

futureearth
research for global sustainability

REPORT FROM GROUP F

How could Future Earth be implemented in Europe?

Points brought up in breakout group F, Q1-Q3 combined, **Part A**

- Loose notion of **existing infrastructures**, soft versus hard infrastructure, no common understanding (ESF existence); missing links/coordination to address Future Earth issues
- **National Committees** for Future Earth:
 - Diversity: some countries no infrastructures at all, establish **learning platform** for countries
 - **Legitimacy and representativity**: natural and social sciences, strong focus on climate science, co-design criteria have to be taken seriously from outset
- National funding infrastructure: **thematic programs** are necessary to allow for transdisciplinary research, few positive examples e.g., Netherlands
- Too early for establishment of **regional structures** of Future Earth

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Points brought up in breakout group F, Q1-Q3 combined, **Part B**

- **Gap to fill** between overarching structure of Future Earth and national programmes/committees: bottom-up versus top-down approach: guiding activities, strategic thinking are needed, individual initiatives also important
- Funding: **Belmont Forum** as one example,
 - European branch of Belmont Forum needed ?;
 - problems with current functioning of Belmont Forum (subsidiarity rule), national representation needed because better access of national institutions/individuals

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Points brought up in breakout group F, Q1-Q3 combined, **Part C**

Existing activities to develop further

- **Observation networks** in natural sciences to build on (GEOSS, WMO): social sciences data bases to be established in the framework of Future Earth, some existing natural/social science platforms already (LTER, LTSER, Global Land Project)
- **Climate service centers** for integration and provisioning of data, interaction with stakeholders, to be paralleled in other research areas, linking of national efforts needed
- **Education:** Extended **summer schools** (such as IIASA summer school, YES, ProClim), **PhD symposia** (e.g. marine science PhD symposium), internet platform on **job/internship openings**, many transdisciplinary **Master's programmes**, Future Earth online platform needed with overarching information for students

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Existing activities to develop further

- **Scientific communication/Interaction with stakeholders:**

- For assessments make use of existing efforts such as IPCC, IPBES, other areas such as transport, air quality...;
- identify skilled spokes persons/professional communicators under Future Earth; coordinate chief scientists of national governments?
- prepare material to communicate about Future Earth at the national level;
- use language understood across disciplines