
COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY: SOME FINDINGS

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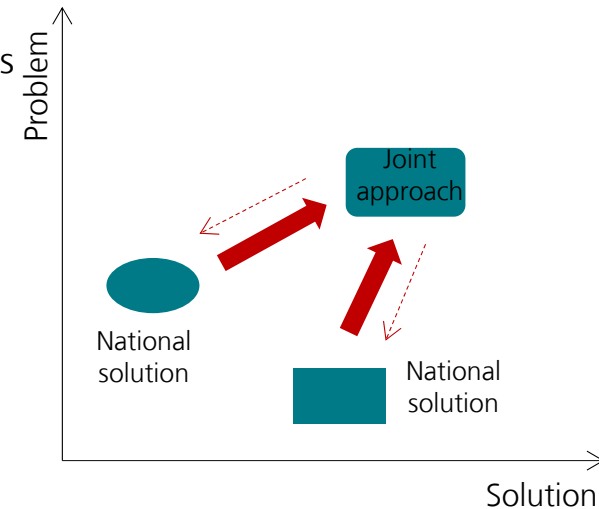
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French-German R+I Collaboration: Some Statements

Why international cooperation in research?

- Access to broader knowledge base, complementary competencies
- Bundling of resources (human, financial, infrastructure)
- Advancing science and technology, scientific reputation
- Enhanced visibility and reputation, qualification
- Access to divergent research paradigms, “thinking out of the box”
- Competitive advantages through knowledge of national backgrounds
- Application-oriented research: tends to be nationally oriented (client-specific)



Rationale of French-German research cooperation

- Most important commercial partners, excellent research organisations
- Strong political will to cooperate, Elysée Treaty 1963: Policy coordination in certain areas
- But: divergent innovation policy traditions, research and innovation systems

French-German R+I Collaboration: Some Statements

Large spectrum of transnational research cooperation activities

- Exchange of individual researchers
- Joint research projects
- Opening of national research programmes
- Joint research programmes
- Joint research groups (long-term cooperation; strategic alliances)
- Joint institutes

Learning effects on different levels



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Challenges, learning effects and success factors on different levels

- Individual and team level
 - Experience in bilateral project management
 - Working cultures and communication
 - Access to competence, knowledge, infrastructure
- Organisational level
 - Internationalisation
 - Experience in intercultural administration and project management
 - Scientific success, excellence, access to networks and markets
- Policy level
 - Framework conditions as base for stable long-term partnerships
 - Intercultural/ international programme management
 - Broader spectrum of research results for science, industry, society

=> „Win-win-win situation“

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Conclusion

- Bilateral research and innovation projects are 'different'
- Working in bilateral and international contexts is more than „crossing borders“
- Intercultural setting: challenge and opportunity at the same time
- Considering some key aspects right from the beginning may strongly support collaboration (leverage effect)
 - Awareness of intercultural context with (possibly) diverging working and communicating modes
 - Common understanding of IPR aspects (esp. market-oriented research)
 - Effective project management and communication channels
 - Stability of partner structure ('key persons'), supportive organisational context
 - Strategy development for collaboration
- Necessary : strong will, stability and continuity, promotion (funding, label, incentive,...)

=> Differences between cooperation partners should be made explicit and used as opportunity for achieving synergies and for successful research