



Role and contribution of researchers to economic development

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Tashkent, 28-29 April 2008
EPIN TRAINING WORKSHOP



WHY EPIN?

- Economic and social developments are needed in the CIS region
- Good governance follows EVIDENCE-BASED (data, appropriate methods, literature, international experiences, best practices) POLICY ADVICE and builds governmental strategies on scientifically reliable results.
- For this, it is necessary to strengthen and support local research capacity, that can provide this evidence, scientifically reliable output and policy advice.
- But there are several ways to intervene this process...



The process leading to policy

- Theory, base research
- Empirical research, normative research
- Policy thinking – problem analysis
- Policy advice, prescriptive, positive research



Different points of the process from theory to practice

Classical academic research within an academy institute

„Typical” features:

- long-term projects with senior project leaders (may go together with a strong hierarchy)
- direct state funding or grant-type research projects (may result in lack of independence)
- you have time to carry out long research and modelling exercises, even if no direct policy outcome. Focus on theory, new findings
- Strong incentives to scientific publication, working papers, peer reviewed articles in journals

Classical examples: Academies of most countries



Different points of the process from theory to practice

Research institute within universities, university department

„Typical” features:

- In US and WEurope, the linkage between research and education is stronger than in EEurope and CIS (EERC could tell you more details...)
- Similar to academies in many aspects: direct state funding or grant-type research projects (may result in lack of independence)
- There may be a choice over the type of research projects: not only classical academic but policy oriented works
- Strong incentives on teaching, lecturing
- Good supply of junior researchers!

Classical examples: University Departments

Sometimes these Departments or Research Centres may gain further independence and focus even more on research (not only on lecturing): examples are Charles University - Institute of Economic Studies or London School of Economics



Different points of the process from theory to practice

Policy think tank

„Typical” features:

- Policy-oriented research and output (not the theory is important but what does it mean for governance?)
- Strong independence (from what? In Europe: from the Govt. In US: often it means independence from business lobby!)
- You have a short time to react (you must HAVE the scientific economic knowledge already on certain topics, and you must be able to write quite fast a policy opinion. Of course not all policy issues are immediate, in certain questions there is time to elaborate)
- Publications: policy briefs, policy papers, policy opinions, policy advice (we'll talk about these later on in more details)

Classical examples: Peterson Institute, US (private, one-person funded), Lithuanian Free Market Institute (funded by a broad circle, association of business enterprises)



Different points of the process from theory to practice

Economic consultancy services

„Typical” features:

- Focuses on policy output, strategy papers
- Not only classical economic knowledge is needed but often organisational management, process re-engineering, programming of state actions and strategies, etc.
- Strong dependence on domestic projects from the government in this case there is usually a relatively short time to react, to prepare the research (some months)
- Some may excel and provide consultancy on the international level: EU, OECD, UN, etc
- No incentives for scientific publication, project-focus

Classical examples: KMPG/Deloitte/etc, specialised ones: empirica, RAND



Different points of the process from theory to practice

Economic research within the public administration

„Typical” features:

- Being part of the administration makes independence impossible (and may go together with a strong hierarchy)
- Your research work **MUST** have a direct policy outcome, or, even more pragmatic, you have to prepare a strategy
- You do not publish scientifically but there are various types of output you prepare and these have a high value if well-done: White Papers, Strategies, Action Plans, etc.
- In the EU there is a detailed methodology for strategies, and it is very interesting from the scientific point of view. Background analysis, analysis and selection of indicators*, long-term planning, formation of actions, budgeting and operational design of governmental programs – all very useful knowledge!



Different points of the process from theory to practice

Research institutes with a mixed profile

„Typical” features:

- Usually relatively independent
- Long term projects mix with short term ones, part of the work is academic type but most is operative project-driven (needs practical results, applied research output)
- Mixed sources of funding: domestic, governmental projects, international tenders and grants, business clients
- Being project-based makes life harder... than having a fix standard revenue source
- From the organisational point of view: hard to make all ends meet
- Important to publish and disseminate

Classical examples: probably many of us- ICEGEC definitively



WHY is it important to see these different types?

- You make your own choice: where to enter the economic evidence delivery process. You also may see more clearly what the tasks are at the different stages.
- Different types of institutes have different needs and motifs.
In order to run EPIN successfully, we have to see what is important for the members.
 - Do they want to be part of international projects? Or domestic strategy building is priority?
 - Do they have to face daily financial issues because of being project-funded or they have a standard source of revenue?
 - Do they prefer academic publications, articles? Or would it be more interesting to create joint products, based on applied research, that we can sell to clients?

Please say some words about your institute and let us see what are the main priorities for you institute. We do not ask for business secrets! :-)



Thank you for your cooperation!