



Expert Evaluators for FP7

Participant: Dr. Prue Williams
Project Title: FP6/FP7 Expert Evaluator
URL: <https://cordis.europa.eu/emmfp7/>
Research Area: Food quality and safety, individual project reviews and IRSES
Research Programme: FP6 and FP7
Funding: €450 honorarium per day for travel and subsistence

*I have enjoyed being an evaluator. It has been interesting to read the proposals, attend the meetings in Brussels and to meet new people. The European research effort is very large compared with New Zealand and this is a good way to find out more about who is doing what. Becoming an **FP7 evaluator** can provide participants with an enhanced understanding of the mechanisms of the Framework Programmes and insight into current research being undertaken in Europe. Selected for their expertise and experience, a Framework Programme evaluator will also have the opportunity to network with other evaluators who have similarly demonstrated excellence in the particular field of research.*

Evaluators are required to **review proposals for funding** and provide recommendations to the European Commission. **Reviewing and monitoring work** is also available, through supervising the progress of ongoing Commission-funded projects and monitoring and following-up programmes concerning their implementation and results, respectively.

Dr. Prue Williams' research background ranges from soil science, to sustainable production systems, to science management. Her current role as Chief Science Adviser for the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (**FRST**) also involves a degree of evaluation concerning the domestic science programmes FRST invests in. Dr. Williams states that acting as a Framework Programme evaluator provides the opportunity to learn about research taking place in Europe and how Framework Programmes are funded. Although the proposals are confidential, evaluators become familiarised with the different areas of research European institutes are involved in.

Dr. Williams also found that meeting with other evaluators and European Commission (**EC**) staff at the Brussels-based evaluation meetings enabled her to forge valuable contacts. In particular, she drew on her experiences as an evaluator to assist in writing the proposal for the successful **NZ-EU FOOD-FREZ** initiative. Dr. Williams has also had the opportunity to disseminate her acquired knowledge of EU Framework Programmes to her colleagues seeking involvement in EC-funded projects, by providing advice concerning the mechanisms of the Framework Programmes.