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The experience of European Technology Platforms (ETPs) as a vision-building process

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"Technology Platform (TP) is a mechanism to bring together all interested stakeholders (public research, industry, financial institutions, users, regulatory authorities and policy-makers) to develop a long-term vision to address a specific challenge, create a coherent, dynamic strategy to achieve that vision and steer the implementation of an action plan to deliver agreed programmes of activities and optimise the benefits for all parties."

¨Investing in Research: an Action Plan for Europe¨ COM (2003) 226

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European Technology Platforms (ETPs) are:

- industry-led stakeholder forums involving universities, research organisations, non-governmental organisations, users, member state-representatives, etc.
- that define and implement long term visions and strategic research agendas
- in technological areas that require strong cooperation between research actors to address major economic or social challenges

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36 European Technology Platforms to date:

- **Energy**: Photovoltaics, Wind Energy, Biofuels, Zero Emission Fossil Fuel Power Plants, Electricity Networks, Nuclear Technology, Renewable Heating & Cooling.
- **ICT**: Smart Systems Integration, Nano-electronics, Embedded Computing Systems, Mobile and Wireless Communications, Networked Software and Services, Integral Satcom, Networked and Electronic Media.
- **Life Sciences**: Food, Forest based sector, Farm Animal Breeding & Reproduction, Animal Health, Plants.
- **Production and processes**: Advanced Engineering Materials and Technologies, Construction, Steel, Future Manufacturing Technologies, Future Textiles and Clothing, Sustainable Mineral Resources, Sustainable Chemistry, Water Supply & Sanitation.
- **Transport**: Aeronautics, Rail, Road, Waterborne.
- **Others/Cross Cutting**: Photonics, Robotics, Space, Industrial Safety, Nano-technologies for medical applications.

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Three stages of development:

STAGE 1: Stakeholders getting together in order to establish their **"vision" for the future development of the field concerned** and to set up the technology platform;

STAGE 2: Stakeholders define a Strategic Research Agenda setting out their common views on the necessary medium to long term research, development and demonstration needs for this technology;

STAGE 3: Implementation of the Strategic Research Agenda - for which, in many instances, it is anticipated that significant public and private investments will need to be mobilised.

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Vision building processes in ETPs

- First step in development of ETP
- Contact persons in industry often from ongoing FP-projects
- Encouragement needed by the Commission (either with in kind contributions such as meeting rooms, publication of documents, reimbursement of travel expenses, etc. or, more rarely, with FP funding)
- Easier to organise for sector-oriented ETPs versus cross- or multi-sectoral ETPs (e.g. Textiles versus Manufuture)
- The Vision documents were used as way of promoting the future ETP (to the EC, to the sector itself) in a language that appeals to the wider public.

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Conclusions

- The ETP evaluation study points out that participants in the ETP process are satisfied: 93 percent of them would renew their membership
- ETPs' visions are downloadable on individual ETP websites, accessible via http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html

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Thank you for your attention

http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html

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