

“Simplification” in the EU Research Framework Programmes

**Legal and financial NCPs
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Objective of the Communication

Our goal for the Communication on simplification is to **provide the Parliament and Council with a series of options/proposals for simplification**, presenting the level of risk related to each of the proposals to be accepted by the legislative and control authorities.

The Communication will also highlight that **reducing complexity requires concrete choices to be made** between competing policy objectives and particular interests.

State of play

- Online consultation: All contributions assessed, suggestions will be integrated into the Communication
- Consultation within DG RTD and with the other research DGs and BUDG ongoing



Consultation on the simplification of the implementation of the EU Research Framework Programmes

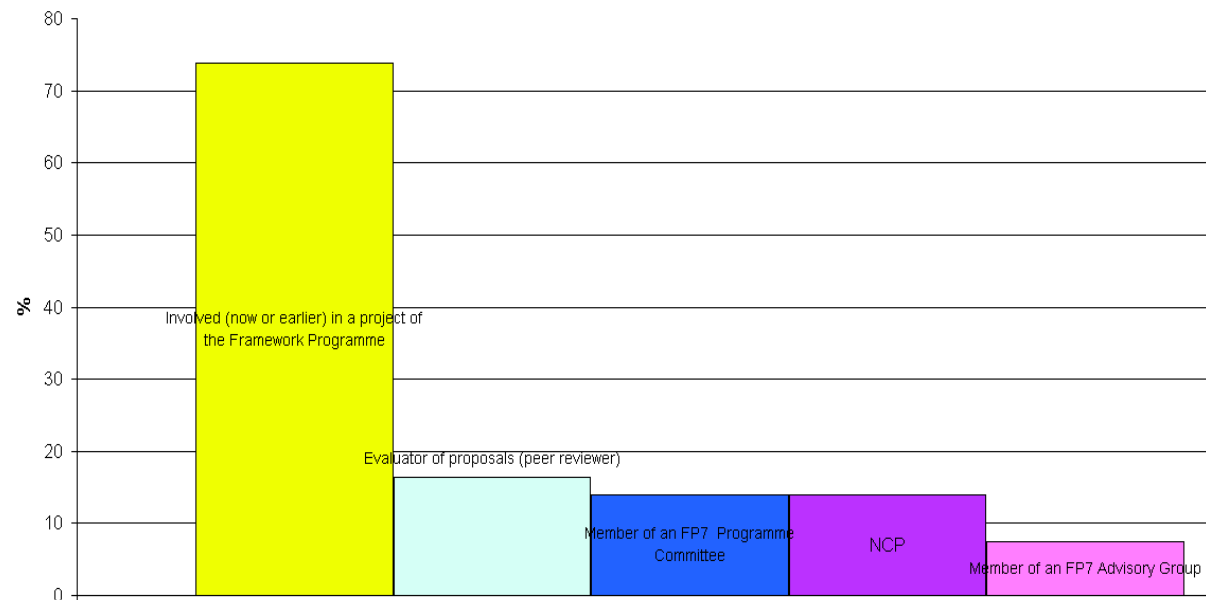
- Stakeholder consultation between July and September 2009 to collect ideas and suggestions
- To raise awareness an e-mailing was sent to specific target groups - about 3000 contacts
- 294 online contributions, many of them consolidated views of research organisations, ministries...; plus about 20 ad-hoc contributions afterwards

Profile of the respondents

294 unique online contributions were received; many of them consolidated institutional views from research bodies and other organisation.

Implication in the Framework Programme

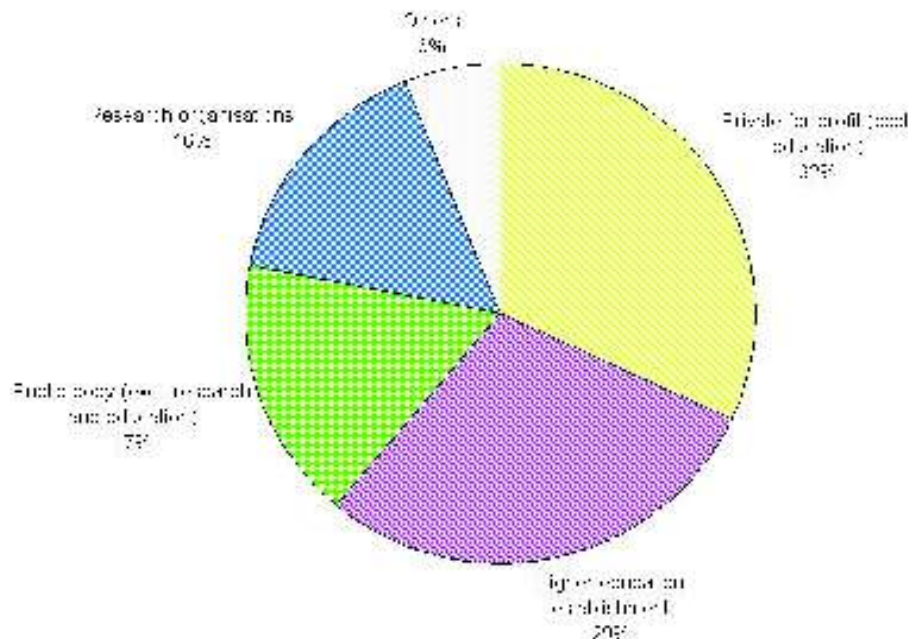
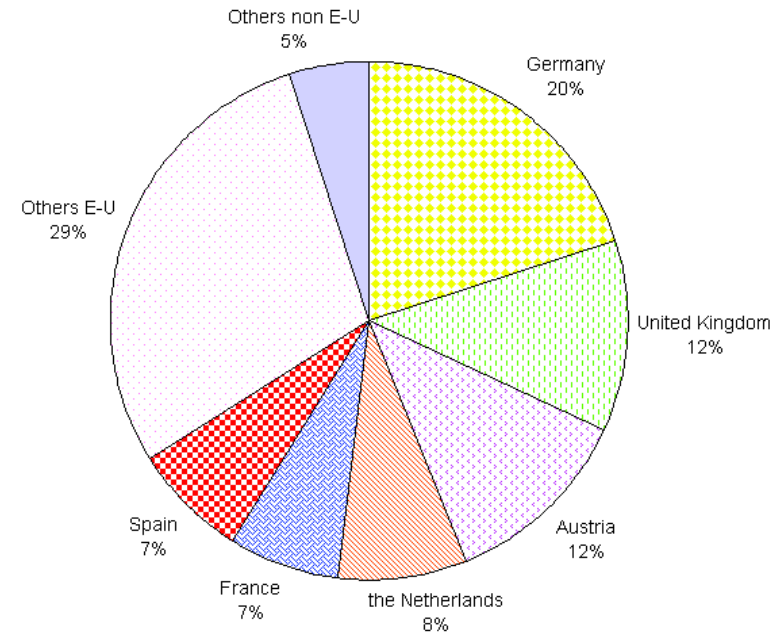
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of the respondents are or have been involved in a project of the Framework Programme;
- $\frac{1}{6}$ are evaluators of proposals (peer reviewer);
- $\frac{1}{7}$ are members of an FP7 Programme Committee;
- $\frac{1}{7}$ are NCPs;
- And 7% are members of an FP7 Advisory Group.



Profile of the respondents

Countries

- All member States are represented.
- 2/3 of the online responses come from Germany (representing one respondent of five), the United Kingdom, Austria, the Netherlands, France and Spain;
- 29% are coming from the other EU member states; 5% from third countries



Categories

- Commercial organisations: 32%
- Universities: 29%

Main outcomes

Recurring themes have been identified along the FP7 “life-cycle”.

Two types of suggestions can be distinguished:

- The structural ones, which involve changes in the legal basis, calling for the implication of the legislator (Council and Parliament);
- The practical ones, which the Commission can implement under the current legal framework.

Three major themes

- Simplification of the Framework Programme structure and of the corresponding administrative and financial rules: optimisation of the portfolios, harmonization of the rules and procedures across all mechanisms, simplification of the financial accountability requirements
- Improved access to the programme and user support
- Tackling the timing issue: faster execution and optimised timing of deadlines

Next steps

- Organisation by the Spanish Presidency (date to be confirmed) of an informal workshop on the simplification before the inter service consultation
 - Inter service consultation in March 2010
 - Adoption of the Communication in April/May 2010
 - In parallel, the Commission will present a Communication on the tolerable risk of error in the area of research, and a proposal on the triennial revision of the Financial Regulation, which are essential components of the simplification exercise.
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- First discussion with the Council in May under the Spanish Presidency