



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

European
Research Area

European Technology Platforms

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European Research Area

2/12/2010

European research policy + European innovation policy

- **Research and Innovation policies at EU level have traditionally been supported via two instruments:**
 - The Framework Programme for Research (FP) – European Commission Directorate General for Research
 - €50 Billion for 2007-2013
 - Cooperation, Capacities, Ideas, People
 - The Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) – European Commission Directorate-General for Enterprise
 - €3,6 Billion for 2007-2013
 - Focus on SMEs: eco-innovation, information society, access to finance, business support services in the regions.
- **First EU Commissioner on research *and innovation* - Innovation Union Initiative**



European research policy

- **Legal base: the Lisbon Treaty sets as objective strengthening the EU's scientific and technological base by achieving a European research area.**

(Before Lisbon Treaty: research was a means to support EU objectives, such as competitiveness)

- **Budget: the Framework Programme (currently FP7)**

- National research programmes still the bulk of EU public research: FP6 was 5-6% of total EU public R&D expenditure
- Avoid duplication
- Generate critical mass
- Increased competition = increased excellence
- *Creating a European Research Area above national systems, languages, mobility*



Context for the launch of ETPs

- **ETP process started in 2003**

- Lisbon strategy / 3% target, two thirds from private sector
- Bring industry closer to Framework Programme – FP7 in the making.
- Create ERA
- **Align efforts, fight fragmentation-duplication, create critical mass**
- Bottom up / support from the European Commission



ETPs and other science and technology instruments

- **The EU's Framework Programme has a broad range of funding instruments.**
 - Some of them are also used to establish cooperation with the private sector: JTIs (via a joint undertaking) or PPPs (via a joint call for proposals).
 - Some are used to align national research plans (ERA-Nets, which are a type of joint calls).
- **ETPs are not funding instruments: they are stakeholder fora to discuss research priorities.**
 - We could compare ETPs to advisory boards, but their role is NOT institutionalized and the Commission does not own them nor decide on membership.



ETPs in practice

- **Stakeholders come together**
 - Companies – typically research directors, other
 - Public researchers: universities, research centers, other (development agencies, SME-support agencies)
 - National research policymakers: **mirror groups**
 - Consumers, users
- **Define a vision and a research agenda**
 - FP7, work programmes, other programmes
- **Annual meeting, working groups**
- **Publications, training courses, TT activities**
- **Secretariats, legal status, projection**



Participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

ETPs are not an SME-specific mechanism

- SME involvement varies across sectors
 - Direct participation
 - Involvement through SME associations
 - Membership of national technology platforms
- Commission commitment to SME involvement: schemes and instruments to support SMEs in research.



State of play

- **Considerable momentum behind process**
- **36 ETPs (Vision; Strategic Research Agendas; implementation)**
- **ETPs have contributed ideas to FP7**
- **ETPs contribute to several other European Commission initiatives:**
 - ➔ Lead Market Initiative
 - ➔ Strategic Energy Technology Plan, JTIs, PPPs, EII
- **EU Member States have created their own national technology platforms**



● Strategic Research Agendas are one source of ideas for Framework Programme 7 research topics, but:

- The European Commission receives proposals from a broad range of stakeholders. It is not obliged to take up all the indications of Strategic Research Agendas.
- When suggestions from Strategic Research Agendas are taken up it does not imply that ETP members receive funding. These suggestions become call topics, and ETP members need to compete for funding.
- ETP members create consortia to compete for funds. Please note that it is not ETPs as such that submit proposals for research projects.
- Some call for proposals might allow ETPs (as such) to compete for funds that can cover Secretariat costs (non-research funds for research-related activities such as conferences, studies, etc)

Implementing research agendas

Implementation

- **Framework Programme 7: part of funding, but....**
- **.. need to mobilise a wide range of public and private funding sources, e.g.**
 - Industry
 - National and regional research programmes (ERA-NET)
 - Structural funds (€308 bn for period 2007-2010)
- **Role of European Investment Bank (RSFF: Risk Sharing Finance Facility)**



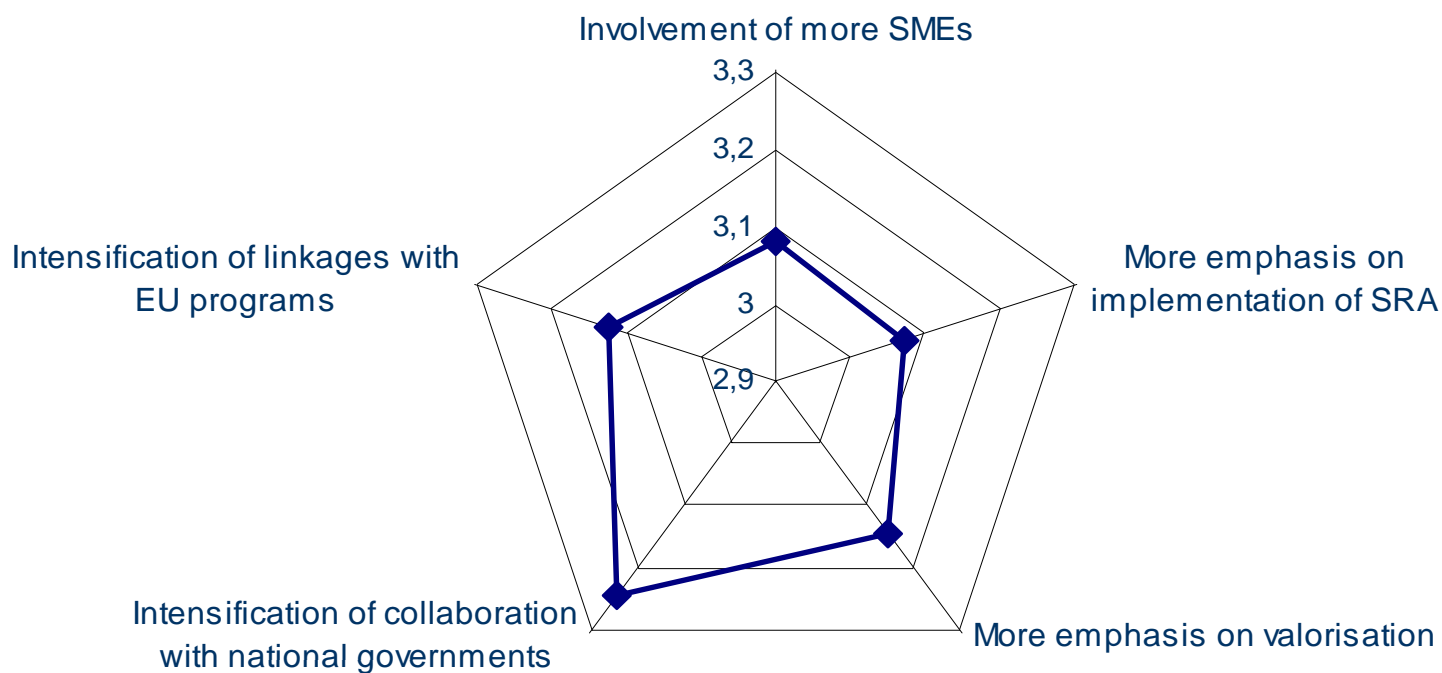
Results evaluation study 2009

Conclusions

- ETPs **mobilise** large networks, but presence of NGOs, end-users (and SMEs) is small
- ETP members and stakeholders perceive ETPs as sufficiently **open** and transparent
- Stakeholders would like to move to implementation
- ETP members and stakeholders are satisfied: **93 percent of them would renew their membership**



Results evaluation study 2009



Follow-up to evaluation study

The European Commission set up an **expert group** to discuss the evolution of ETPs. It recommended:

- To cluster ETPs work around societal challenges
- To broaden the membership (all relevant funding agencies and national/regional authorities, end users, NGOs...)
- To enlarge ETP scope to include innovation and education

Reaction to policy debate on grand challenges: need for public sector in the driving seat.

- These recommendations have been further discussed in ETP **conferences** in October 2009 and May 2010. New approach to ETP meetings: Bringing ETP together to discuss research areas in workshops for 4 broad societal challenges: climate change, transport, consumption and production, health – OBJECTIVE: identifying areas for cooperation.



Current policy context

- Feb 2010 new Commission: **Europe 2020** Strategy
- **Innovation Union**: research and innovation come closer. Innovation partnerships
- **FP8** will need to integrate new policy priorities: innovation, grand challenges, simplification-management
- ETPs at a crossroads



ETPs evolving

- **Cross-ETP collaborations** already taking place
- Possibility to focus on **grand challenges** – need for public authorities to set strategic goals
- Becoming active on **innovation**: standards, market regulation, procurement, access to capital – and IP!
- Improved coordination: with national governments, across industrial sectors, across EU initiatives





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Thank you for your attention

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