



Evaluation
of

Productive interactions

between

Research and Society

Evaluating Research in Context - Jack Spaapen



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Three topics, three debates

- **Evaluation.**

Goals of evaluation → measuring and improving research quality, accountability, +++ socio-economic impact.

Evaluation methods → peer review and bibliometrics, +++ (extended) peer review / expert review, role of stakeholders, other metrics (socio-, econo-, techno); criteria and indicators allow for variation between research areas

Policy discussions about system-efficiency (administrative burden, referee fatigue, inflation/corruption, results etc.), but also about the tension between governmental demand for national comparison, simple indicators, easy allocation, vs disciplinary demands for flexibility

Interaction.

- Linear model left behind, now key words are iterative, interactive, co-evolution, multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary. Both research and society are dynamic, so is the interaction between the two, so the question is, who is in control of the research process? [independent money in shorter supply]
- The big global problems I referred to above are in need of big global efforts, from both R&S [examples aids, global warming, migration] → finding an alternative evaluation method, difficulty is that there is no steady state, science, politics, society they interact at a ever accelerating pace. Evaluation as a permanent learning and negotiating process [4th generation evaluation]

Productive.

“Knowledge gap”. EU ambition (Lisbon, Barcelona), Productive for the economy, for environment, for health, education, etc. how do we want to evaluate this process? Who do we want to involve? relationship with technology and technology policy often not in the equation.



ERiC's future: What can we agree upon?





ERiC's Future: Learning by doing

