

WG1 — ICT uptake

Coordinator: Michael Bartholomew (ETNO)

Deputy coordinators: Jens-Henrik Jeppesen (Intel) & Steen Clausen (ECTA)

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Steering note¹ for WG1

The Issue: Policy-makers widely acknowledge the importance of the production, dissemination and use of information technologies, and the role of these technologies in enhancing economic growth, job creation, competitiveness and public welfare. However, the uptake of ICT in Europe has been slower than in other economies, including the United States.

The Mandate: This working group will provide evidence as to the importance of ICT pervasiveness in Europe, and identify potential reasons for the divergence with leading regions. Topics to be covered will include the adaptability of workers and enterprises to changing technologies, the impact of the ICT uptake on the workforce, the adequacy of ICT education and skills-training for Europe's workforce, the importance of standards and ICT interoperability, the role of governments to encourage ICT uptake; and the capacity for effective ICT uptake by EU SMEs. The group will seek to produce recommendations aimed at ensuring the development of necessary enabling environment to use effectively and benefit fully from ICTs.

¹ Prepared by the industry associations and incorporating comments made during the meeting of 17/5/06 involving the Sherpa Group, the Trade Association Contact Group and representatives of DGs Enterprise & Industry and Information Society & Media.

WG2 — IPR for competitiveness and innovation

Overall coordinator: Les Hayman (SAP) with the assistance of Bernhard Fischer (SAP)

Overall deputy coordinator: François Bancilhon (Mandriva)

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WORK MODULES

A) IPR contributions to the European ICT sector and to the economy as a whole

Coordinator

Francisco Mingorance, BSA

Deputy

Bernd Geiger, Triangle VC Group

B) Scope, cause and impact of piracy and counterfeiting on the European ICT industry

Coordinators

Uwe Schriek and Svend Wehser, Siemens

C) IPR, open standards, interoperability and open source

Coordinator

Yann Dietrich, Intel

Deputy

Leo Steenbeek, Philips

D) How to enhance public awareness of IPR in Europe

Coordinator

Caroline Kamerbeek, Philips

E) Institutional reform of the EU patent system

Coordinator

Bernhard Fischer, SAP

Deputy

Jan-Luc Gal, EPO

Steering note² for WG2

The Issue: Intellectual property — including copyrights, patents, trademarks and trade secrets — is widely recognised as a key driver of innovation in the ICT arena. Adequately protecting and promoting IP is thus fundamental to Europe's future ICT competitiveness. Yet IP is increasingly misperceived as obstructing innovation, rather than encouraging it. Moreover, piracy and counterfeiting continue to undermine the innovative efforts of Europe's creators.

The Mandate: This working group will seek to assess the contributions that IP — in all its forms — makes to European economies; to study the link between IP, R&D and innovation; to explore the scope, causes and impact of piracy; to consider opportunities to promote public awareness of IP; and to determine what, if any, adjustments need to be made to Europe's existing IP system to enhance ICT competitiveness and uptake, including the importance of standards and ICT interoperability; especially with regard to SMEs.

² Prepared by the industry associations and incorporating comments made during the meeting of 17/5/06 involving the Sherpa Group, the Trade Association Contact Group and representatives of DGs Enterprise & Industry and Information Society & Media.

WG3 — Innovation in R&D, manufacturing and services

Coordinators: Olivier Baujard (Alcatel) assisted by Christine Diamente (Alcatel) & François Letellier (ObjectWeb)

Issue managers

R&D: Martin Spät (ESIA) & Mario Rebello (Microsoft)

Manufacturing: Martin Spät (ESIA)

Services: Corinna Schulze (IBM) & François Letellier (ObjectWeb)

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EIB	Olivier Debande
EICTA	Tony Graziano
EMF	Kjell Sehlstedt
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Ericsson	Magnus Madfors
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EVCA	Marie-Annick Peninon
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Intel	Hans Mulder
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NORMAPME	Freek Posthumus
Nortel	Thomas Reynaert
ObjectWeb	François Letellier
PREST (MBS)	Luke Georghiou
SAP	Joachim Schaper
Siemens	Georg Haubs
Sun Microsystems	Daniel Berg
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Steering note³ for WG3

The Issue: Innovation is a driver of economic growth, productivity, job creation and rising living standards. Innovation also promotes ICT competitiveness; in turn, competition leads to better products, improved consumer choice and, ideally, greater ICT uptake. Accordingly, innovation must be viewed as an integral part of the ICT value chain — essential for economic survival. At present, however, innovation is often perceived as something that should happen organically; inadequate attention has been given to how best to foster innovation. Similarly, little focus has been given to the changing nature of innovation.

The Mandate: This working group will consider three distinct elements of innovation: R&D, manufacturing and services (i.e. turning the result of R&D into value-added products and services). More specifically, in the R&D space, the group will consider issues such as how to prioritise R&D in line with Lisbon targets; obstacles and incentives to private R&D investment; how best to strengthen links between universities, research institutions and industry; the synergies between R&D and manufacturing as a source of innovation, promotion of partnerships to stimulate private/public R&D investment; clustering; and focusing state aid to reward R&D innovation. In the manufacturing and service context, the group will address issues including employment conditions and working hours, sectoral incentive approaches; and ensuring effective knowledge transfer between R&D, manufacturing, and services. Ultimately the group will seek to identify key barriers to innovation and provide policy recommendations regarding how to eliminate these barriers.

³ Prepared by the industry associations and incorporating comments made during the meeting of 17/5/06 involving the Sherpa Group, the Trade Association Contact Group and representatives of DGs Enterprise & Industry and Information Society & Media.

WG4 — SMEs and entrepreneurship

Co-coordinators: Didier Serrat (Cegid) & Carlo Daffara (Conecta)

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EICTA	Tony Graziano
EMF	Arne Jensen
EPO	Jean-Luc Gal
EUROCHAMBRES	Vincent Tilman
European Software Association	Katrijn Otten
EVCA	Marie-Annick Peninon
FFII	Benjamin Henrion
IBM	Paul van Droogenbroeck
Intel	Mark Harris
IONA Technologies	Sean Baker
Microsoft	Marion Rebello
NightLabs	Marco Schulze
patentfrei	Johannes Sommer
SAP	Christine Wenzel
Sun Microsystems	Paul Harrison Peter Cunningham
Telefónica	Matthew Good
UEAPME	Lieven Van de Velde
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Steering note⁴ for WG4

The Issue: SMEs make up the vast majority of Europe's innovative community. Accordingly, any meaningful assessment of ICT competitiveness and uptake must involve an assessment of both SME ability to compete in the ICT arena and SME capacity to benefit from ICT solutions

The Mandate: This working group will seek to identify the optimal business environment for ICT/SME success. Issues to be addressed will include entrepreneurial capacity, e-skills, access to finances, start-up and innovation support, the role of patents, the vertical and horizontal clustering within industries and between larger and smaller companies, cooperation with academia and necessary improvements to the regulatory environment, all as they relate to SMEs. In parallel, the group will also look at the take-up of ICTs by SMEs, with a particular focus on the integration of ICT in SME business operations (touching on issues such as upgrading, infrastructure, security, skills training, standards and interoperability). Ultimately, the group will recommend a series of best practices in both contexts.

⁴ Prepared by the industry associations and incorporating comments made during the meeting of 17/5/06 involving the Sherpa Group, the Trade Association Contact Group and representatives of DGs Enterprise & Industry and Information Society & Media.

WG5 — Skills and employability

Coordinator: Antonio Herrera (Cisco Systems) assisted by Pastora Valero (Cisco Systems)

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IBM	Richard Straub
Intel	Mark Harris
Microsoft	Elena Bonfiglioli
NORMAPME	Freek Posthumus
SAP	Christine Wenzel
Sun Microsystems	Todd Korth Simon Tindall
Telefónica	Raquel Villacaña
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Steering note⁵ for WG5

The Issue: ICT competitiveness depends, at the most basic level, upon the technology skills of those driving ICT innovation; ICT uptake is equally dependent on skill levels.

The Mandate: This working group will focus on three closely inter-related issues in this context: (1) how best to interest future generations in the process of technology innovation; (2) how to apply ICTs to transform the way these generations learn and work (i.e. how they obtain, manage and share knowledge); and (3) how to create an environment that attracts and retains the highly-skilled. The group will propose recommendations that may include university/industry collaboration; new approaches to both formal and informal learning; enabling flexibility and mobility of knowledge workers, including for the ageing workforce, with the aim of encouraging the development of necessary skills and training policies; and reorganising ICT in institutions large and small.

⁵ Prepared by the industry associations and incorporating comments made during the meeting of 17/5/06 involving the Sherpa Group, the Trade Association Contact Group and representatives of DGs Enterprise & Industry and Information Society & Media.

WG6 — Achieving a single market

Coordinator: Mark MacGann (EICTA)

Deputy coordinators: Jan Tjernell (Tele2) & Rainer Koch (Deutsche Telekom)

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France Telecom	Jean-Paul Simon
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Siemens	Helmut Stocker
Sun Microsystems	Simon Phipps Roy Reed
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Steering note⁶ for WG6

The Issue: The ICT sector is characterised by convergence across platform, services and even national borders. Despite this convergence, a lack of coherence in the way that legislation is implemented has led to a fragmentation of the European ICT market, with companies often effectively prevented from implementing strategies on a Europe-wide scale — adding costs and hindering the development and deployment of new ICT solutions and services.

The Mandate: This working group will consider how to achieve the best regulatory environment for ICT innovation. In doing so, the group will look at the impact of vertical, sector specific and horizontal regulations on innovative activity. Recommendations will be made with the aim of making the European market more attractive for competitors; ensuring Europe can benefit from convergence; developing incentives to encourage ICT companies and venture capitalists to invest in Europe; and fostering dialogue among industry, policy makers and regulators at both EU and Member State levels.

⁶ Prepared by the industry associations and incorporating comments made during the meeting of 17/5/06 involving the Sherpa Group, the Trade Association Contact Group and representatives of DGs Enterprise & Industry and Information Society & Media.