising from philanthropic sources

Background [2]

Evaluating Research Outcomes and Impact - Brainstorming meeting - April 17th 2008

December 4th 2007 - Brussels:

Launch of the European Forum on
Philanthropy and Research Funding

Evaluating research outcomes and impact was one of the four issues discussed:

- Evaluation is essential in helping foundations develop their activities
- Multiple tools are necessary for depth and breadth in the evaluation process
- Evaluation needs are different whether foundations fund research at a finality or as a means to support policy advice
- Researchers are a crucial partner in the evaluation process

Today's objectives

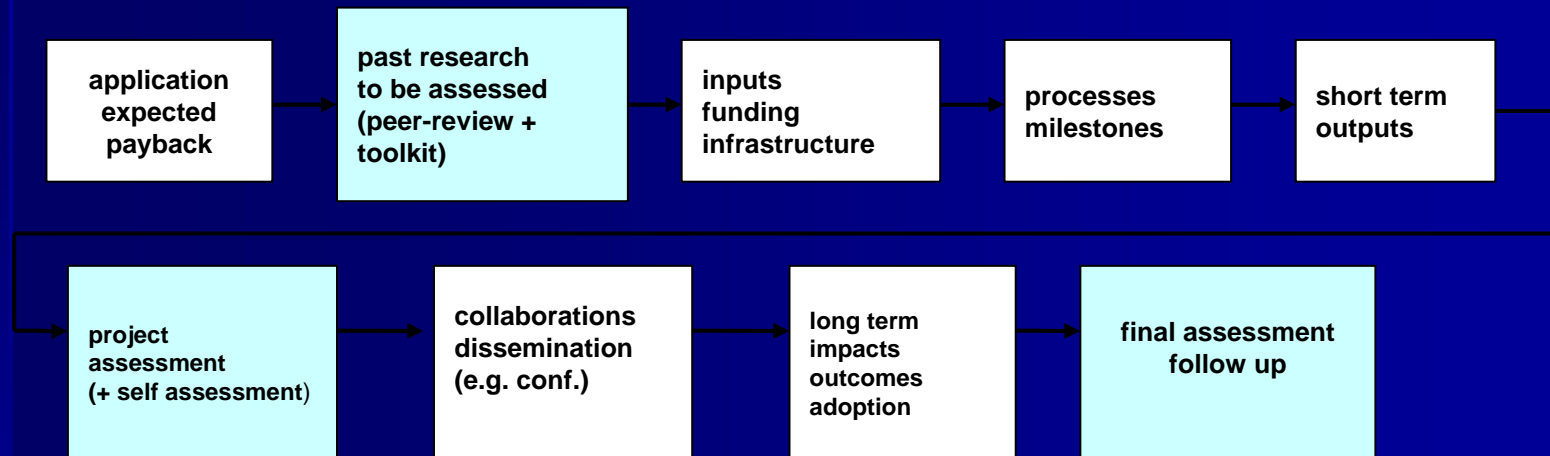
This first brainstorming meeting between foundations has two objectives:

1. To identify issues to discuss further through peer learning events, workshops etc;
2. To define a preliminary agenda of activities

Follow-up

- The results of today's work will be discussed at a meeting in September open to other stakeholders
- Start addressing the issues identified

Overview of model



Why evaluate?

- Research grants should make a difference
- What steps can be taken to find out whether this is the case ?
- How can results of such analyses (payback or other) be used ?

BMJ

329-241-300 No 7460 31 JULY 2004 *International* ISSN 0959-8146



Researchers drowning in bureaucracy

The Lundbeck Foundation

- Biomedical research – basic and applied
- Bottom-up projects, three annual rounds
(2007: 20 mio €)
- Top-down activities, centres of excellence
and junior group leader fellowships
(2007: 16 mio €)

Lundbeck Foundation Centres of Excellence

- Based on the model of The Danish National Research Foundation
- Centres granted for 5 years
- Research area decided by board of directors after consultations with representatives from Danish Universities and international experts

Lundbeck Foundation Centres of Excellence

- 2005: Neuroscience (3)
- 2006: Theoretical Research in Quantum Systems (3)
- 2007: Translational Science in Clinical Medicine (3)
- 2008: Interventional Research in Clinical Medicine (?)

Two-step application procedure

■ ***DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST***

- Announced in October, deadline early January.
- Evaluated by international peers with scoring and personal comments. Deadline late February.
- Bibliometrical analyses performed and used in the process by board and administration.
- Based on evaluation and bibliometry, a few (less than 10) applications are selected.



Two-step application procedure

- The selected applicants are invited to send in a full application (fee of 6700 € paid to main applicant).
- Applicants whose declaration of interest is declined receive anonymised copy of scores.

Two-step application procedure

- ***FULL APPLICATION***
- Deadline early May
- Sent to international peers (members may change from the first board of reviewers)
- Scored in numbers and with personal comments.
- Scores etc. returned to LF early August
- INTERVIEW with applicants and international peers plus LF board mid August

Two-step application procedure – FULL APPLICATION

- International reviewers make recommendation to board of directors
- Board of directors decide
- Individual contracts negotiated with main applicants and their institutions
- Centres start up late fall/early next year

Lundbeck Foundation Centres of Excellence

EVALUATION PROGRAMME

- Written/oral report from main applicant 4 times: 1½, 2½, 3½ and 5½ years from start.
- Reports are 5 pages and should contain the following:
 - List of published articles
 - List of submitted manuscripts
 - List of manuscripts ready for submission (no more experiments needed)
 - List of patents
 - Account and explanation of deviations from the original research plan
 - Account of research training (pregraduate, Ph.D., post.doc.)
 - Account of the staff situation – recruitment and changes
 - Status regarding space and equipment
 - Reports from advisory board and comments/reactions from leading centre scientists
 - Focus on problematic areas if any
 - Account of the centres economy

Lundbeck Foundation Centres of Excellence

EVALUATION PROGRAMME

- Mid-term evaluation (2½ year-report)
- Same headings as yearly reports, but 10 pages
- Report sent to international reviewers (late June)
- International reviewers pay 1-day site-visit to centre (mid August)
- Report from reviewers to LF
- Centre managers are invited to comment on report
- Report seen and discussed by LF board
- LF board answers centre management and comments on report
- Plans on 'pre- and post-centre' bibliometric analyses of main applicants/centre management