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EFP Policy Workshops

Activities, results and experiences so far

EFP Review Meeting
11 May 2011, Seville



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Objectives of EFP Policy Workshops

- Transfer of knowledge collected in Mapping and network to policy users
- Organising 4 to 5 pairs of national and European workshops focus on major policy issues or challenges in Europe
- Synthesize findings from workshops in 4 to 5 policy briefings

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Activities so far

- Workshop format and template developed
- Preparation and organisation of European workshop on Active and Healthy Ageing: 30 January 2011, Brussels
 - aimed to provide support to Europe's Innovation Union strategy by tackling the challenge of 'Active and Healthy Ageing' within the pilot European Innovation Partnership (pEIP)
 - Background paper prepared
 - Workshop organised and moderated: 21 participants, format: strategy assessment and policymaking workshop, with the objective to find best strategies to deal with a certain issue
 - Results of workshop included in background paper
 - Policy briefing prepared

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Activities - continued

- Preparation of national policy workshop “Technology and Services in the Wake of Demographic Change” : 30 March 2011, Berlin
 - Aimed at contributing to the accentuation of questions for research on services in the context of aging and assistive technologies
 - Background paper prepared (in German)
 - Organisation and moderation of the workshop: World Cafe Format, 38 participants
 - Synthesis of results included in background paper and policy brief (in English)

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Activities - continued

- Preparation of European workshop on Urban Europe 2050, 28 April 2011, Brussels
- *Aimed to provide support to the Joint Programming Initiative – Urban Europe (JPI-UE) in preparing a foresight activity*
- *To map and analyse existing foresight activities, helping to identify topics of strategic interest for the JPI and Member States that should be addressed in an UE-Foresight*
- Background paper prepared
- Workshop organisation and moderation, 25 participants
- Synthesis of results to be included in background paper and policy brief

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Some observations

- Three workshops so far had mixed objectives and each workshop provided useful insights for participants and target groups
- *But:*
 - Both policy-makers and experts find it difficult to focus on results at a manageable level; results so far do not give clear guidance for policy-makers
 - The objectives need to be clearer and questions and challenges should be formulated with more precision to enable more focussed discussions
 - Target group for results are policy makers, but are they also main target group for the workshop? What is the role of other experts participating? Does everyone understand its role? What is the right mix of participants?



Some observations continued

- What do policy makers want to learn from these workshops?: insights in challenges or issues, finding solutions, assessment of solutions, or?
- Should participants be involved more in the preparations?
- Participants could be triggered with specific questions to prepare for
- The debate started within the workshop can be continued afterwards, online, quick feedback with presentations and summary.
- Selected themes so far are very broad, maybe better to focus more? How to decide on selection of themes for the workshop?
- Would the objectives benefit from more creative or challenging workshop formats?