

DG Research and Innovation

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Policy support to reforms of national research and innovation systems in Europe

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Policy Support: key features

1. **Systemic approach**: focus on improvement of a R&I (policy) system rather than effectiveness of individual programmes or institutions.
2. **Policy-oriented approach**: goes beyond descriptive analyses to provide policy recommendations to authorities.
3. **Combination of country-specific features and international good practices**: starting point is the host country system, assessments and recommendations draw on knowledge gained in other countries.

Policy Support: methods

1. **Three-step approach** comprising a preparation phase, an implementation phase and an incorporation phase.
2. **Use of panels of experts and peers** to foster learning from both conceptual and practical expertise.
3. **Combined use of both quantitative/codified and qualitative/embodied evidence**, the latter through field visits in the host country and meetings with stakeholders.
4. **Focus on stakeholder involvement**: mobilisation of actors in the reviewed system, aiming at information gathering and facilitating the implementation of the reviews' conclusions and recommendations.

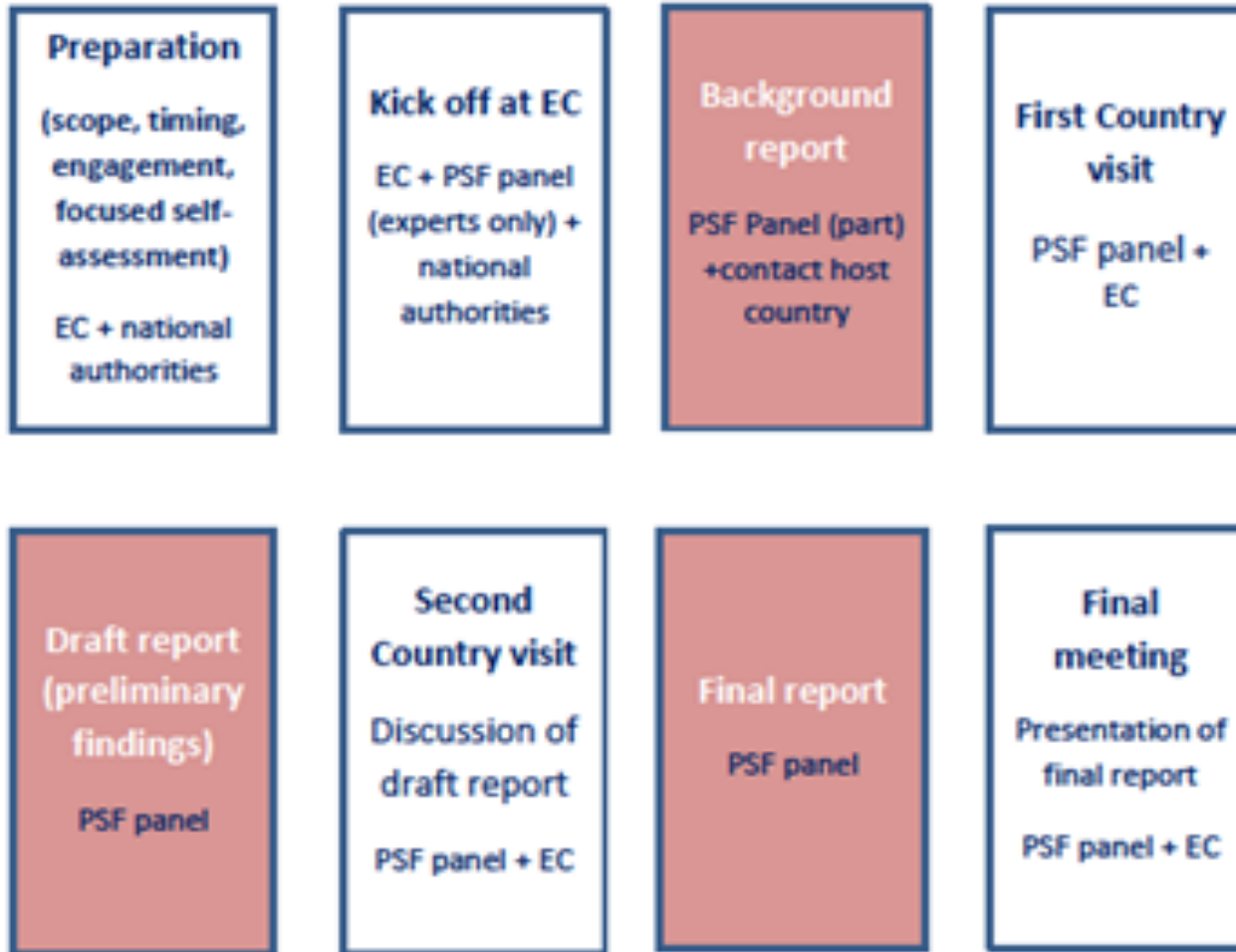
EU Policy Support Facility (1)

- PSF established in 2015 under H2020
- Builds on history of CREST and ERAC reviews and policy learning activities
- Aim: to induce **reforms of national R&I systems**
 - Challenge-driven
 - Customer-oriented, flexible
 - Geared towards policy practice: tailor-made advice
 - Evidence-based: blending peer practice and high-level expertise
- 1. Peer Reviews of national R&I systems
- 2. Specific support to countries (+ pre- and post- peer reviews)
- 3. Mutual Learning Exercises (MLE)

EU Policy Support Facility (2)

- No standardised approach: structured in line with the focus areas determined by reviewed country
- Importance of the framework conditions and context in the host country
- Evidence-based analysis of country's R&I system, focusing on diagnosing the blocking factors or challenges
- Concrete, specific, operational and detailed recommendations: key policy messages highlighted upfront
- PSF Knowledge Centre gathers all relevant information + analyses developed in context of European Semester
- No systematic follow-up (but “post peer-reviews”)
- Duration: 6 to 9 months

EU Policy Support Facility (3)



INCO-Nets Policy Mix Peer Reviews (1)

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA) under FP7
- Aim of Inco-Nets: enhancing **S&T cooperation** between the EU and third countries
- ‘Policy Mix Peer Reviews’: systematic examinations and assessments of the national STI systems by peers and experts, aimed at improving the design and implementation of national S&T policy
- Premium on **peer learning** over the analytical dimension

INCO-Nets Policy Mix Peer Reviews (2)

- Framework: NIS model as used in CREST OMC Policy Mix Reports:
 - Science base
 - Human resources
 - Economic and market development, business research, technology development and innovation (RTDI)
 - Governance
 - Interlinkages
- Knowledge base: country reports produced in the frame of the project and other available documentation
- Ad hoc: no follow-up
- Duration: 6-9 months

INCO-Nets Policy Mix Peer Reviews (3)



OECD Innovation Policy Reviews (1)

- Science Policy Reviews in the '60s; 2005: Innovation policy reviews: 30 reviews implemented until 2017
- Focus on the **capacity of the R&I systems to contribute to economic development**
- Build on the wide OECD knowledge base, specific fieldwork in the country, and contributions from policymaker community.
- High reputation
- Strong analytical content

OECD Innovation Policy Reviews (2)

- Framework inspired by the National Innovation System, expanded into policy-oriented framework + customisation around key policy issues
- New attention to tackling societal challenges through research and innovation and public sector innovation
- Knowledge base: in-house OECD work - the joint OECD-World Bank Innovation Policy platform
- No systematic follow-up process. Some repeated reviews and informal follow-up
- Duration: 1 year

OECD Innovation Policy Reviews (3)



World Bank Public Expenditure Reviews (1)

- Diagnostic studies to help countries establish effective and transparent mechanisms to **allocate public resources** to promote economic growth and help reduce poverty
- Target group: developing countries
- Capacity building component
- Modular approach:
 - analysis of quality of the policy mix
 - evaluation of quality of design and implementation
 - analysis of efficiency in public spending
 - analysis of effectiveness in public spending

World Bank Public Expenditure Reviews (2)

- Framework: intervention logic of investing in STI: inputs (public STI funding); outputs (immediate results of STI funding); outcomes (1. research excellence; 2. collaboration science-industry and research commercialisation; 3. business R&D-based innovation; and 4. STI adoption and diffusion and non-R&D-based innovation) and impacts (innovation and productivity).
- All WB products are peer reviewed
- Knowledge bases: OECD-World Bank Innovation Policy Platform, cited above. The World Bank STI database
- Duration: from 6 to 12 months

World Bank Public Expenditure Reviews (3)



Differences between models

- Relative weight of the three steps
- Duration
- Balance between internal versus external sources of expertise
- Peers' versus experts' contribution
- Emphasis on peer learning
- Focus
- Depth of analytical work
- Field visits versus desk-based documentary analysis

Topic 1: Organising policy support activities: the role of international organisations and the methodological framework

1. Validity of “national innovation system” **frameworks**
2. Acquiring and further **refining requests** for policy support
3. The relevant **data**: the “right” data, absent data, information overload
4. Improving **analytical tools**: bridging assessments of system performance and of policy performance
5. Cross-fertilisation **country-specific and thematic** work
6. **Cross-fertilisation between international institutions’ activities**

Topic 2: Success factors for effective policy support: issues for the host country

1. Managing expectations in host country and ensuring **policy commitment**
2. Identifying and engaging relevant **stakeholders**
3. **Scoping** the policy support activity
4. The role of host country in **information provision** and in **analysis**
5. **Capacity** in host country

Topic 3: Success factors for effective policy support: the role of external contributions

1. Selecting a **Review panel** of experts and peers
2. Assigning **roles** to panel members
3. Making the most of **country visits**
4. **Transnational learning** from good practice

Topic 4: Follow up and maximising impact of policy support activities

1. **Benefits to be expected** from policy support services: reforms; mobilisation; capacity building
2. How to understand policy **impacts**? Relationship between providing support and policy development
3. Tailoring **recommendations** to maximise impacts
4. **Follow-up** of policy support activities