



**DISSEMINATION EVENT**  
**Mutual Learning Exercise on**  
**Evaluation of Business R&D Grant Schemes**  
**Brussels, 19 September 2018**

***German Learning Experiences***

Dr. Jan Wessels

---

## Motivation for joining the MLE

---

- The ongoing professionalization process of evaluation structures and processes within the Federal Ministry for Education and Research can be supported by looking for good practice and experiences in other countries. Policy learning is supported by exchange formats such as the MLE.
- A network of international experts may be useful to give input to further discussions within the German government on evaluation strategies and practices

## Important lessons during three MLE workshops I

---

- The differentiation between high-growth firms and firms with high-growth episodes (London workshop) might be useful for similar studies on young companies in Germany. Up to now, the focus is primarily on fast growing enterprises.
- Examples of What Works Centers (London workshop) for the diffusion of lessons learned from evaluations: A comparable hub / multiplier for evidence on “good innovation policy” would be a possibly interesting approach for German evaluation practice.

## Important lessons during three MLE workshops II

---

- The holistic approach of Innovation Norway giving access to all available data on a dashboard and follow the “innovation journey” of a company through different support schemes (Oslo workshop) may be interesting for the German evaluation context. With several (competing) funding agencies offering a broad and complex landscape of funding schemes, it is a particular challenge to differentiate the effects of several funding schemes a company may have used.

## Dissemination

---

- Amongst others presentation of good practice examples and different evaluation cultures in Europe in an internal workshop of BMBF with about 30 participants (April 2018).
- Individual use of specific good practice examples for actual evaluation processes

## Policy Change influenced or inspired by MLE

---

- Definition of more standardized indicators as a basis of comparative approaches and quality assurance
- Guidelines for structuring the design phase of new funding schemes to better prepare evaluations (precise definition of goals and indicators, logic charts, evaluation plans)
- Participation has strengthened the motivation to consider horizontal evaluation approaches looking at more than one single support scheme. Such approaches can help identify complementary effects of different interventions.