



Making Monitoring and Evaluation of Innovation Programs a Competitiveness Tool

Aris Kaloudis



Policy context and level

- Routine versus prestige evaluations
- Input in decisions about allocation of resources
- Process evaluation /what can we do better?
- Synergies/comparisons between instruments
- Impact evaluations: micro, meso and macro level
- System evaluations (evaluating agencies for example)

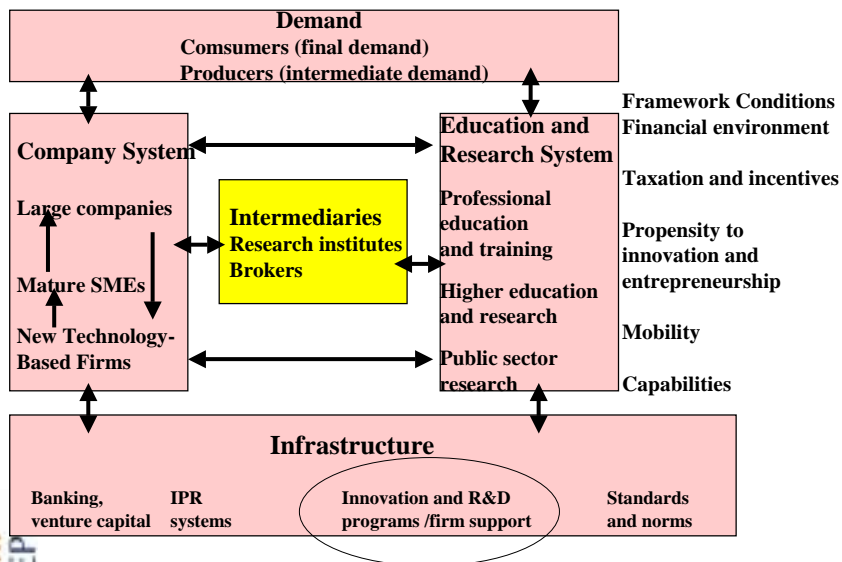


Tensions (depending often on the policy context and level)

- Quality / price
- Evaluator's legitimacy and independence
- Balancing the stakeholders' interests
- Changes in the number and/or the content of evaluation tasks
- Too many tasks and limited resources / Results earlier than agreed
- Methodological flexibility versus control
- Serious methodological shortcomings in all impact and effect studies. The issue of causality.



The Innovation System – Scope and level of evaluations (OECD 2002)



Challenges – Clients

- Holistic innovation policies / In particular the relationship between economic and innovation policies and their impacts
- Systemic approaches /evaluations
- Paying attention to the issue of economic diversity and heterogeneity in the design and evaluation of innovation policy
 - How heterogeneity is shaped and shapes the performance of innovation systems? A fundamental issue
- Evaluation roadmaps:
 - Policy levels
 - Evaluations of a lower level policy scheme/initiative as building stones (inputs) to a broader policy analysis: The issue of aggregation / standardisation of evaluation methodologies? Metaevaluations.
 - Knowledge gaps and direction of evaluation resources
- Training and experimenting with evaluation techniques and methodologies: A new user-oriented research program on evaluation data sources, methodologies and usage?



Challenges for the evaluators

- Understanding the policy context
- Long term evaluation perspective and methodologies. Example: The evaluation of the customer oriented R&D-projects funded by the Research Council of Norway (2, 5 and 10 years after)
- How to perform system evaluations (Example: the evaluation of Norwegian public research institutes)
- Utilising the potential of register data:
 - Tracing mobility
 - Financial data and economic performance
- Utilising the wealth of microfirm CIS-data and R&D surveys



Good evaluation practice in Norway

- Monitoring the impact of the Norwegian tax credit scheme (SkatteFUNN)
- The role of the public research institutes in the Norwegian research system (number of indicators and use of separate evaluations)
- The evaluation of the user-oriented R&D projects
- International peer-review (as well as bibliometric analysis when relevant) of all disciplines
- Use of register data: mobility studies, new entries, business demography, education level, regional innovation systems etc.



NIFU STEP Senter for innovasjonsforskning

