

Intellectual capital in the knowledge economy

IC4

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## **Session 2: National Agendas**

**National Innovation System of France  
(NIS-F):**

**Evaluation and Agenda for Reforms**

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# Presentation

1. Evaluation of the NIS-F
2. Recent dynamics and the new institutional set-up
3. The Agenda for Reform
4. Foresight & Evaluation Policies for Priority Setting

Conclusion

# 1. Evaluation of the NIS-F (1)

## NOTE : Characterisation a NIS by its Functions:

(1) Orientation, (2) Intermediary, (3) Research

- After WW2: catch up through large non-U mission-oriented RD Institutes ('Organismes') including for basic research
- Those institutes integrate vertically all 3 functions: **Functionally Integrated** model of NIS

# 1. Evaluation of the NIS-F (2)

- Historically successful model
- Central in the shaping of French international standing and industrial HT specialisation

BUT, in this model, problems regarding :

- “Strategy of vertical sectors of NIS-F” rather than “Strategy of NIS-F”

## 2. Recent dynamics and the new institutional set-up (1)

For the past years:

- Reports, reviews, indicators, foresights, rankings pointing at loss of performance
- Plus: researchers movement
- Diagnostic: inadequacy of the NIS-F model to the XXIst Century challenges
- Underfunding in some parts recognised
- Research high on the political agenda as part of the “State modernisation” move

## 2. Recent dynamics and the new institutional set-up (2)

New set-up:

- LOLF : programme – performance budgeting process (start 2007 budget)
- Law on Research April 2006:
  - (a) the basis for a new NIS-F model
  - (b) a mission for strategic orientation and foresight given to the MESR
- Law on Universities August 2007: towards strategically autonomous universities

## 3. The Agenda for Reform (1)

### Dimension A. Architecture of the NIS-F

- Towards a '**separated functions model**' for the NIS-F (specific institutions for each function)
- Orientation: New role for MESR, HCST, LOLF
- Intermediary: National Agency for Research (ANR)
- Research : new instruments for Research Institutions (for partnerships, management, financing, new governance)
- New Evaluation institution (AERES)

Strategic Orientation 1: complete and implement the new architecture of the NIS-F

## 3. The Agenda for Reform (2)

### Dimension B. Basic choices for the Research and Innovation Policy ('Policy Mix')

- Resources allocation more on performance than ex-ante / negotiated repartition criteria
- Funding more on project logic than block grants
- Importance of neutral instruments (RD tax relief)
- Focus on HE-R-I clusters (sites, poles)

Strategic Orientation 2: implement new Policy Mix



## 3. The Agenda for Reform (3)

### Dimension C. Horizontal – Generic priorities

- Quality and performance of universities
- Attractiveness for research careers, Human Resources Management
- Intensification - professionalisation of Public – Private Research interactions
- Incentives for industrial RD
- “Science for society”
- Pro-active role in the building of ERA (French Presidency)

### Strategic Orientation 3: implement the new Generic priorities

## 3. The Agenda for Reform (4)

### Dimension D. Sectoral priorities

#### ▶ **Societal challenges**

Climate change, Energy,

Sustainable development ('Grenelle' process)

Ageing (neurosciences...)

Digital society

#### ▶ **Strategic / Security issues**

Energy, Space, Food, new diseases, privacy, EU independence, new threats...)

### Strategic Orientation 4: implement the new Sectoral priorities

## 4. Foresight & Evaluation Policies for Priority Setting

- Step 1: elaboration – foresight / validation
- Step 2: implementation (budget, institutional contracts)
- Step 3: monitoring, evaluation, feed-back

A process : the Sectoral Concertation Groups (GCS)

A set of documents : the “National Reference Documents”  
(DRN)

An instrument: the Foresight and Strategy Platform

# Conclusion

- Question mark on Step 3: monitoring, evaluation, feed-back
- More generally: Strategic Orientations in the French Research – Innovation System (NIS-F) are on their way, but much remains to be done
- Seminars like this one important for us in this respect
  - **Thank you for your attention !**