



# **The European RTD Evaluation Network**

**- Mandate -**

***(approved 10/12/2015)***

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The European RTD Evaluation Network ("the Network"), established in 1997, is composed of members from EU Member States, EU Candidate Countries and countries that are associated with the EU RTD Framework Programmes.

2. The Network provides a forum for discussion and analysis of best practice in research and innovation evaluation methodology, use of RTD indicators and measurement of impact of R&I public funding at both national and EU level. The Network is designed as a European focal point for issues related to research and innovation evaluation and research on evaluation.

### **AIMS**

3. The Network aims at enhancing dialogue and cooperation between national services (e.g. ministries, agencies) in charge of RTD evaluation issues, academics and experts in the field of evaluation as well as relevant Commission Services. The Network puts a particular emphasis on strengthening the dialogue between "producers" and "users" of RTD evaluations.

4. The Network aims at sharing knowledge and good practice on innovative evaluation methodologies, including data collection tools and indicators, and on evidence regarding the impacts of public R&I funding at both national and EU level.

5. The work of the Network is focussed on publicly funded RTD evaluation within a European context, and also takes into account both experience and know-how from industry as well as from non-European countries and organisations.

6. The Network aims to play an active role in constructing the European Research Area by helping to improve the quality and to strengthen the use of RTD evaluation.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

7. The appointment of Network members takes place via the Permanent Representations to the European Union of the Member States, Candidate Countries and countries associated with the EU RTD Framework Programmes.

8. Each Member State, Candidate Country and country associated with the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programmes can appoint two representatives, thus allowing for both researchers with evaluation expertise as well as officials from national services (e.g. ministries, agencies) to be represented participating in their personal capacity. The Network can be extended should the need arise and depending on the topics to be discussed.

9. Membership of the Network will be for a (renewable) five year period.

10. Observers can participate to the Network meetings on a case by case basis decided by the Commission.

### **WORKING METHOD**

11. The work of the European RTD Evaluation Network relies on mutual benefit with all participants having an equal say.

12. Topics for discussion and analysis are selected with the aim of promoting the better application and use of evaluation in the European Research Area, taking into account the principle of European added value and with emphasis on Framework Programme level evaluation. Activities or topics are considered particularly interesting if they are concerned with:

- improvements to existing or the development of new evaluation methodologies
- the use and development of indicators
- the impact of evaluation on decision makers, programme managers and the scientific community

## The European RTD Evaluation Network (Mandate)

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- elements of particular interest to the Network Members or European Union, e.g. impact measurement techniques in key areas such as employment, competitiveness, environment, etc.
- exchange of good practice, experience sharing

13. Every second year, the work programme, attached as an appendix to the mandate, shall be updated in order to ensure that a broad range of issues within the field of RTD evaluation over time are given sufficient attention by the Network.

14. Network members may propose topics for presentation and discussion, which (following consultation with the Network), can be included in a meeting agenda and/or the Network work programme.

15. The Network can launch ad hoc working groups.

16. The Network may launch, participate in or otherwise support activities such as workshops or congresses.

17. The Network meets twice a year, normally in the EU Member State holding the Presidency ("host country"). Meetings can also be held elsewhere, for example in Candidate Countries and/or in connection with evaluation congresses, workshops or similar events.

18. The central evaluation Unit within the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation provides overall coordination for the Network, including distribution and archiving of relevant documentation. The main tool used for this is the CIRCABC platform of the Network.

19. The Commission chairs the meetings of the Network and shares the organisation of the meetings jointly with the host country of the given meeting.

## The European RTD Evaluation Network (Mandate)

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20. Information regarding the activities of the Network, including the outcomes of the meetings, final reports of evaluation studies carried out at national level and updates on recent developments in R&I evaluation, will be published on the DG RTD Internet dedicated webpage [http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index\\_en.cfm?pg=network](http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index_en.cfm?pg=network)

### **Appendix 1 - Rolling two-year work plan for forthcoming meetings**

Drawing on discussions with Network members in the course of 2015, the following list of topics represents a provisional shortlist of priority issues in the field of ex-post evaluation of research. The shortlist has also been drafted with a view to fulfilling the selection criteria listed in item 12 of the Network Mandate.

It is proposed that each Network meeting will address one or more of the topics below in greater depth. In accordance with item 14 of the Mandate, Network members can propose other topics to be added to the shortlist.

*1) New developments in linking data and evaluation methodologies*

Issues to be addressed include new methodologies to address challenges raised by evaluating the impacts of EU or national research and innovation funding programmes, and to integrate new developments such as linking databases, using big data and analytics, open access, social media which can enrich the way evaluation is being done (for instance, the development of altmetrics or webometrics).

*2) New developments in research indicators*

Issues to be addressed include the creation of impact indicators, i.e. indicators of economics, social and environmental impact, and the development of common indicators such as performance indicators, for instance to measure the achievements towards the Horizon 2020 objectives.

*3) National evaluation results of research or innovation programmes*

Issues to be addressed include the exchange of good practice and experience in obtaining the evaluation results and their uptake in the decision-making process.

*4) Innovation-related outputs*

Issues to be addressed include methodologies and indicators, as well as exchange of best practice in identifying, tracking and assessing innovation-related outputs.