
Indicators in PRIME Future strategies and developments



Towards an European Network of S&T Indicators Designers (ENID)

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Introduction (1)

- Major activity of PRIME NoE : the European Network of Indicators Producers (ENIP) programme
- Position paper to present proposals for future action, which could be taken into account within FP7.
- This paper is a draft of this position paper, presented for discussion



Introduction (2)

1. actual dynamics of the demand of S&T indicators,
2. production issue, in terms of a capitalisation challenge
3. indicators innovation issue, as a creation and validation challenge
 - leading to a proposal for European Network of S&T Indicators Designers (ENID) which can be initiated by PRIME.
 - Round table discussion

1. Actual dynamics of the field of S&T indicators needs

1.1 The dynamics of innovation systems

- the multiplication of the types of actors in interaction
- the transformation of innovation systems into 'distributed intelligence systems'
- the move towards the ERA, expanding the scope of the interactions among the actors
- The strategy of the actor becomes central and so do the S&T indicators relevant to that actor

1. Actual dynamics of the field of S&T indicators needs

1.2 The emergence of positioning indicators rationale

- National innovation system as set of interacting autonomous and strategic agents
- the role of STI indicators is to be able to characterise each singular actor :
- its 'positioning' in the innovation system

1. Actual dynamics of the field of S&T indicators needs

1.3 Trends of the demand of indicators (1)

First trend: demand for positioning indicators coming from:

- - those in charge of the conduct of the organisations - strategy making and monitoring
- - those in a position to evaluate the performance of the institutions (partners, clients, board members, financing bodies, citizens, policy-makers or political decision makers)

1. Actual dynamics of the field of S&T indicators needs

1.3 Trends of the demand of indicators (2)

Second trend : demand for comparability among such indicators,

- - principle of benchmarking: central principle for strategy and evaluation
- - specially in a Europe which is building the ERA
- demand for customised, yet comparable indicators.

1. Actual dynamics of the field of S&T indicators needs

1.3 Trends of the demand of indicators (3)

Third trend: demand for RD impact measurements, ex-ante ex-post

- macro-level, but also at individual institution level
- comprehensive analysis of the effects of innovation on social, economic, political and environmental systems.

Demands which represent challenges for “new S&T indicators” producers in both

- - the innovation
- - the production aspects

2. New indicators production: the capitalisation challenge

2.1 The capitalisation – economies of scale challenge

- The variety of demands has led to a multiplication of S&T indicators producers
- Fragmentation of production : two risks:
 - the lack of comparability among indicators
 - the impossibility to benefit from economies of scale, a waste of resources, an artificially low use of S&T indicators

2. New indicators production: the capitalisation challenge

2.2 Facing the capitalisation – economies of scale challenge: current initiatives

- initiatives for producing ad-hoc new indicators in some sort of 'industrialisation'
- have been taken by many countries and various directorates within DG Research (scientific articles and patents bibliometrics, regional indicators, indicators for evaluation, universities...)
- the capitalisation challenge is being faced

3. The New indicators innovation issue

The design creation and validation challenge (1)

- Issue of innovation is central, but strangely often left aside, or reduced to the indicators research aspects
- We raise here the issue of innovation : "effective bringing of new products to the market"
- The experience of ENIP-PRIME is here interesting and revealing

3. The New indicators innovation issue

The design creation and validation challenge (2)

- the innovation function which should be addressed in a more explicit and mutualised way.
- It involves the establishment and functioning of relationships between de indicators design creators, the 'lead users' and the producers of indicators
- in an open context, so that the adopted designs can be appropriated and validated by the community of users as well as the one of the producers.

3. The New indicators innovation issue

The design creation and validation challenge (3)

- innovation in indicators design as public good (properties of non rivalry, cumulateness)

Hence the proposal presented by PRIME.

Lessons from PRIME indicators activities

- PRIME should not enter directly in the (large-scale) production of indicators
 - This requires the participation of large producers of indicators
 - In Europe there are a number of initiatives covering this activity
- The specific contribution of PRIME has been the ability of designing and experimentally testing new indicators
 - In the higher education domain (CHINC, AQUAMETH, OEU)
 - For public project funding (ENIP-funding)
- The success of the PRIME indicators conference shows that there is a potential for these activities
 - Alongside and complementary to existing networks and initiatives

Key factors

- **A partnership integrating three cultures:**
 - Academics for the design and theoretical foundation of indicators
 - Indicators producers for methodology, feasibility and robustness
 - Stakeholders for policy relevance and acceptance
- **A niche strategy**
 - Working in domains not adequately covered by existing indicators
- **The openness of the network**
 - Since new ideas and new people are needed for experimental work
- **Hence we propose for indicators in PRIME a double strategy**
 - A Network of European Indicators Designers (ENID)
 - Experimental projects to be selected through a call for proposals



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European Network of Indicators Designers

- **An open network to promote the reflection on needs and design of new (or improved) STI indicators**
 - an open partnership with institutions declaring to adhere to the network
 - Coordinated by OST for the next two years
 - Integrating also the ESTIP conceptual reflection
- **Proposed activities in PRIME for 2007-2008**
 - Next PRIME Indicators conference in 2008
 - Indicators workshops at the PRIME annual conference
 - Exploratory workshops for new projects
 - Network website + PRIME website
 - Internal mailing list including alert for tenders of interest (to promote the construction of consortia)



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Experimental projects

- **We propose that PRIME launches a dedicated call for indicators**
- **For small-scale project dealing with the design and experimental development of indicators in areas not yet covered**
 - 4 to 6 partners
 - Academics + indicators producers
 - 40 to 60K
- **Possible domains (tentative and open to other propositions)**
 - ERA integration
 - Human resources
 - Social sciences and humanities
- **Selection**
 - Letters of intents
 - Funding of preparatory workshops
 - Submission of proposals to be evaluated according to the normal PRIME procedures



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