

# 4th Max Weber Programme Academic Careers Observatory Conference

„Openness and Competition in European Research  
Funding: Grants for International Researchers“

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## European research Area: supporting more competition in science

- 5th freedom of ideas, knowledge and researchers in Europe
- the European research system is fragmented (barriers, regulations) and scientific competition is too low

Results in

- Relatively low scientific quality
- Relatively weak innovation performance

EU produces the highest number of doctoral degrees in comparison to the USA and Japan but...

- 100000 in the EU, while 54 000 in the USA and 15000 in Japan (KF 2008, p. 56)
- the number of scientific publications is higher than in the USA but lower in the high-impact publications (p. 64)
- Europe has only a limited number of high class research centres which attract (=> Modernisation of universities)
- Shanghai ranking of universities shows mediocratic position of Europe

# Evolution of the ERA concept towards quality is visible

- European Research Area 2000: Action „More abundant and more mobile human resource“, i.e. number of researchers: young, women, career issues
- 3% objective: R&D investment, availability of human resources for R&D
- The first benchmarking indicators include R&D input like the number of new science and technology PhDs in relation to population (Council) and of researchers (Key Figures 2001) and quantities of output factors like publication, patents
- Green Paper on ERA 2007 and FP7: focus towards quality of scientific research and competition for funds

# Green Paper on ERA 2007 and its 5 Initiatives

- ERA initiatives aim to implement the 5<sup>th</sup> freedom and include:
  - Mobility of researchers: free circulation
  - Joint programming
  - Research infrastructures
  - Sharing knowledge
  - International cooperation

## Barriers to the free circulation and mobility of researchers in Europe

- Modernisation of universities: autonomy, accountability
- portable grants
- single labour market for researchers
- social security, pension rights, private life
- code of conduct

But: it is not DG RTD or research ministers alone who decide on these issues

## How to implement ERA at the EU level?

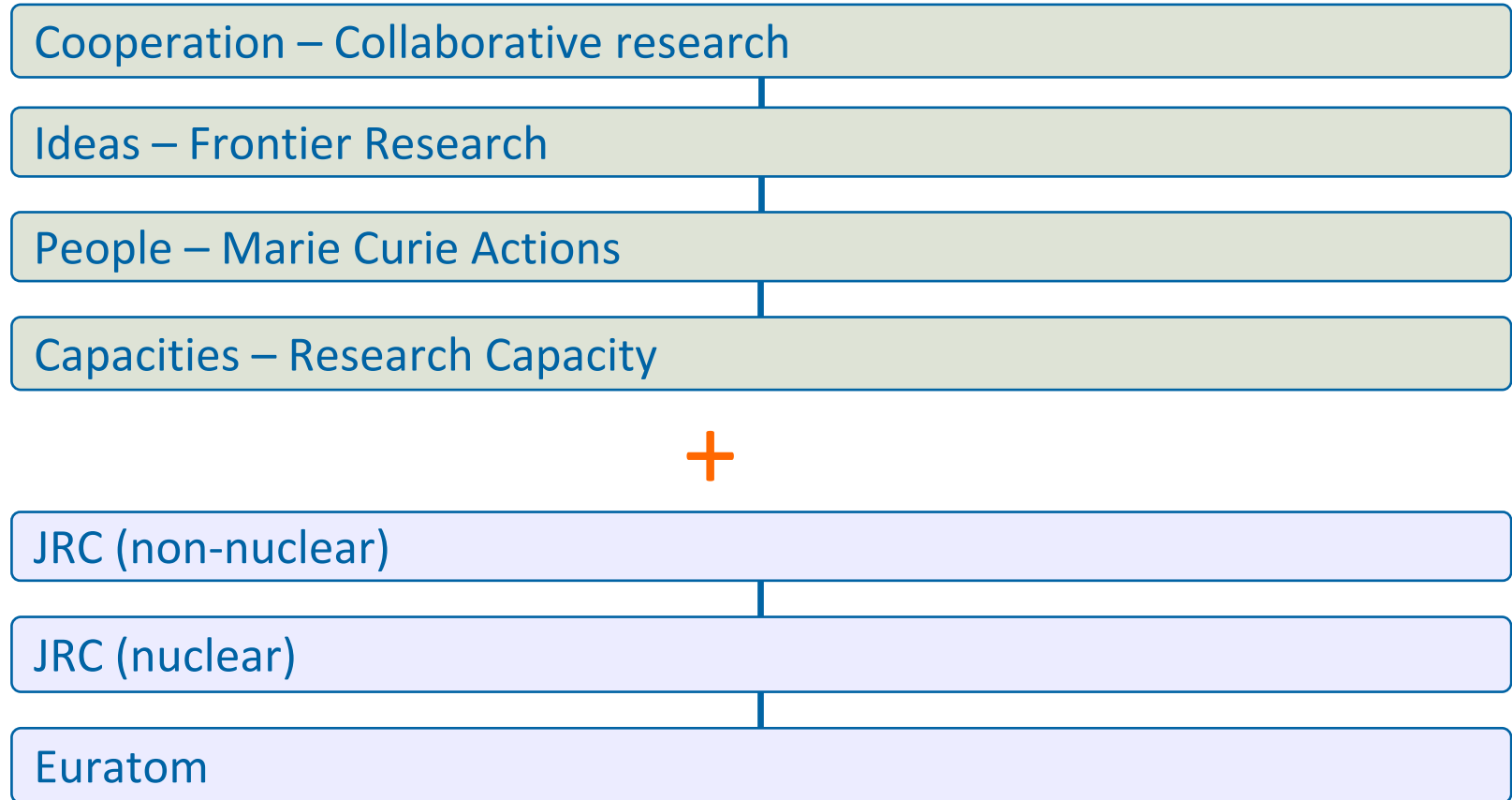
- FP7 is the Community level research policy instrument: financed from the EU budget (ca. 54 bn for 2007 – 2013)
- OMC, CREST, experts, indicators
- 5 ERA Initiatives and New Partnership: includes intergovernmental cooperation, coordination

# Funding of research and Grants: Specific programmes of FP7

- So-called specific Programmes which fund research and grants: Cooperation, ERC, People (Marie Curie) and Capacities
- Orientation towards supporting excellence is visible in ERC but also in the selection criterias of the Cooperation programme
- evaluation: the role of external experts for the evaluation of the Calls
- openness partly included in the Rules of participation (Associated countries, Third countries for example)



# FP7 2007 –2013 | Specific Programmes



Competition for research funding plays a critical role in the making of ERA and in implementing the FP7

- merit based competition for funding
- abandon the national share and fair return discussion
- World class research: how much openness is needed?

## Competition on research funding FP7: Types of Grants for individual researchers

- People programme (4.7 bio): Individual Marie Curie for mobility: Intra-European Fellowships, Host Fellowships for Early Stage Research Training, Incoming international Fellowship, and others
- Ideas programme (7.5 bio): ERC grants (bottom-up, Frontier research)
  - Grants in Open competition for young and established researchers

# Cooperation programme

- Overall budget 32.4 billion Euro): it funds cooperative research projects (various funding schemes, Rules for participation)
- 9 Thematic priorities

# Cooperation – Collaborative Research

## Nine themes

1. Health
  2. Food, agriculture and biotechnology
  3. Information and communication technologies
  4. Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies
  5. Energy
  6. Environment (including climate change)
  7. Transport (including aeronautics)
  8. Socio-economic sciences and the humanities
  9. Security and space
- Euratom: Fusion energy research, nuclear fission and radiation protection



## Theme 8. Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities

Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society

Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective

Major trends in society and their implications

Europe in the world

The citizen in the European Union

Socio-economic and scientific indicators

Foresight activities

# SSH Cooperation programme: Thematic orientation and funding schemes

- Budget 610 mio Euro for 2007 - 2013
- 8 so-called Activities in Social sciences and Humanities, Indicators and Foresight (and dissemination)
- small and medium size, large scale, support actions, thematic ERA nets
- Workprogrammes from 2010 onward: Societal Challenges as thematic orientation

## Scientific Competition in the Cooperation programme is not less strong

- Cooperation programme is not less competitive or lower scientific quality
- SSH Cooperation programme is additionally policy relevant, problem oriented research for European policies
- Quality is guaranteed through adequate selection criteria and procedures and high quality external evaluators
- SSH programme: success rate is around 8% to 11%

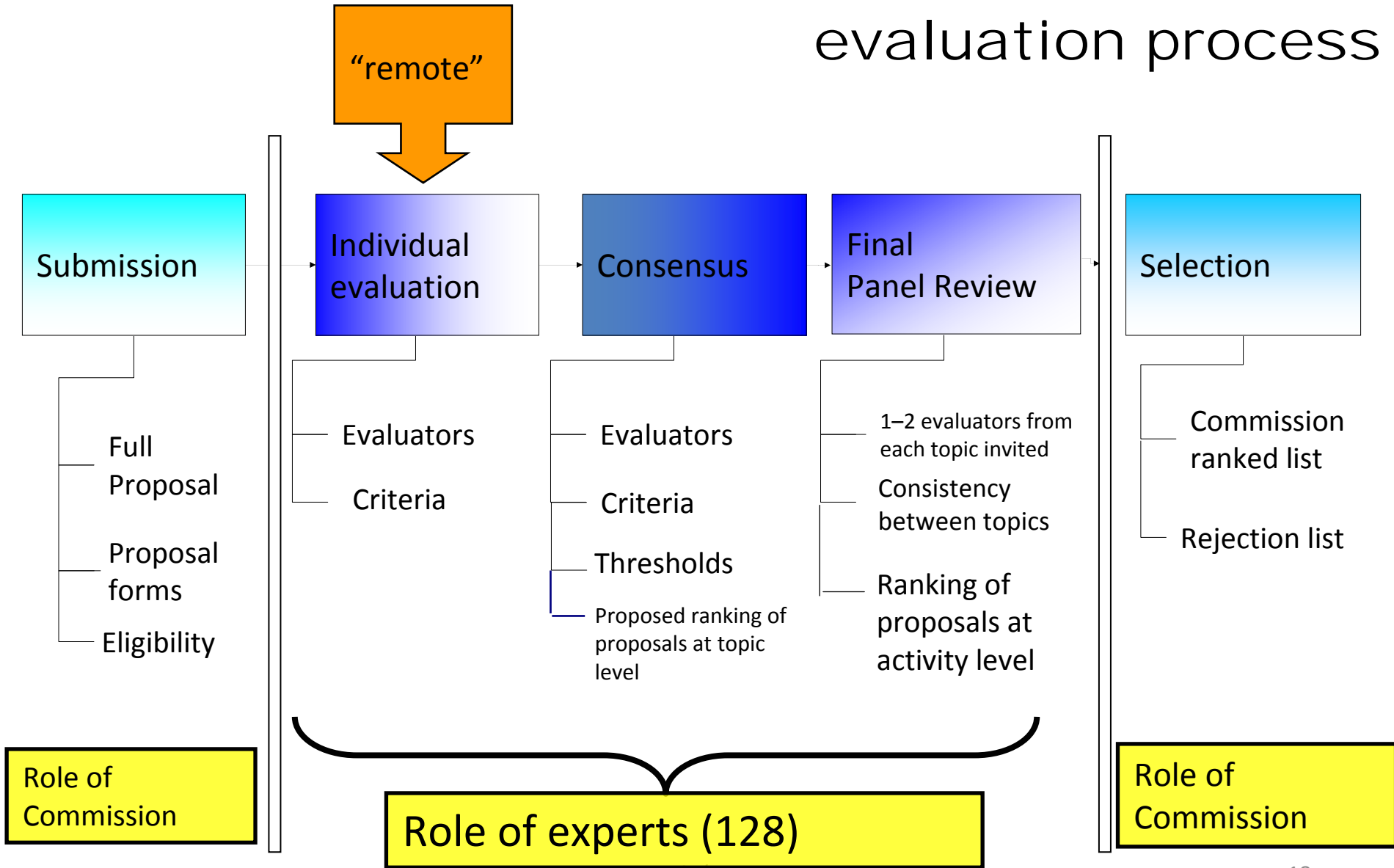


# For example: Proposals submitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadline (2008)

## Main figures

Proposals submitted:	425 (1st d: 595)
Proposals ineligible:	32
Proposals which passed eval:	202
Total participants:	3527
Participants in passed prop.:	1788
Budget available:	42 M€ (1st d: 83.5)
Selection ongoing for 29 proposals + reserve list (1st d: 48 Selected Proposals)	

# Overview of the evaluation process



# A new approach building on Societal Challenges for the EU

- Identification of important Societal Challenges for the EU
- Each of the Challenges addressed by a specific Set of Research actions (*Funding Scheme: Large Scale Integrating Research Project*) (4-5 years duration)

# Useful web-adresses of the SSH Cooperation Programme

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ssh/>

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.html)