

Achieving real Simplification of EU Framework Progammes: Trust Researchers Initiative

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FFG - European & International Programmes

based on contract with 5 Ministries and Economoc Chamber



Objectives: Strengthening the Austrian participation in international R&D Programmes (FP!!)

Host of: FP National Contact Points, EUREKA, EEN

<u>Activities</u>: Awareness, Information, Training, Consultation, Coaching, international Networking, international cooperation

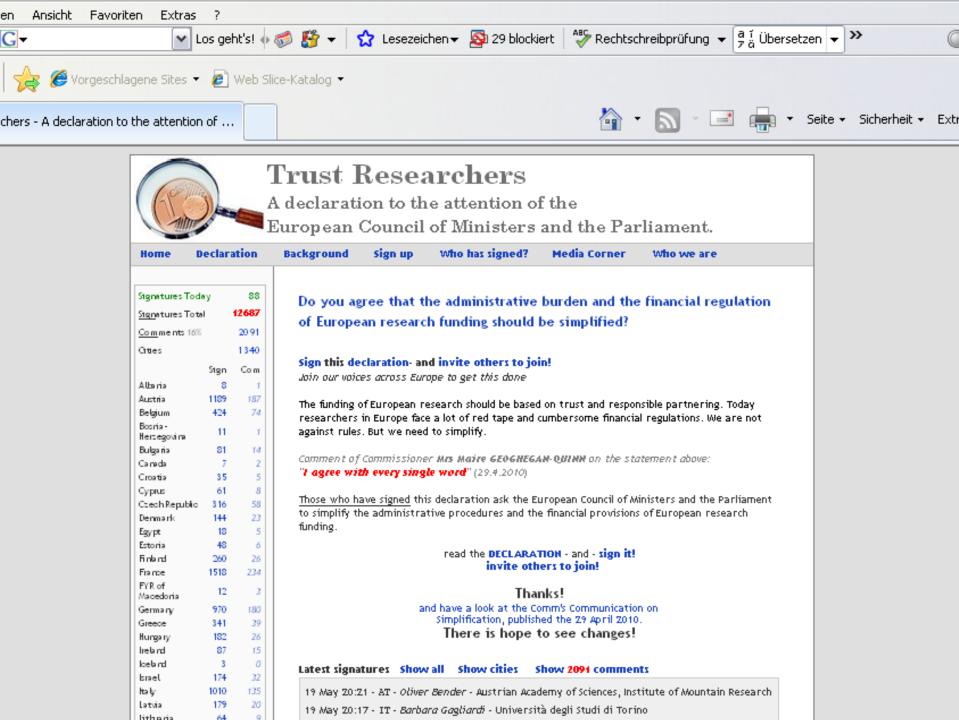
<u>Fact & Figures</u>: 45 experts, app. 8000 consultancy sessions per year, effectiveness of services: Ø 30%, increase of AT success rate in FP7



Our involvement in "Simplification"



- Participation in EU FP Projects since 1998, app. 100: Internal procedures set up to serve as examples for AT RTD community
- Consultancy experience, training for accountants, auditors, etc
- > FP6 ex-post audit in Jan. 2009....
- Chronology of FP6 ex-post experiences:>250 pages
- Identification of major issues for improvements
- Position on "Simplification" submitted in on-line consultation
- further detailed position papers developed
- exchange with other European partners...
- Expert Group: Impact of External Project based funding on financial management of universities
- Jan. 2010 Trust Researchers Initiative



Trust Researchers Declaration



Mutual Trust

Funding of research in Europe should be based on mutual trust and responsible partnering.

Focused on research

Research has to be funded according to the nature of research, meaning concentrated on output.

Consistency

The European Research Area (ERA) should benefit from a consistent vision shared by all actors for funding research throughout the different programmes that is avoiding all kinds of unnecessary technical and administrative details but instead promoting key funding principles based on an appropriate level of accountability.

Reliability

Research and development is of utmost importance for Europe and its future oriented development. However, we need effective, reliable and stable funding principles to make it happen.

Risk taking

Research and innovation are risk taking activities. An appropriate level of tolerable risks is vital for success and should be supported by European research programmes.

app. 2.100 comments out of 12.800 signatures

Germany Fraunhofer IST Too many different rules and electronic systems. The money should be spent for R&D and not for building up a mess of different legal and IT things.

United Kingdom Natural History Museum, London I run several EU projects and the cost of administration is very high compared to other grants, such as NSF in the USA and UK foundations. EU research funding is world of administration, bureaucracy, liability, and accountability. It is unforgiving, and clashes with the very culture of science. This damages the goals of the research programs they are intended to protect.

Germany University of Erlangen - Nuremberg Hold us accountable for spending taxpayer money reasonably, but not by requiring a lot of forms to be filled in.

Austria Austrian Academy of Sciences Lower the administration duties and researchers will have more time to do what they are actually paid for...

Romania Spiru Haret University I would like this Declaration to be only first step in building of a virtual European Network, that will be able to support our interests in research area.

France CNRS-Université de Strasbourg Real democracy is based on trust, heavy bureaucracies are based on suspicion.

United Kingdom <u>University of Bristol</u> The current approach means scientific excellence plays a secondary role compared to spin.





- Communication/29 April is a promising start
- Many recommendations are on the table
 - Clear, simple and transparent rules
 - Harmonisation of rules
 - Keeping proven systems and stable legal framework right from the beginning, etc.
 - Devil is in the detail of the "how"
- Needed: change in philosophy: funding focussed on output/results
- Learning from successful examples/developments (Agencies, indicators with set targets and monitoring)
- Most importantly: taking efforts towards real and radical simplification seriously!
- All actors are needed: lobbying at all levels is needed!



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