



Centralised Impact Assessment of EU Co-Funded Projects

Angus Hunter

Annual Joint Programming Conference 2016

22 November 2016 (Session 2)



By the middle of 2015, around 4500 transnational projects had been funded by the P2P networks' representing a combined investment of some Euro 5 billion. The 2016 ERA-LEARN Annual Report indicates that the volume has now increased to over 5000 projects. But what is the impact of this huge investment? The simple answer is that no one knows but the question is becoming increasingly important to the future sustainability of both national and EU funding for P2P actions



Agenda

- ERA-LEARN Task: Exploring the feasibility of centralised project-level impact assessment
- Case study presentations of project-level impact assessment in practice
 - M-ERA,NET
 - A185 Metrology
 - Netherlands
 - Finland
- Panel discussion on the three issues/questions
- Open discussion



ERA-LEARN 2020 Objectives

1. Provide a **web-based information, learning and support platform for P2P to avoid duplication of efforts**
2. Support the ongoing **optimisation of P2P networks** by expanding the FP7 ERA-LEARN learning toolbox to include the wider activities of joint programming, particularly the Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), the Art.185 initiatives and the Horizon 2020 ERA-NET Cofund instrument, as well as their associated impacts;
3. Implement a **systematic process for monitoring & impact assessment of P2P networks**, including their **impacts at the policy, programme and co-funded RTD project-level**;
4. Assess and **benchmark current approaches to alignment** and explore **options for new modalities** that will better align national and/or regional activities under common research agendas;
5. Implement an **annual cycle of knowledge exchange** aimed at increasing the impact of investment in P2P activities and exploring options to **support less research intensive countries**.



Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring and impact assessment of networks

Reference Library

Tools for internal review of participation in networks

NETWATCH archive

Monitoring and impact assessment of networks

Monitoring and impact assessment of networks

A more systematic, and integrated, approach to the monitoring & assessment of P2P networks is being developed within the ERA-LEARN 2020 project. The outputs of this include both an annual monitoring and assessment reports on specific topics.

Going forward, the monitoring and assessment activities will gradually be extended to include training and learning materials.

1st Annual Report on P2P Partnerships (2015)

The 1st ERA-LEARN 2020 annual report on public-public (P2P) networks in Europe covers the 18 months from the start of Horizon 2020 in January 2014 to the end of June 2015. It also aims to present the cumulative position on joint calls since the launch of the P2P movement in 2003 including not only the ERA-

WP3: Tasks and Deliverables

Task 3.1: Annual monitoring of networks (Optimat)

- D3.1: Data collection **strategy and methodology** (M3)
- D3.2: **Annual report** on monitoring and impact assessment (M10, M22, M34)

Task 3.2: Impact assessment of networks (UNIMAN)

- D3.3: **Policy briefs** (M8, M20, M32)
- D3.4: Updated **report** on the **impact of networks** (M22)

Task 3.3: Impact assessment of EU co-funded projects (Optimat)

- D3.5: **Strategy** for full scale implementation of **project-level impact assessment** (M30)

Task 3.4: Guidance material on impact assessment for P2P (UNIMAN)

- D3.6: **Guide** on the **conduct and use** of impact assessment for P2P networks (M18)



Task 3.3: Impact assessment of EU co-funded projects

Plan A (original)

- Central process using the ERA-LEARN portal and evolving database of funded projects
- At a pre-defined date after the contractual end of project, the portal sends a [customised] email request (from the Commission) to provide some feedback by completing an online impact assessment survey questionnaire
- Responses are completed online and provide the basis for multi-level analysis and annual/cumulative reporting

Stakeholder Workshop (May 2016)



Task 3.3: Impact assessment of EU co-funded projects

Plan B (proposed by stakeholders)

- Delegated process in partnership with the P2P networks
- Two options
 - ERA-LEARN questionnaire is embedded in post-project surveys and P2P network submits relevant data to the ERA-LEARN portal
 - P2P network invites beneficiaries to complete the online survey and raw data can be downloaded by the network (but not others)
- Responses are aggregated with data from other P2P networks and provide the basis for benchmarking, multi-level analysis and annual/cumulative reporting

NEEDS COMMON FRAMEWORK



https://www.era-learn.eu/monitoring-and-assessment/reference-library

MSN.com - Hotmail, Outlook, S... Reference Library — ERA-LEA... x

Monitoring and Assessment

- Monitoring and impact assessment of networks
- Reference Library**
- Tools for internal review of participation in networks
- NETWATCH archive

Reference Library

The following provides some examples of monitoring and assessment reports that have been produced by several mature P2P networks. We welcome additional examples from other networks to support mutual learning.

ARTICLE 185 on METROLOGY (EMRP/EMPIR)

The Article 185 on Metrology was originally established under FP7 as the 'European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP)' and continues as the 'European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR)' under Horizon 2020. Annual calls on various topics (e.g. industry, energy, environment, health) have been launched every year since 2009. Monitoring and assessment of Joint Research Projects is an important activity. Project-specific data is collected using a cumulative 'Output and Impact Report' and case study reports have been published at both the project and thematic level.

- [Output and Impact Report Template](#)
- [Energy Impact Report: February 2016](#) (projects funded under the 2009 EMRP Call)

BiodivERsA

This ERA-NET on biodiversity and ecosystem services has been active since 2005 and has launched six joint calls since 2008. The current phase is supported through a Horizon 2020 ERA-NET Cofund Action. It has carried out an evaluation to assess the extent to which projects funded by BiodivERsA are able to effectively deliver high-profile academic products, while fruitfully engaging with relevant stakeholders and delivering a range of society-relevant products.

- [Analysis of the outputs of BiodivERsA funded projects](#) (2008 Joint Call)

ICT-AGRI

The ICT-AGRI network is concerned with enabling precision farming by means of ICT and robotics. It was originally established in 2009 as an ERA-NET Coordination Action under FP7. The follow on ICT-AGRI-2 project started in 2014 and will continue until 2017. In 2015, the consortium developed an impact model to assess the achievements of the funded projects, and of the funding initiative itself, and also an online questionnaire to collect data from applicants.

18:12
28/09/2016



Observations

- Small number of examples
 - Networks, National Agencies
- Differences in approach and terminology
 - Some similarities but no obvious convergence
- Strong interest amongst ERA-NET Cofunds
 - Around 50% have specific task
 - Various options to provide ERA-LEARN Platform functionality
- Long period from 'Joint Call-to-Impact'
 - At least five years from closure date

NEEDS COMMON FRAMEWORK

ERA-LEARN 2020 Workshop on evaluation and impact assessment of P2Ps

Assessing the impacts of public-to-public networks in research and innovation (such as JPIs, ERA-NETs, Art. 185s) is vital for building a convincing case and establishing the added value of these networks compared with national or other European initiatives. Significant work has been done in this area in recent years, especially for ERA-NETs.

Discussions at the 2015 Annual Joint Programming conference (Brussels, 14-15 Jan. 2016) highlighted the importance of establishing a common understanding in relation to the impact assessment of P2Ps and the need to work towards building a uniform impact assessment framework which builds on accumulated knowledge and experience.

A workshop was held in May 2016 dedicated to the impact assessment of P2Ps, with its aim being:

- To establish a common understanding in relation to the impact assessment of P2Ps
- To work towards building a common framework for assessing the impacts of P2Ps

Further information about the workshop, as well as copies of the presentation, can be found [here](#).

ERA-LEARN 2020 Draft Framework for P2P evaluation and Impact assessment

There is wide consensus within the P2P community that evaluation and impact assessment of P2Ps and their supported projects is of major importance not only in view of improving performance but for enabling strategic decisions to be made. A number of P2Ps have developed relevant frameworks while others have already engaged in assessing the impacts of supported projects. Drawing upon international evaluation and impact assessment practice, this framework tries to bring all efforts together in a comprehensive framework that can be applied in all P2Ps. It will be presented at the Annual Joint Programming Conference, Brussels, 22-23 November 2016 with the purpose of receiving comments for further improvement and final validation.

The Framework can be [downloaded here](#).

Last update: November 2016

Indicator Categories (project level)

- Scientific
- Innovation
- Economic
- Cultural
- Societal
- Policy
- Organisational
- Health
- Environmental
- Symbolic
- Training

Impacts by beneficiary

Type of Beneficiary	Outcomes	Intermediate Impacts	Global Impacts
Research organisation	new technology, new data/method, formal publications, patents	additional research income, commercial income, increased research capacity, spin-off businesses, enhanced reputation	new research trajectories, new solutions for socio-environmental challenges, economic spill-overs to industry
Industrial organisation	new product/service, new technical process, new organisational process, patent, improved capacities	increased turnover/profit, new jobs, protection of existing jobs, increased market share, geographic expansion	economic spill-overs to other businesses, new solutions for socio-economic challenges
Public service organisation	new methods/services, new organisational process	improved service quality, reduced cost of service delivery	improved health, safety, security and/or quality of life for citizens
Public administration	improved scientific evidence, new organisational process	improved governance, reduced administration costs, evidence-based policy making	improved economic, social and/or environmental impacts
Societal organisation	improved scientific evidence, improved services, improved capacities	increased influence	improved standards/regulations, improved quality of life
Environmental organisation	improved scientific evidence, improved services, improved capacities	Increased influence	improved standards/regulations, reduced environmental impacts

Impacts by beneficiary

Type of Beneficiary	Outcomes	Intermediate Impacts
Research organisation	new technology, new data/method, formal publications, patents	additional research income, commercial income, increased research capacity, spin-off businesses, enhanced reputation
Industrial organisation	new product/service, new technical process, new organisational process, patent, improved capacities	increased turnover/profit, new jobs, protection of existing jobs, increased market share, geographic expansion
Public service organisation	new methods/services, new organisational process	improved service quality, reduced cost of service delivery
Public administration	improved scientific evidence, new organisational process	improved governance, reduced administration costs, evidence-based policy making
Societal organisation	improved scientific evidence, improved services, improved capacities	increased influence
Environmental organisation	improved scientific evidence, improved services, improved capacities	Increased influence



**Test proposed common
framework early 2017**

Common framework questions (v1)

1. Type of organisation
2. Why did your organisation participate
3. In what ways was the project superior to a similar national project
4. Prior experience of European R&I funding schemes
5. Main exploitable outputs for your organisation
6. Published papers
7. Patents
8. Expected intermediate impacts on your organisation
9. To what extent will there be indirect benefits for others
10. To what extent has the project influenced your future behaviour

**Develop
strategy by June
2017**



Key Issues/Questions

- What would be the benefit of the proposed common framework for the P2P networks?
- How could it work with (or for) your network?
- Could ERA-LEARN offer additional added value by providing data management functionality and/or benchmarking information?