



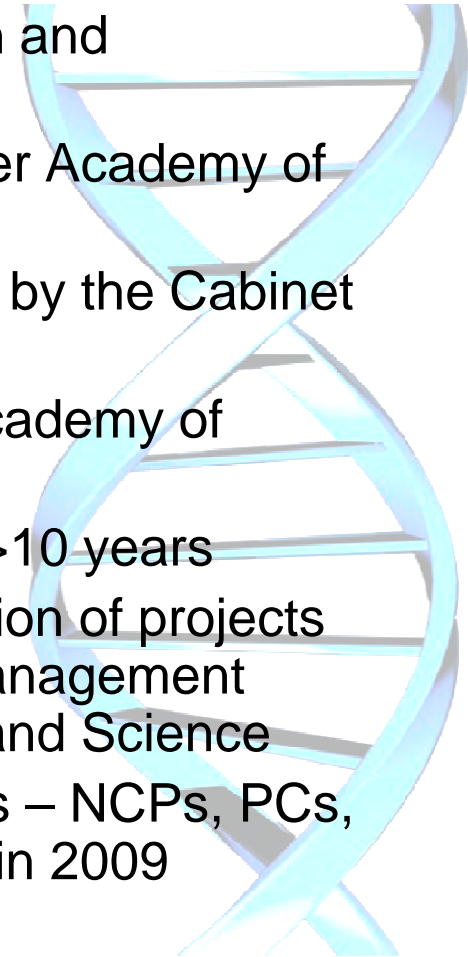
Latvian Council of Science in Capacity Development of Ageing Research

Panel presentation
By Dr. Uldis Berkis
ERA-AGE-2 9th Forum
Bucharest, 28.22.2011

Latvian Council of Science

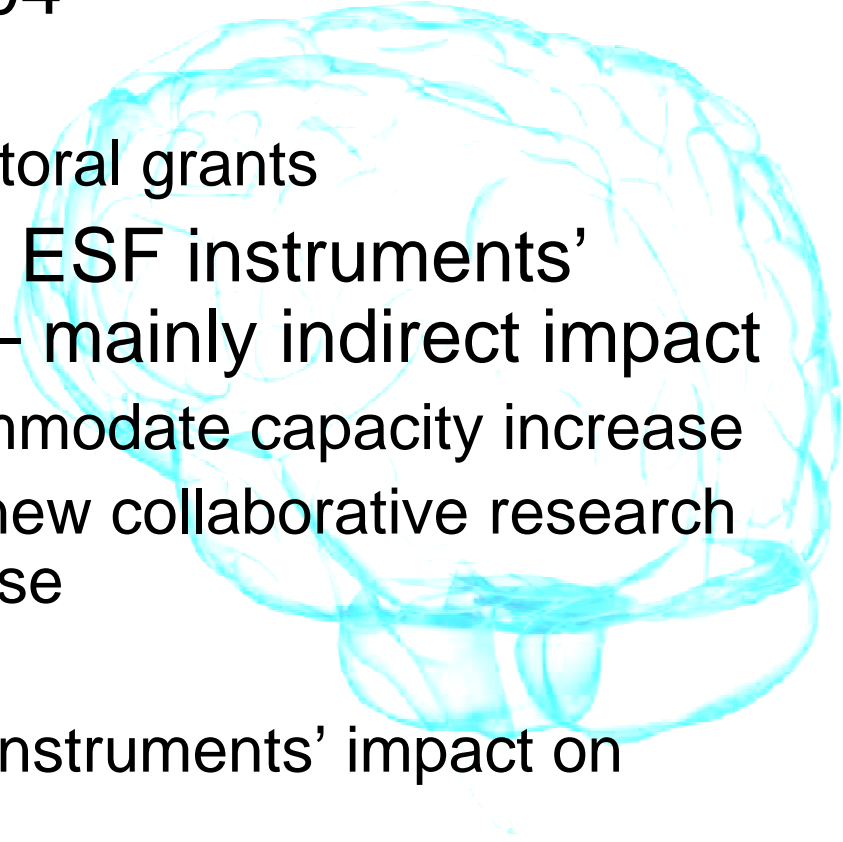
Latvijas Zinātnes Padome

- Established in 1990 as the main policy elaboration and management body in science
- Initially follows the model of the presidium of former Academy of Sciences
- Meta-governmental body, membership appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers
- 22 members representing scientific institutions, Academy of Sciences, major ministries
- Policy elaboration, evaluation, financing body for >10 years
- Since 2009 cover policy development and evaluation of projects and institutions, as financial and administrative management moved to a body within the Ministry of Education and Science
- Since FP7 designated as main hub for all activities – NCPs, PCs, expert groups etc.; functions transferred to MoES in 2009



LCS impact on research capacity

- Direct impact – until 2004
 - Doctoral student grants
 - New scientist = post-doctoral grants
- After EU accession and ESF instruments' domination in the area – mainly indirect impact
 - Evaluation criteria accommodate capacity increase
 - Earmarked part of LCS new collaborative research grants to capacity increase
 - Policy recommendations
 - Review of EU financing instruments' impact on policies



National instruments in promoting research on ageing



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ministrija

Research tier

- LCS project grant programme – evaluation criterion (we are happy to continue for 12 years a large national collaborative grant on ageing)
- National research programmes – performance criterion
- Bilateral programmes (non EU) – evaluation and performance criterion
- Market-oriented research: evaluation criterion, ageing population is an important market
- Joint Calls – ERA-Net, ERA+, 185§ - evaluation criterion

Educational tier

- PhD studies – performance criterion only
- PhD auxiliary grants – performance criterion
- Researcher's training – the activity envisaged 2014 – 2020, outline unfinished, evaluation criterion possible

Structural Fund instruments



ESF

- Large programme for support of PhD studies, central instrument in research support in 2014 – 2020
- Large programme for support of new research groups
- Other relevant programmes suspended due to lack of national co-financing during crisis
- Absorption and progress good, as relatively few limiting conditions, ESF is clearly the best experience for Structural Funds



ERDF

- Operational Programmes designed during boom phase, but must be accomplished during a major global downside
- Permanent co-financing and pre-financing problems in an environment of dysfunctional financing streams and externally governed banking system
- Countless strings attached, most completely out of the context of altered economic and societal background
- Absorption associated with major business risks and risk of rejection of cost declarations

Framework programme in capacity raising

Several instruments designed for capacity development

Specially dedicated
REGPOT activity under
FP7 Capacities

- 1/3 to infrastructure, 2/3 to human/institutional activities
- FP evaluators, coherence with other main programmes
- Abnormal oversubscription because of accumulation of projects
- Low financing, with 3 years having total programme financing below 30 million EUR
- Strong competition from FR, EL
- Not a single project is dedicated to integrated ageing research



FP7 People MCA

- Initial Training networks
- Grant system for career development, even career restart
- LV - better results for scientific areas not under FP7 priorities
- Many ongoing projects in OMS looking for continuation
- Promote brain drain (cf. FP7 interim report), informal criteria
- Generally HR in science have not been a dominating problem in NMS, it's rather a problem in health services sector

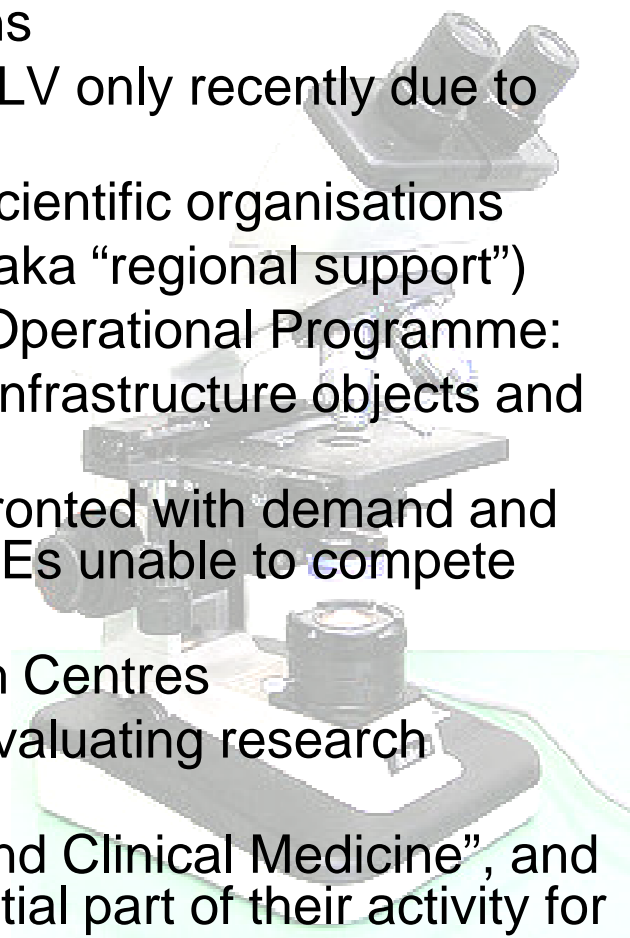


European instruments in capacity raising

- Educational programmes (Erasmus, LdV)
 - Contribution for short/dedicated activities
 - Capabilities in PhD and researcher training limited
- FP7 Cooperation & Ideas
 - In FP6 complete career development as part of projects possible
 - In FP7 small grants for NMS, very limited impact, coordinators do not want to pay for capacity development
 - FP7 Ideas – exaggerated gravitational competition, no projects in LV
 - Concentration and monopolisation of research activities
- Other programmes – particular in their nature
- Large scale central initiatives like EIT- still not operational (Horizon 2020?)
- JPI – SRAs not finished (JPND), no added-value beyond ERA-NETs and ERA-Plus, not suited for small countries

Infrastructure

- Very incremental improvement before EU Accession
- Major part of ERDF financing for innovations
- Programme for the actual period started in LV only recently due to lack of co-financing
- Project management – a large burden on scientific organisations
- Fragmentation problems not manageable (aka “regional support”)
- Part of “Entrepreneurship and Innovation” Operational Programme:
 - Not possible to use for building central infrastructure objects and for concentrating similar institutions
 - Collaboration with private sector – confronted with demand and supply side problems in the market, SMEs unable to compete with large EU companies
- Decision: to create 9 virtual State Research Centres
- LCS – an important role in reviewing and evaluating research strategies for State Research Centres
- State Research centres in “Public Health and Clinical Medicine”, and in “Socioeconomics” have planned substantial part of their activity for ageing research



Perspective

- MFF Cohesion policy Legislative proposal 2014 – 2020 provides a list of priorities (ERDF – 11); research, social inclusion and carbon not negotiable. Active and healthy ageing among themes of ESF
 - Proposal of MEP MG Carvalho: 30% of SF for research infrastructure
 - Limited to infrastructure due to EU regulations (not for projects)
 - Large investment into infrastructure can have negative depriving impact on project financing, which must be diverted for hardware maintenance
 - Lack of infrastructure must be realistically assessed, ESFRI networks can fill many gaps
 - Discrepancies between “regional” and “excellence” not eliminated
- ## LCS activities
- Restoring the national instruments for PhD students and especially for the post-docs, as doctoral studies no more a priority in ESF
 - Strong influence on infrastructure decisions, elimination of deprivation of project and HR-development financing
 - Dialogue with Latvian bodies in the preparation phase of MFF and Horizon 2020

Thank you for the attention!

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