



NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS OF THE IMPACT OF THE
EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME ON THE R&D SYSTEM AND MIDWAY
EXPERIENCES FROM FP7
AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR FP 8



DGRI / Département des affaires européennes et internationales



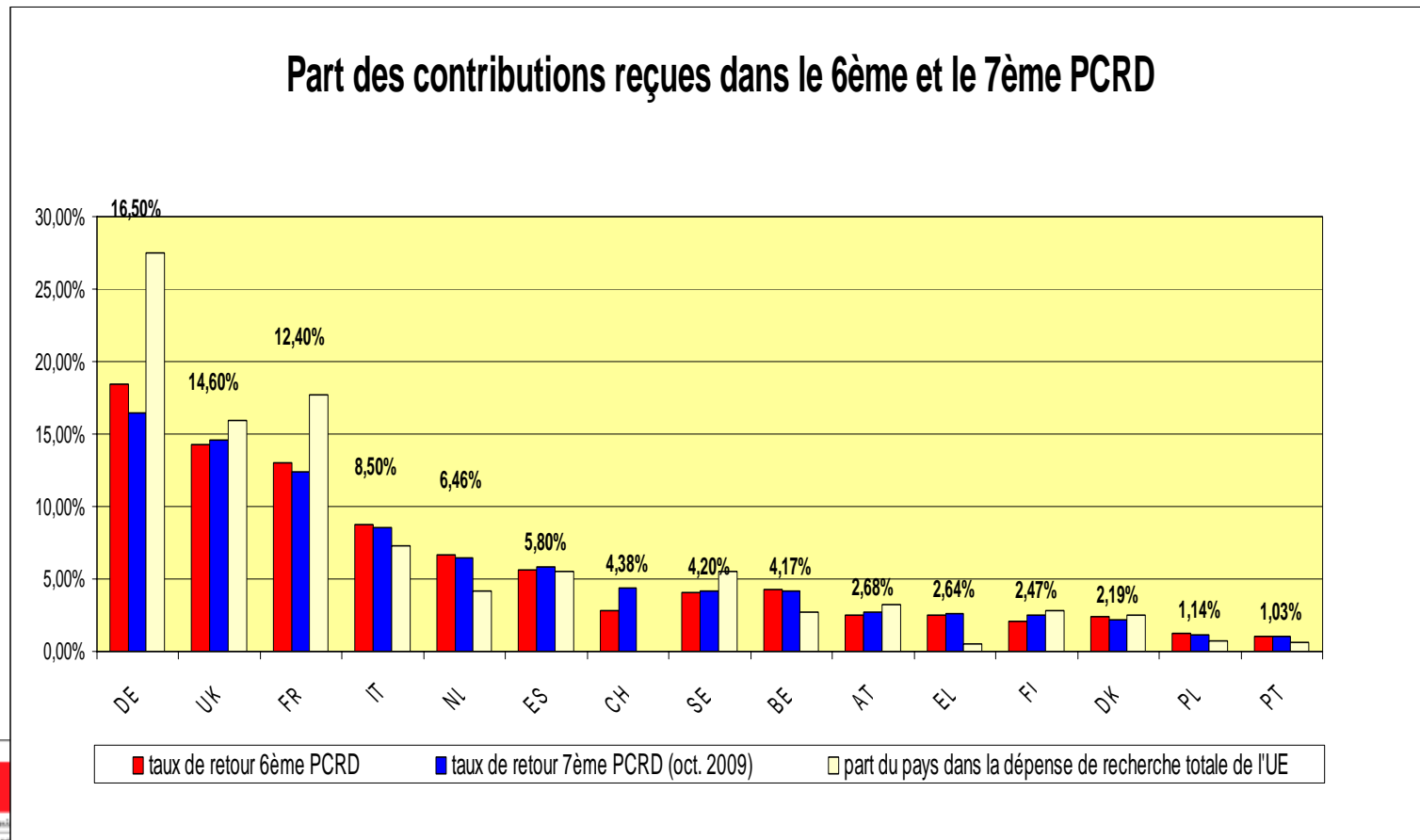
European dimension of the National Strategy For Research and Innovation

1. Better participate in the definition of orientations at political level, in the governance of the ERA
2. Act as a driver in joint programming in response to societal challenges
3. Develop participation of French public and private stakeholders in ERA instruments



Starting point (1) : FP

A declining trend in the French participation to the framework programme, despite relatively high success rates



Starting point (2) : involvement in the ERA

A strong commitment of France to joint programming as a tool for building the ERA :

- Strongly involved in the pilot scheme on neurodegenerative disease and Alzheimer
- Coordinate the initiative on Agriculture, food security and climate change
- Active member of the SET-PLAN and EERA Alliance
- Involved in all initiatives identified by the GPC



How to explain th situation

- Red tape is becoming critical
- Competition between many and competing funding opportunities

⇒ An issue of articulation between EU and National programmes and instruments



GCT Europe – « European Consultation Group »

Mission : implement the European dimension of the French National Strategy for Research and Innovation

➤ **Members**

- research organisation, universities, industry, clusters, funding agencies, ministries

➤ **Objectives**

- Hold a structured dialogue with main stakeholders on European research and innovation strategy
- Contribute to the preparation of French contributions on European policy issues, such as mid-term evaluation of FP7, simplification, preparation of FP8...and anticipate future debate on the EU agenda
- Explore ways to improve the articulation between national and EU programming

➤ **How ?**

- identification of questions at stake
- debate, analysis, studies, working groups
- monitoring and validation of recommendations
- appropriation of proposed solutions by members



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Subject to definitive validation

➤ Overall evaluation :

The framework programme :

- has acquired a major role in EU research, by progressively expanding its objectives, resources and intervention instruments, becoming one of the largest funding programme in the world
- now covers the whole spectrum of R&D from basic to applied and industrial research, serving an explicit policy objective : realization of ERA
- Supports a « transnational collaboration culture » among researchers and research organisations
- Increasingly contributes to promote cooperation at policy level, between research establishments and programme managers



Subject to definitive validation

➤ Overall evaluation :

But is faced with several challenges :

- Administrative suffocation
- From project-based to programme-based approach ?
- An addition of projects or a strategic programme ?

⇒ What contribution to the reduction of fragmentation of the European research landscape ?



FP7 mid term evaluation – main findings

Specific programme « Cooperation »

- Relevant scientific content in most fields
- A question about the higher focus than FP6 on applied research
 - ⇒ *need to maintain research addressing « pure » scientific or technology issues out of the ERC, by applying FET in all thematic priorities*
- Lack of the predictability and continuity in the work programmes
 - ⇒ *Multiannual roadmap and assesment of programme coverage*
- Stagnation of industry participation compared to FP6 (29%), although SME share is now close to the objective (14,1%)
- Balance between small and large project is satisfying but thresholds as eligibility criterias is a concern
- International cooperation actions have gained importance but lack strategic approach and real cooperation with Member States



FP7 mid term evaluation – main findings

Specific programme « Ideas »

- ERC is very positively evaluated by stakeholders
- A new form of EU added value
 - Freedom for top level researchers
 - (indirect) impact on attractiveness of research institutions
- Administrative procedures remain too heavy ⇒ Independence of the ERC
- To be addressed in the future :
 - Interdisciplinarity ?
 - Industry participation ?
 - Relationship with national agencies ?



FP7 mid term evaluation – main findings

Specific programme « People »

- Bottom-up dimension of this specific programme is strongly supported
- Probably too many different types of actions, but which one to suppress ?
New tools (COFUND, IRSES...) generally considered successful
- Main problem lies in the low success rate of the ITN action
- Impact study underway :
 - Participation is mainly driven by scientific consideration
 - Low impact on researchers careers



FP7 mid term evaluation – main findings

Specific programme « Capacities »

- Integration activities under the Infrastructure line to maintain and reinforce
- Serious concern about the SME specific action : no impact on innovation and growth, SME are actually not the main beneficiaries
- Regions for knowledge : overlap with other similar actions in CIP and structural funds.
- Serious concern about the new INCO programme. Geographical approach to international cooperation in S&T is relevant and necessary, but no real effect on EU or national strategy
- Science in society : in line with a strong priority of the SNRI but lack of participation by French stakeholders
- Coherent development of policies : to be designed and implemented as a tool box for ERAC



FP7 mid term evaluation – main findings

Structuring effect on ERA - Coordination of national programmes

- Strong support to ERA-NET scheme and to its new strategic approach BUT : decision on the themes should be taken in cooperation with Member States
- Scepticism about ERA-NET+ : a very complex device for a single shot instrument
- Real integrating and coordinating virtue of article 185 initiative, in particular through the topping-up funding of national schemes working together
- No real common pot



FP7 mid term evaluation – main findings

Support to industry competitiveness

- JTI : some difficulties at the beginning and very different models, but rapid improvement since last year. Towards a programme based management of the FP
- SMEs : quotas for participation and funding in « Cooperation » projects are not appropriate. SME are performing quite well in this specific programme, depending on the theme
- RSFF : a success and a growing demand, but :
 - No partners network in Member States is preventing SME participation
 - Not adapted to infrastructures : give back the corresponding budget
- A EUROSTARS model ?



FP7 mid term evaluation – main findings

Management of the programme

- Simplification – see the French 50 proposals (early 2010)
- Significant improvement in information on the results of the calls (e-corda database) but :
 - Projects funded through « decentralised » bodies should be integrated to have the full picture
 - Emphasis should be put now on information on the results of the projects (for use and transfer to innovation) rather than on administrative aspects
- Low influence of programme committees on the work programmes. Stronger interactions with Member States is necessary at least on all actions aimed at structuring the ERA and coordinating national programmes (ERA-NETs, international cooperation, OMC-NETs....)
- Programming roadmaps in order to ensure better articulation with Member States initiatives

