Selecting Innovation:

Project Selection Procedures in Research Funding Agencies

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Research questions

- Comparison of eight national applied research funding agencies in five EU countries
- How are research projects selected in different research funding agencies?
    - Role and function of evaluators
    - Selection principles evaluators, juries/committees
    - Forms of evaluations
    - Portfolio management
    - Differentiation of selection steps
    - Forms of decision-making
    - Learning from experience
- What are current standard practices?
- What are observable trends?

Methods

- Literature research on organisations, processes and persons

- 12 open background conversations

- 11 half standardised interviews

- Validation of research results in three national and international workshops

Variation in Agency Size
Ranking

PTJ	RCN	Tekes	DASTI	PT VDI-TZ	VINNOVA	VDI/VDE-IT	PT TÜV
€ 1,26 Milliard	€ 985 Million	€ 570 Million	€ 566 Million	€ 300 Million	€ 238 Million	€ 83,5 Million	?

Data from Agency, TAFTIE and ERA-WATCH homepages

Variation in Agency Age

Ranking

older   **younger**

PT Jülich   PT VDI-TZ   PT VDI/VDE-IT   Tekes   RCN   PT TÜV   Vinnova   DASTI

Variation in Internal Project Selection Procedures

Ranking

low   high

→

FI   NO   DK   SE   (AT)   DE

Summary: Project Selection Practices

- Clarity of the selection criteria's exact meaning

- Combination of external and internal evaluators

- Concentration on the „mid level" proposals

- Calibration of evaluation results

- Learning from experience

Conclusion: Trends

- Harmonisation of project selection procedures in the organisation

- Utilisation of external evaluators

- Objectivied project selection procedures

- Learning from experience (own and others)