

Assessment of the national contribution to transnational research projects of P2Ps with a focus on policy making The Dutch case

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The presentation

- The evaluation – goal, analytical framework and method
- The FP7 projects
- Results and impacts of the FP7 projects
- Tuning research and policy making
- Recommendations

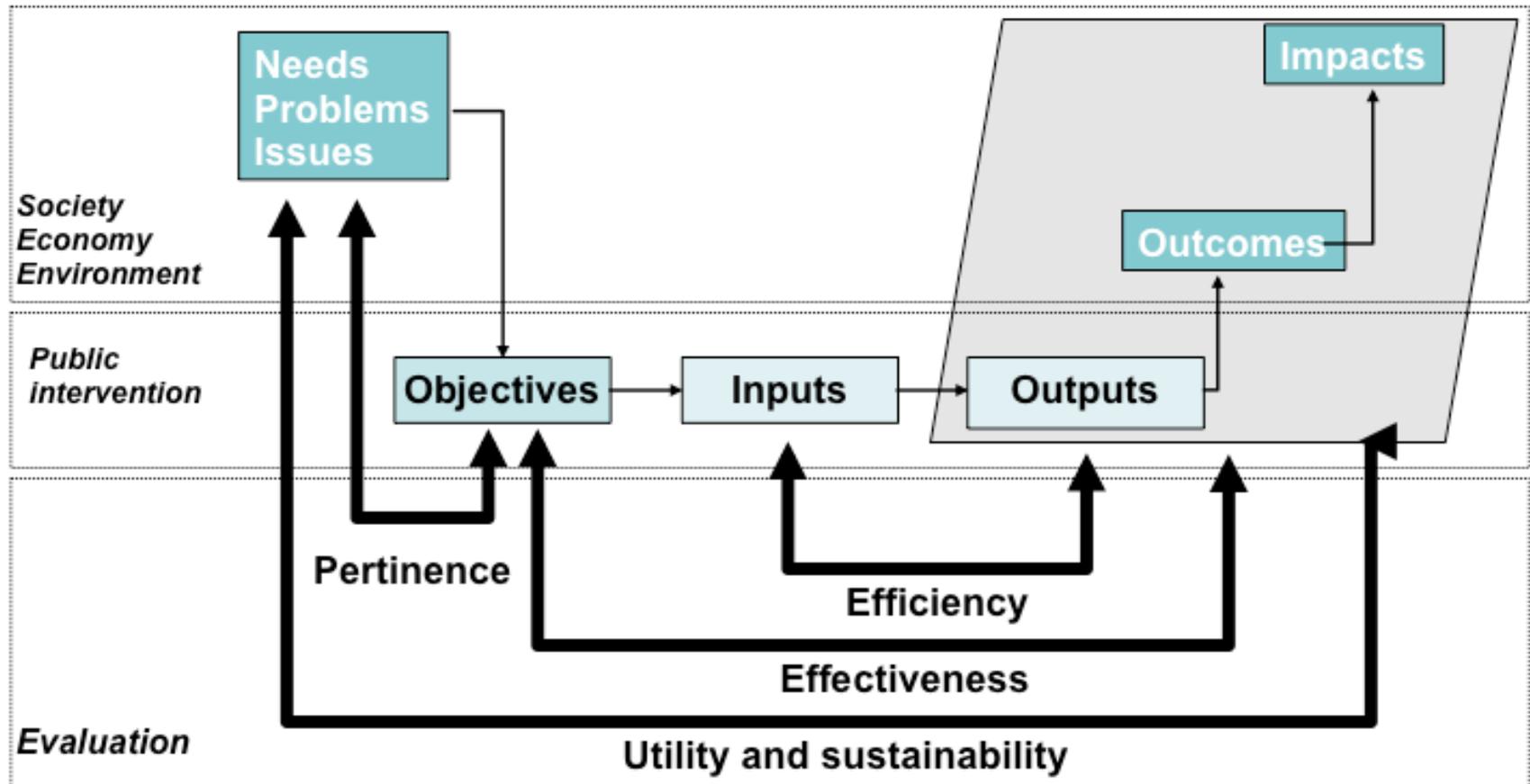
The evaluation - Goal

- Get an overview of the results of the FP7 projects in which researchers of Wageningen Research participate
- Advise on how to optimally use the results of FP7 projects for national science, technology and innovation policy making in the field of agrofood & nature

Client: Directorate Agri Knowledge (DAK) of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs (MinEA)

Wageningen Research (WR) is the group of nine commercial research institutes that are part of the organisation 'Wageningen University & Research'

The evaluation – Conceptual framework



The evaluation – Data gathering methods

Desk research and data analysis (including setting up database) of the FP7 Collaborative projects and ERA-net-projects in which WR researchers have participated

Interviews with project leaders, management WR, national policy makers, companies

Survey under project leaders

Focus groups with:

- scientists and management of WR
- policy makers at Ministry of Economic Affairs (incl DAK)

The projects – Numbers

- Selected for the evaluation: FP7 projects ...
... that finished in the period 2011-2015
... in which WR researchers have participated
- The evaluation included 108 projects

Number of projects	Number of WR project coordinators	Number of WR and WU project partners	Number of other NL project partners
100 Collaborative projects	24	106	78
8 ERA-net-projects	2	6	2

The projects – Co-funding

Collaborative projects:

- MinEA/DAK provides funding to WR for keeping up its knowledge base (KB = ca €16 M /year), also for co-financing EU FP projects
- In addition, MinEA/DAK co-funded some FP7 projects by ‘Legal Research Tasks’ (WOT) funds and ‘Policy Research’ (BO) funds, based on ad hoc decisions by DAK
- Total co-funding of the 100 projects: €11,061,582
- On average, Dutch co-funding was larger than co-funding of their project partners

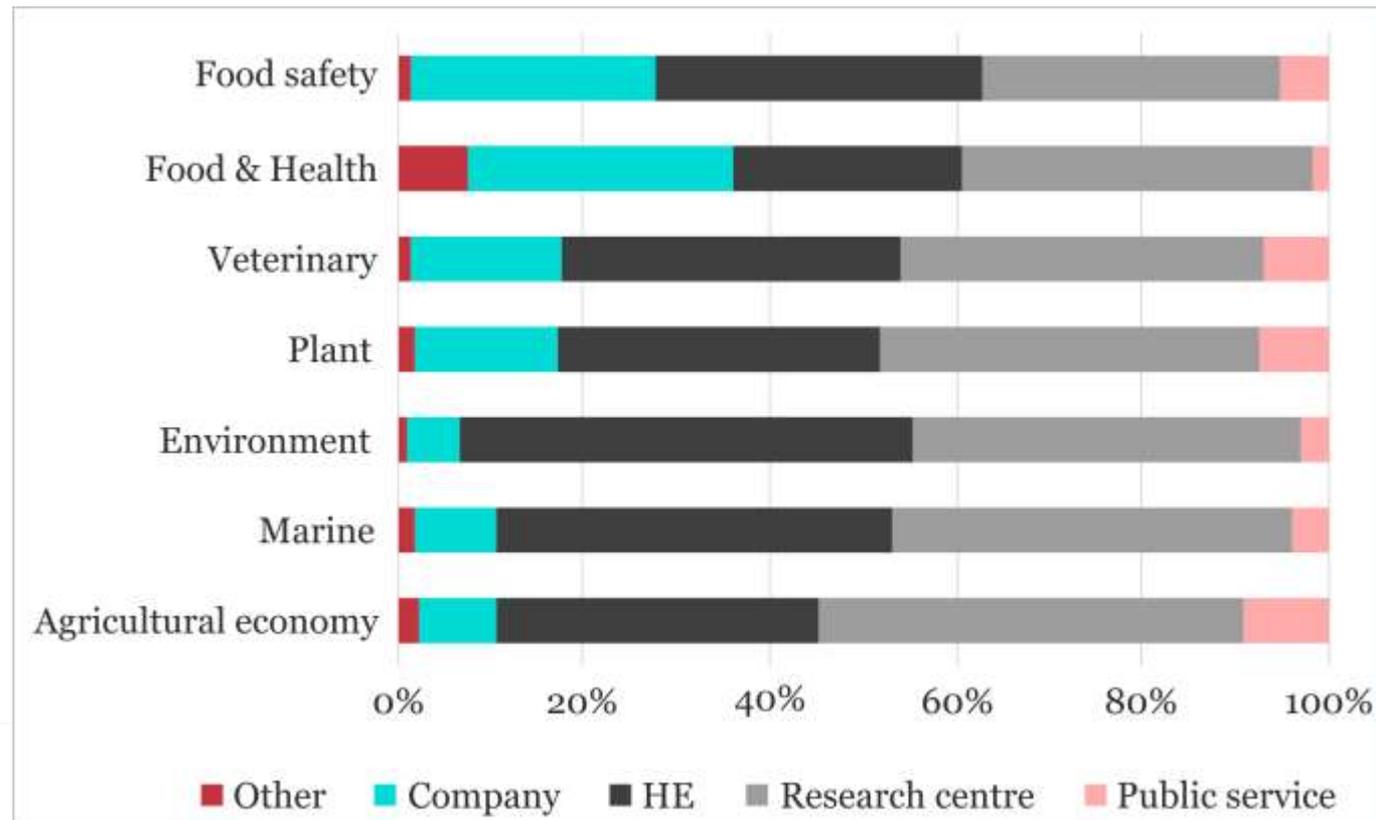
ERA-net-projects:

- Total co-funding of 6 of the 8 projects: € 1,437,625

The EC multiplier for the 108 projects was 3.54

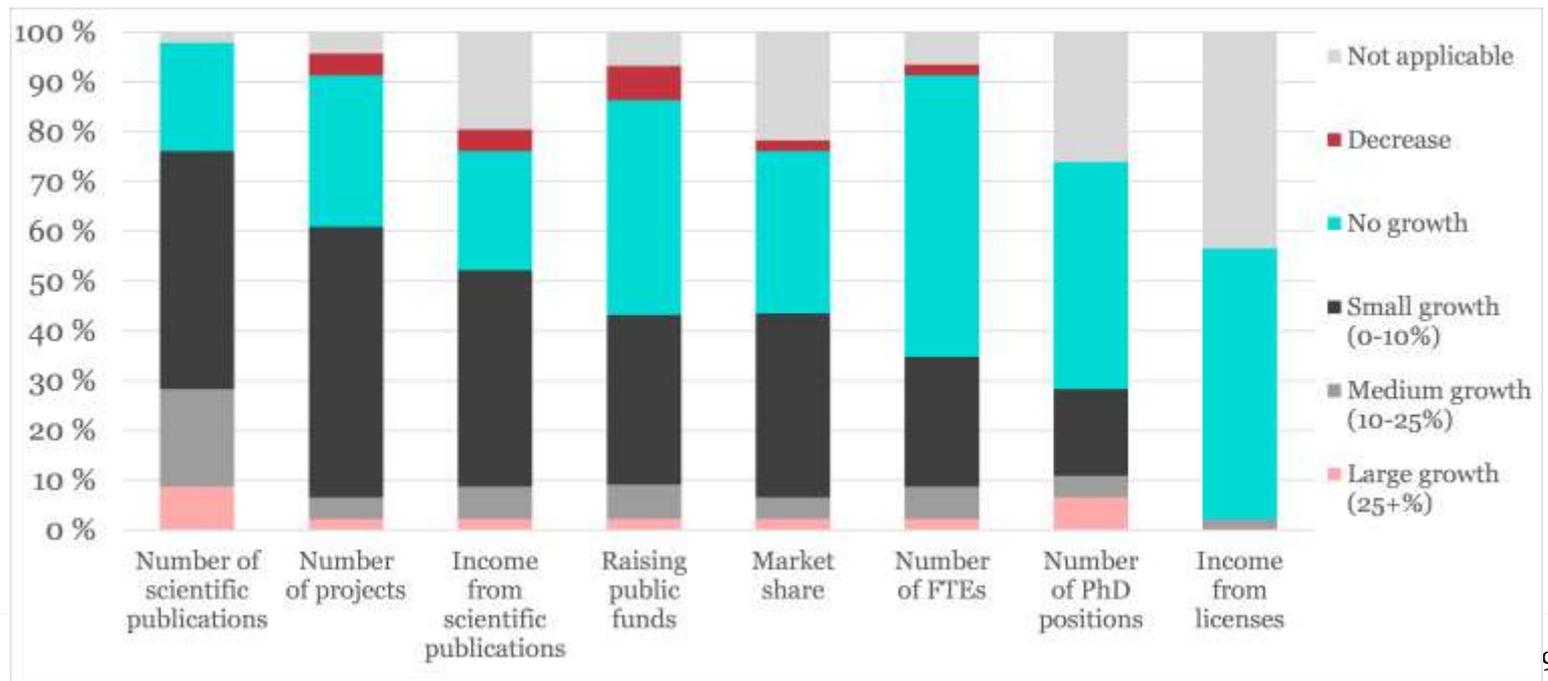
The projects – Goal, domain and partners

Most important goal: develop new knowledge for new/improved products, processes, services or policy



Project results - outputs

- Top 3 outputs : publications, new projects and contract research
- No big differences between Collaborative and ERA-net projects

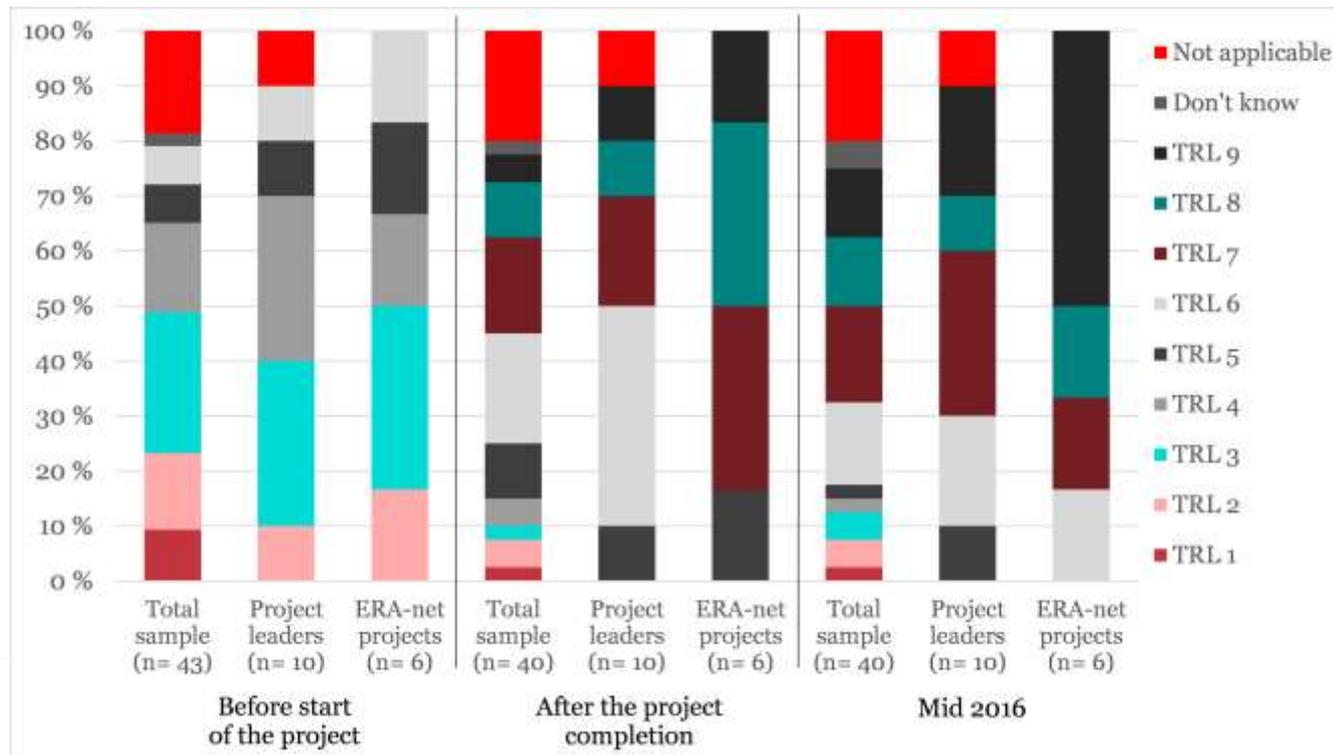


Project results – Some examples

- Advise on management of crop cultivation
- Pilots for reducing water use in plant breeding
- Economic models for crop protection and cultivation systems
- New test to respond quickly to outbreak of diseases
- New detection methods for estimation of health risks of food products
- Efficient power supply and equipment for fish processing in developing countries
- Better models for predicting climate changes
- Harmonisation of national datasets on specific themes
- Tools to measure durability of investments in the biobased economy

Project results - Progress made in TRL

- All projects: on average the technology readiness level (TRL) increased from 3-4 to 6-7
- ERA-net-projects showed strongest progress: from 3-4 to 7-8



Project outcomes - 1

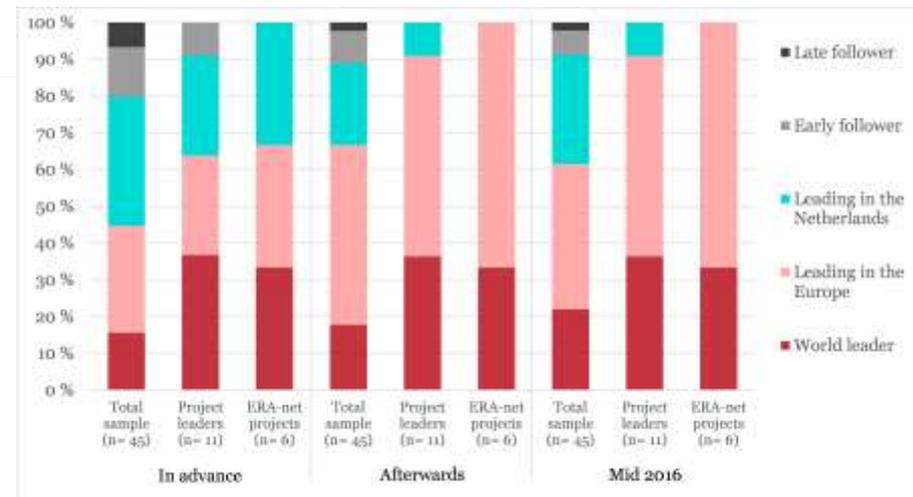
The knowledge and technologies that are developed, are relevant at both the European and the national level

- Cooperative projects:
 - *For research organisation:*
 - Mainly new / improved services
 - *For companies involved in the consortia :*
 - Mainly new/improved products and processes
 - Exploitation of IP
 - *There is a market for the new/improved products /processes /services, but in the midterm*
- ERA-net-projects:
 - Mainly new/improved services

Project outcomes – 2

Benefits for the researchers and their organisation:

- Projects give the opportunity to start research on a new issue. The project coordinator becomes the European face of the new issue
- It improves the competitive position of the research organisations involved. This especially applies for Collaborative projects
 - *In some domains, from 'leading in the NL' to 'leading in Europe'*
 - *Other domains: WR's world leading position was kept*
- It gives access to new collaboration partners and their networks



Project outcomes – 3

Already, a few FP7 projects have supported European policy making.

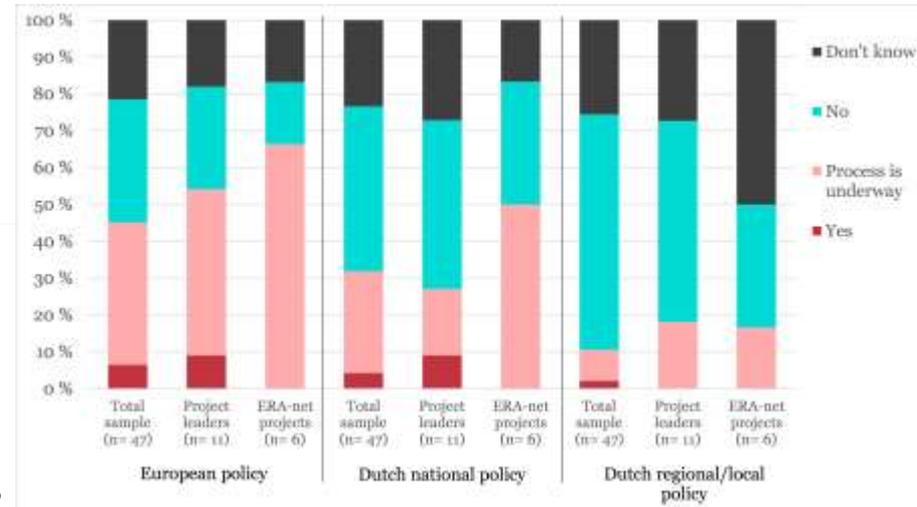
- *On: Animal welfare, sustainable investments and climate agreements*

In the short term, project results will affect national policies on:

- *biodiversity, sustainable food production, food safety, Dutch competitive position, sustainable economical development*

In the midterm they will affect national policies on:

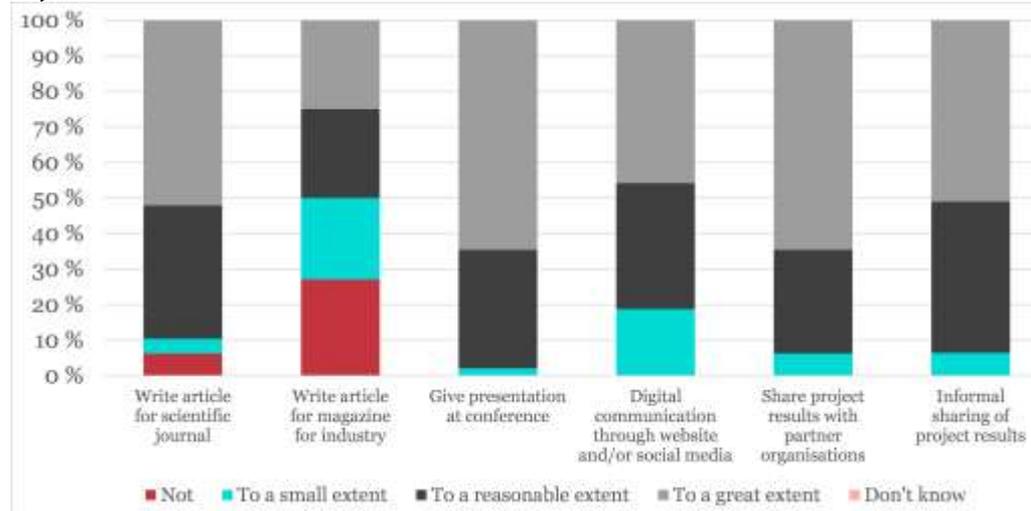
- *Plant health, plant protection, animal health and welfare, sustainable livestock and fish farming, regional economic development*



Tuning research and policy making

- Very limited interaction between researchers and their organisation and the ministry (DAK):
 - *While drafting the project proposal and during project execution*
 - *After the project has finished, sharing project results ->*

- Policy makers are most involved in projects that are co-financed by ‘Legal Research Tasks’ and ‘Policy Research’ funds



- Part of the researchers is not informed about the fact that national S&T policy is ‘in tune’ with European S&T policy (research themes)₁₅

Recommendations – Research organisation

- Reserve funds (for proposal drafting) in order to enable researchers to operate as project coordinator of FP projects
- Coordinate project submissions in order to select those projects that are aligned to the organisation's strategy
- Include in the set of co-funding conditions, rules on active communication of research results to the broader public and specific user groups (policy, companies, farmers organisations, etc)

Recommendations – Government

- Request the research organisation to implement this communication policy

Recommendations – Tune research and policy

In order to make optimal use of FP projects' results for policy making, more interaction and better communication is desired between researchers and policy makers before, during and after completion of FP projects

1. Strategy

- Here is both a task for the ministry:
By communicating clearly to the researchers about the national S&T policy and how this is related to the FP themes
- as for the management of the research organisation:
By informing its researchers about how their organisation's strategy relates to the national policy

Recommendations – Tune research and policy

2. Capacity

The ministry/DAK is recommended:

- to stimulate that WR management at the start of FP projects with a major policy component and that is co-financed with KB-funds, requests her researchers to actively seek contact with the ministry
- In line with the ministry's involvement in BO- and WOT-funded projects, take a similar position in KB-funded projects in order to profit from the expected results for policy making

For this, capacity must be available within the ministry. To achieve this, DAK should promote the importance of European research for national policy making at all levels within the ministry

Recommendation – Tune research and policy

3. Research results as input for policy making

One of our suggestions is that:

- DAK organises meetings on specific policy issues with project leaders and partners from relevant FP projects
- Researchers present the results of their FP projects and address how they could contribute to solving the problems at hand
- This forces the researchers to formulate and communicate their results in terms of policy issues
- This allows policy makers (better) to make use of the FP project results

