

Economic and Social Research Council




# Norface Conference

18 September 2009

Glyn Davies, Director of International Affairs, ESRC




# From Individual Agency to European Collaboration


A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several stacked rectangular segments in various colors: orange, yellow, light green, light blue, dark blue, and a thin grey segment at the bottom.

Where ESRC (UK) was and what it has gained –  
both within and from the experience of Norface


## Pre-2003

- 
- A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light blue, and dark blue.
- Researcher to researcher collaboration
  - The Framework Programmes: FP4 and incorporating the social sciences
  - Promoting participation in FPs 5 and 6
  - Working with other agencies (within and outside Europe)
  - The European Science Foundation


# From 7 to 12

- 
- ❑ First years of Nordic plus North Atlantic
  - ❑ Learning we can learn from each other
  - ❑ Common concerns (peer review, evaluation, take-up and utility)
  - ❑ The widening of Europe and new Accession States
  - ❑ Countries with research agencies and those without
  - ❑ Commission-led vs. Agency to Agency


# The Norface Programmes

- 
- A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light green, light blue, and dark blue.
- Learning from the Pilot on Religion
  - Directed mode vs. open competitions
  - Size of grants
  - Can we really operate a “common pot”
  - Choosing topics
  - What we require and how we do peer review

# Bilateral agreements

- 
- A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light green, light blue, and dark blue.
- ❑ Building on Norface
  - ❑ Different cultures, objectives and procedures
  - ❑ Removing barriers to collaborative funding: putting the researchers first
  - ❑ Bilateral partners in and beyond Norface


# ICAP and Lead Agency

- 
- A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light green, light blue, and dark blue.
- Setting Understandings about Common Standards and Procedures
  - Common operative criteria
  - One decision making body – lead agency or common panels
  - Who leads whom?
  - Can we really remove the barriers?


# Towards a European Grant Union

- 
- A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light green, light blue, and dark blue.
- ❑ Problems of “Openness” of National Systems
  - ❑ ESRC Overseas Co-Investigator Scheme
  - ❑ The ECRP (European Collaborative Research Projects)
  - ❑ Open Research Areas
  - ❑ The European Research Council
  - ❑ Joint Programming
  - ❑ Money, money, money .....

# Other developments within Europe – Informal advantages

- 
- A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light green, light blue, and dark blue.
- Infrastructure and ESFRI
  - Common Data Sources
  - Measuring Outputs on a Common Basis
  - Research Ethics as an European issue

# The World Beyond Europe

- 
- A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light green, light blue, and dark blue.
- ❑ Developing social science globally – a challenge still to be addressed
  - ❑ Europe and North America
  - ❑ Europe and the new Tigers
  - ❑ Europe, Norface, or “Variable Geometry”
  - ❑ Building Common Programmes

# Norface .....

- ❑ The window was ajar but Norface helped push it wide open
- ❑ It started the key stage, but more remains to be done
- ❑ Has to adapt to new European and global developments (the world has changed in 5 years)
- ❑ Still a role to be played between Europe as a whole and bilateral relations

