

Comparing National Research Policies An empirical Study on Project Funding



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(see next page)

Content of the presentation

- Analyse differences / similarities between national research policies in the case of public project funding
- Thus framed in the discussion on
 - Convergence of national research policies
 - Importance of national specificities (for example concerning the political systems
 - See Braun, Senker...
- Specific contribution of this study: address empirically the issue using a metrics based on funding volumes
 - To measure the "distance" between national systems

Results of a collective work

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- Michael Dinges, Joanneum Research, Wien
- Peter van der Besselar Ruth Mampuis, Rathenau Instituut, Den Haag
- Bianca Poti and Emanuela Reale, CNR-CERIS, Rome
- Stig Slipersaeter, NIFU-STEP, Oslo
- Jean Theves, Observatoire des Sciences et Techniques, Paris
- Barend van der Meulen, University of Twente

Funded by the PRIME network of Excellence of the 6th Framework Programme as a part of the European Network of Indicator Producers

- This paper presents the overall comparisons, while the other papers in the session focus on more specific issues using the same data

Background

- Public project funding = money attributed to a group or an individual to perform a research activity limited in scope, budget and time
- Relevance of project funding for research policy
 - Concerning its importance in the overall volume, the objectives and types of instruments and the allocation mechanisms
 - A subset of public funding which can be rather clearly delimited (with the exception of the French case)
- ENIP-funding project developed a methodology to produce comparable data on funding volumes in different countries
 - Including time series
 - See the methodological publications for a complete discussion of methodology and of comparability problems
 - The same for a detailed discussion of categories

Research issues

- To compare the portfolio of project funding in the six involved countries
 - Role of project funding in overall public funding
 - Composition by instruments and managing agencies
 - Beneficiaries
 - Display similarities/regularities as well as national specificities
- Analyse changes in the last 30 years
 - In the importance of projects funding, its composition....
 - Looking to parallel trends, but also to specific national trajectories
- Always using funding volumes as the metrics for comparisons
 - But adding of course "soft information"

Embeddedness

- Actor's choices and strategies are embedded in complex insitutional context which shape their behaviour (Scott, Hollingsworth...)
 - Including national specific institutional arrangements and cultures (some of them very long-lasting)
 - But also institutional arrangements specific to research policy (possibly more international)
 - Intrinsicly multi-level (and different according to the domain and the actor considered)
- There is no general argument for convergence
 - But rather a set of possible factors which have to be assessed empirically

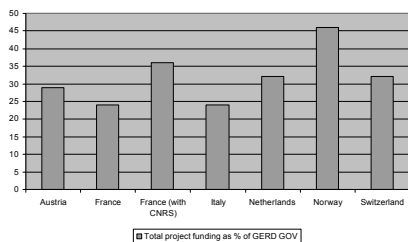
Path dependency

- We believe that today's arrangements of research policy depends also on history
 - Institutional rigidity as basic argument
 - Becomes very relevant for long-term analysis
- Some interesting issues in this respect
 - The degree of stability of institutional arrangements (probably different across countries)
 - Long-term stability of "models" of research policy (see Grupp's work on the German innovation system)
 - Turning points and their explanation (see my work on Switzerland)
 - The impact of the initial structuration phase (and of its institutional setting) on today's system

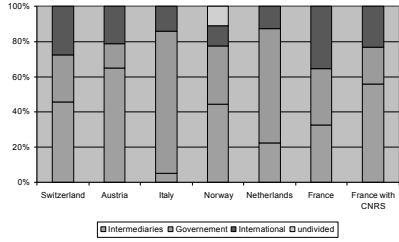
A comparative view

- Static comparison for 2002 for six countries (Austria, Italy, France, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland)
- Overall level of project funding
- Composition
- Management structures
- Beneficiaries
- A summary view

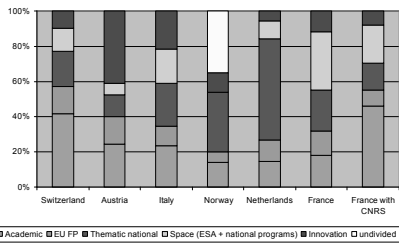
Overall level of PF (% GERD GOV)



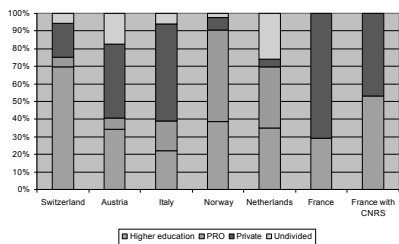
Managing agencies



Portfolios of instruments



Beneficiaries



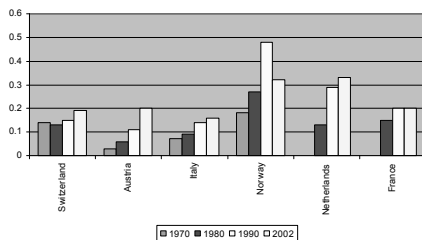
Summing up

- Project funding as the second stream of public research funding
 - With overall shares similar across countries
 - Probably a major difference with UK and USA
- A "composite" policy model
 - All countries have instruments towards academic research, policy needs and innovation
 - but the policy mix (quantitative) differs quite significantly between countries
 - Beneficiaries are bound to the structure of national research systems (which is very stable in the time-frame we consider here)
- Management structures are completely national-based
 - Each country is a case for itself
 - Does this have an influence on the functioning of the instruments?

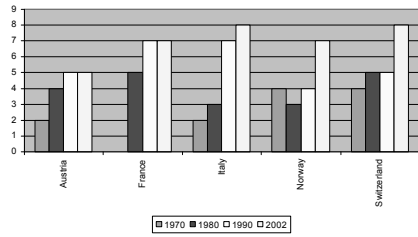
Long-term analysis

- A success of the methodology to build time-series over 30 years
 - With a number of problems and methodological limitations
- The overall level of project funding
- Diversification and changes in the portfolio
- Managing authorities and national trajectories

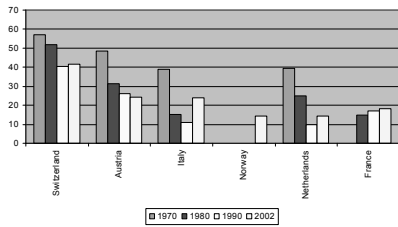
Evolution in time (as % GDP)

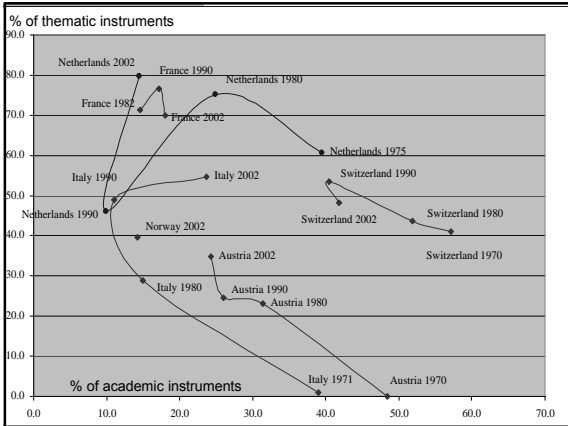


Diversification of instruments (instruments with more than 5% of the total funding volume)



Share of academic-oriented instruments (% of the total)





Discussion

- PF increased its importance in the considered countries
 - But no fundamental model switch (as probably in the UK)
- Diversification is a strong trend
 - Responding to new policy rationales adding new instruments
 - Thanks to the increasing funding volume

Discussion (2)

- Significant changes in the portfolio
 - With decreasing share of academic instruments
 - But countries keep their specificities
 - A reversal of the trend in the '90
- Managing authorities are characterised by a complex patterns of restructuring
 - Essential linked to national specificities and with strong differences between countries (see Stig's presentation)
 - Evolve from the existing organisations
 - Capacity of restructuring is very different accross countries
 - See France as an exemplary case
- The emergence of European funding as major change
 - Possibly the most important in the future 10-15 years

Conclusions

- The considered countries converge to a model
 - With PF as the second main funding channel
 - With a composite mix of policy objectives
 - Which seems to be different from the anglosaxon tradition
- This model is flexible enough to leave to the different countries room for specificities
 - In the weight of the priorities and in the be
 - In the managing agencies
 - Taking into account national historical situations
