

ELF Workshop: Best practise on quantifying results

Stockholm, 15 June 2018, 10:00 – 13:30

Short report by Andreas Bergström, Deputy Director, Fores

Participants at the workshop:

Christofer Berg	Centerpartiet
Andreas Bergström	Fores
Torben Bundgaard Vad	Damvad
Jeroen Dobber	ELF
Dieter Feierabend	NEOS labs
Mattias Goldmann	Fores
Susanne Hartig	ELF
Johannes Issmer	FNF
Linus Olofsson	Studieförbundet Vuxenskolan
Iztok Štefanič	Zavod14
Jonas Öhlin	Damvad

We gathered for a discussion on how to best measure success for think-tanks. The workshop was part of the project with the same name, aiming to produce a report on best practises, to be distributed to ELF members and other organisations that have taken part in the work. The report will be written based on the workshop discussions and the background report that was sent to the participants and will be presented at the ELF autumn general assembly. The participants represented four ELF member organisations, the ELF secretariat, two of Fores' founding organisations and the consultancy Damvad, that had written parts of the background report for the workshop.

Susanne Hartig, ELF, welcomed everyone and briefly presented the thoughts so far from the board and secretariat on key performance indicators, as presented at the spring general assembly. Torben Bundgaard Vad from Damvad presented his part of the background report, summarizing experiences from working with several think tanks on measurements. Andreas Bergström, Fores, presented parts of the rest of the background report, with some findings from the questionnaire and in-depth interviews with ELF member organisations and other think tanks.

In workshop session one, we discussed the purpose of measuring. One conclusion was that given the diversity of ELF member organisations, we can't expect the final report in the project to be an instruction for measuring, rather an inspiration guide. Another was that the wanted impact of a think tank can be changes in society that happen over decades, and therefore cannot be easily measured.

In workshop session two, we discussed more details of what should be included in the final report. One conclusion was that it is important that the member organisations feel that they learn something from this process, it cannot be something you do for the sake of the ELF secretariat. Another is that it can probably be fruitful to divide projects into a few categories, with different guidelines for measuring.