

Ethical debates in France

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- Münster, 08/10/09

French **approach** to quality and ethics

Cases of ethical dilemmas

Lessons learnt

A twenty year long process

The French evaluation 'charter'

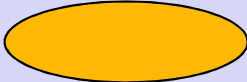
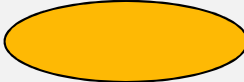
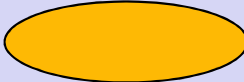




- Council of Evaluation (91)
- French Evaluation Society (99)
- Working Group on Quality Standards and Ethics (00)
- 'Charter' of programme evaluation (04, 06, 11)

Threefold foundation

- Quality
- Fundamental rights
- Public interest

Ethics

Quality and ethics

<i>Seven principles</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Public interest</i>	<i>Fund. rights</i>
Competence			
Distance			
Responsibility			
Opportunity			
Transparency			
Pluralism			
Respect of persons			

SFE's ethical debates

Meetings in regional clubs (*since 2004*)

- Ethically challenging case (5')
- Comments by experienced professionals (5 -15')
- Discussion with participants (15'-30')

Web based forum (*start 2010*)

An approach among others

	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Debate</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Visibility</i>
SFE	many	live	Professionals & members	Website
AEA	many	text	Professionals	Journal
UKES	one	live	Members	?

1 - Respect of persons

Challenge

- The evaluator uncovers a severe misbehaviour
- Confidentiality vs protection of victims

Options

1. Do not mention since it is exceptional
2. Mention and anonymise
3. Inform the police

2 - Transparency

Challenge

- The minister distorts the findings of an unpublished report in a press release
- Transparency vs internal evaluator's safety

Options

1. Resign
2. Release correct information to journalists

3 - Opportunity

Challenge

- The evaluation is compulsory and will certainly be useless
- Public interest vs regularity

Options

1. Do a light low-profile evaluation
2. Breach the rule and postpone the evaluation

4 - Pluralism

Challenge

- The mandate does not provide for stakeholder involvement
- Public interest vs administrative authority

Options

1. Call the exercise a “study” and not an “evaluation”
2. Consult stakeholders informally

5 – Pluralism (again)

Challenge

- A lobby participates in the evaluation and undermines the process
- Legitimate vs illegitimate interests

Options

1. Neglect the lobby's interests
2. Have stakeholders' interests voiced by someone else

About ethical dilemmas

Public interest is most often at stake

- Rather than fundamental rights

Stakes may be high

- Bringing someone to the court
- Loosing one's job
- Not being paid for the job

Principles do not speak by themselves

About ethical debates

A feasible approach

- Many volunteers
- Limited work
- Wait a few years for ‘cooling’ the case
- Debates are lively

A useful approach

- Promoting ethical behaviour
- Teaching
- Reflecting upon principles

Types of ethical dilemmas

Public interest is most often at stake

- Rather than fundamental rights

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Principles do not speak by themselves