

6th Framework Programme (2002-2006)

8th Priority

**'Specific activities covering a wider field
of research'**

**Research in support to policies
(Scientific support to policies – SSP)**

**Report on
'SSP Awareness raising and
exploitation/use of results'**

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the 6th Framework Programme¹, point 1.2 "Specific activities covering a wider field of research" (8th priority) foresees to support policy-oriented research activities. These research activities are intended to respond to the scientific and technological needs of the policies of the Community, underpinning their formulation and their implementation.

In the specific programme "Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area"², research in support to policies is foreseen in section 1.2.1.i in which it is mentioned that 'the multi-annual programming of the policy oriented research activities will take into account the opinions of the relevant Scientific Committees associated with the policies concerned and will be conducted with the help of a User Group composed by different Commission services' and that 'the programming may be altered by means of an emergency procedure based on the same evaluation criteria in the event of a crisis giving rise to urgent and foreseen research needs'.

The research in support to policies (scientific support to policies, SSP) has been developed to address European policy challenges in fields such as Agriculture, Animal health and welfare, Cultural heritage, Disability, Economic development and cohesion, Energy, Environment, Health, Fisheries and aquaculture, Migration, Information society, Security - Crime - Drugs, Transport.

Since the objective of SSP was to develop research in support to policies, this meant developing research useful for policies and effectively transmitting scientific results to policy makers. This process should serve to improve communication and understanding between scientists and policy makers.

To achieve these goals, one had to foresee appropriate SSP implementation rules, activities of SSP awareness raising especially towards policy makers (information on SSP and dissemination of SSP results especially towards policy makers) and activities of exploitation/use of results.

The first initiative concerned the elaboration of SSP work-programmes. The research tasks were designed to be adapted to the policy needs and were quite precise and focused. In that context, policy makers, especially policy services of the Commission, were involved in the elaboration of the SSP work-programmes.

In 2004, an Action Plan on 'SSP awareness raising and exploitation/use of results' was formulated in order to organise and plan activities of awareness raising and exploitation of results. Several actions of information, dissemination of results and exploitation/use of results were designed to inform the policy makers about SSP and to allow them to use the SSP projects. This Action plan was presented to the horizontal configuration of the relevant Programme Committee.

¹ [Decision of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the sixth framework programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities](#) - 27.06.02

² [Council decision adopting a specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: "Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area" \(2002-2006\)](#) (2002/834/EC) - 30.09.02

The present report is aimed at presenting the outputs of this Action Plan on 'SSP Awareness raising and exploitation of results' and is designed as a public report both to be used by the Commission services as activity report and to be used to provide recommendations related to policy oriented research developed within FP7. Thus this report is kept concise and short in such a way that only the projects with the most concrete deliverables have been mentioned, keeping in mind that all detailed activities developed in each project are presented on the SSP web site.

2. SSP AWARENESS RAISING AND EXPLOITATION/USE OF RESULTS

The first part of the report describes activities aimed at improving information on SSP and tools used for dissemination of SSP results, especially towards policy makers; the second part addresses exploitation/use of SSP results and finally; the third part refers to 'Awareness raising and exploitation of results' activities developed within the different SSP topics.

2.1. Awareness raising

2.1.1. Information supports

- ***Leaflet on SSP concept***

A leaflet on SSP concept has been elaborated at the beginning of SSP programme and widely distributed (members of Programme Committees configurations interested in SSP, CREST and participants to general and thematic workshops, conferences, etc...).

- ***Popularised 'fiches' on each SSP projects***

Popularised 'fiches' have been elaborated for each SSP project and some of them are still being finalised. Each 'fiche' presents the problem, research activities developed to solve the problem, project deliverables useful for users and all dissemination activities. Quality check of these 'fiches' has been assured by consultations of scientific officers and project coordinators. The purpose of these 'fiches' is to increase the visibility of SSP projects and to support dissemination of SSP projects' outputs to all categories of policymakers and stakeholders involved in the relevant EU policies. The 'fiches' evolved during the implementation of the programme and have been updated at least once. It is possible to print them quickly and they are published on a web site and transmitted to selected policy makers through SINAPSE (see below).

2.1.2. Communication tools to disseminate information

- ***Web Sites***

- As all parts of FP6, a general information about SSP, especially on SSP calls for proposals are available on Europa/CORDIS web site:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6/activities.htm>

- Furthermore, a SSP web site devoted to the presentation of all SSP projects' activities and results/outputs, has been developed on Europa web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp6/ssp/index_en.htm

This web site was created in 2004 and has been regularly fed with new popularised 'fiches' and updated.

- **Specific SSP project web sites** have been developed within almost all SSP projects. These web sites are accessible from the popularised 'fiches' in the SSP web site.
- Specific Europa web sites³ contain information on SSP projects in the field of Information.
- **Conferences, Workshops, events**
 - SSP programme has been presented at several information meetings on FP6.
 - SSP work-programmes have been presented at many conferences, workshops and events organised in various fields of research. These thematic events have often involved scientists and decision makers and have been very successful.
- **Publications**
 - With regard to dissemination, work undertaken in the framework of SSP projects has been published in scientific journals as all other scientific results.
- **SINAPSE⁴**
 - Participation of SSP in the development of the electronic network SINAPSE, developed within the programme "Science and Society" and aimed at a better use of scientific knowledge in European governance.
 - Transmission of information on SSP through SINAPSE, especially transmission of the popularised 'fiches' to appropriate targets.
- **Dissemination plans foreseen in the projects**
 - In the context of the dissemination plan foreseen in each project, web sites and organisation of conferences/workshops are the tools the most developed.
- **Scientific support actions (SSA) funded with SSP work-programme**
 - Topic 1.2: SSA aimed at organising workshops / conferences gathering scientists, policy makers, producers, consumers and other relevant stakeholders to discuss, in particular, achievements related to scientific support to agricultural policies in Europe.
 - Topic 1.3: SSA aimed at contributing to the implementation of the work programme, the analysis and dissemination of results of EU research projects

³ http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/policy_link/
<http://cordis.europa.eu/ictresults/>

⁴ <http://europa.eu/sinapse/sinapse/index.cfm>

in the field of fisheries & aquaculture to scientists, policy makers, producers, consumers and other relevant stakeholders.

2.2. Exploitation/use of SSP results

2.2.1. How to measure the efficiency of the exploitation/use of SSP results?

In the context of SSP, the exploitation/use of the SSP results is closely linked to the evaluation. Since the objective of SSP is "to respond to the scientific and technological needs of the policies of the Community, underpinning the formulation and the implementation of Community policies", the exploitation/use of SSP results is the most relevant evaluation criterion for SSP, besides the scientific excellence.

To be sure that the exploitation/use of SSP results has been efficient, the most appropriate way is to follow the usual procedure of evaluation. One should identify 'results' (deliverables the programme produces) and 'impacts' (effects the programme induces) which can be divided into "initial impact" of the programme and 'longer term impact' of the programme.

In the case of SSP, the detailed tasks document already provide indications on expected results for each task and sometimes indications on expected initial impact.

From the detailed tasks document, a series of expected results can be listed from the different tasks, such as:

- Recommendations for translating the results into meaningful policy initiatives (recommendations for public authorities and for private actors, recommendations to EC on policy options).
- Databases, Web pages containing all project results and reports, written reviews of scientific and management issues, comparative information.
- Analysis, reports, assessments, development of indicators.
- Modelling tools and knowledge based decision-making tools.
- Enhanced co-operation between different stakeholders (producers, consumers' organisations, public authorities, etc).
- Standards, standardisation of data.
- Guidelines, good practices, common methods.
- Campaign activities determined to address the public.
- Support international cooperation.

The evaluation can be done at different stages of the programme implementation. At the end of the programme it should be possible to proceed to an exhaustive evaluation and check whether the objectives have been reached. However, at any time, one should be able to answer the following questions partly or completely:

- Are the results expected obtained? To which extent?
- Who are the specific "users" of these results?
- Do these results have a concrete initial impact on the concerned policy activities and on the concerned policy development?
- And if possible, does the concrete initial impact have a longer term impact on the concerned policy?

2.2.2. How to ensure the exploitation/use of SSP results?

In order to ensure the efficient exploitation of SSP results, several issues might be considered such as improving communication and understanding between scientists and policy makers, in particular during the implementation of the projects.

In that context, common guidelines on SSP implementation have been first set up, taking into account that many actors from the Commission (scientific and policy services), the Member States and Associated countries (programme or other types of committees, different consultation structures established by the Commission services, etc.) were involved in the various operational phases of SSP implementation (elaboration and update of the SSP work-programmes, calls for proposals, evaluation and contracts). In particular, research tasks to be performed within SSP projects have been defined following precise policy needs identified by policy makers (policy services of the Commission together with appropriate representatives of Member States usually involved in specific Committees) and the follow up of SSP projects has often been done by both scientific and policy Commission services. These particularities of SSP implementation also contributed to improve the exploitation/use of results.

Furthermore, the exploitation/use of results has been improved since research results have been disseminated towards policy makers through various ways (see above).

It is clear that the quantitative measurement of exploitation of results (exact number of results obtained and impacts reached) can not be assessed at the present stage. However, a qualitative evaluation can be done on the basis of the available data (see below).

2.3. Specific activities of awareness raising and exploitation/use of results developed in the different SSP topics

2.3.1. Sustainable management of Europe's natural resources

■ AGRICULTURE

TOPICS 1.1: Modernisation and sustainability of agriculture and forestry, including their multifunctional role in order to ensure the sustainable development and promotion of rural areas, 1.2: Tools and assessment methods for sustainable agriculture and forestry management

Several projects were set up to evaluate the Common Agriculture Programme (CAP) reform (ex: IDEMA, GENEDEC and Capri-DynaSpat). These projects constitute a scientific base for the current work in the framework of the "Health Cheque" of CAP reform, which will lead to a Commission Communication at the end of 2007 and to possible legislative proposals in 2008.

Some other projects have different kinds of impacts, such as the following:

- TRADEAG project contributed to the impact analysis for the reform of agriculture trade agreement concerning the banana. The same consortium was also required to help the work of DG TRADE. Many other outcomes can be already used by the Commission in the field of Agriculture Policy.
- SIGMEA project will be the base for a report on the OGMs (in preparation).
- EDIM project provided results useful for future proposals concerning possible regulations on milk.

In these topics, the most important 'policy/user' DG involved is DG AGRI. For each SSP project, DG AGRI named at least one person to follow the development of the project. This person has guaranteed an effective interface between the consortium of the project and concerned services of DG AGRI. The 'Research Coordinator of DG AGRI' also follows the projects. In practice, all the projects were adapted from the beginning and even sometimes during the implementation in order to answer properly to policy needs. In many cases, intermediate results have been used successfully. Thus all SSP projects have been already used, sometimes even before the end of the project, during implementation.

Conclusion

In the specific field of Agriculture, the awareness raising and the exploitation of results have been particularly successful since the Common Agricultural Policy is the oldest Policy of the EU and has always been based on scientific results.

▪ **FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

TOPIC 1.3: Modernisation and sustainability of fisheries, including aquaculture-based production systems

This topic was aimed at supporting the formulation and implementation of Common Fisheries Policy. For that topic, DG FISH has been both research projects implementer and policy user. Thus DG FISH services followed projects in such a way that they attended kick-off meetings and mid-term reviews and all other events related to the projects.

Awareness raising actions

Many activities have been developed to inform the scientific community on the opportunities offered by the SSP programme and to disseminate the results to users through different channels.

Information supports

SSP Leaflet: three major SSP fields have been selected as subjects to present the general SSP concept of which one is Fisheries (the others are Health and Energy).

- Popularised 'fiches' have been elaborated and more than 300 sets of 'fiches' have been then distributed to the scientific community and other user groups (Ministries, EP, Council, industry, etc).
- Synopsis of all RTD projects, including SSP projects, in the field of fisheries and aquaculture in FP6 are being finalised.

Communication tools

- Lunchtime conferences and seminars organised within the Commission by DG FISH.
- Besides the participation to the SSP web site development, DG FISH built a new data base including all RTD projects funded in the field of fisheries, aquaculture and marine/maritime science in FP6.
- Specific SSP projects have been funded to promote the dissemination of RTD results (FP5 and FP6) in the field of fisheries and aquaculture to the different stakeholders (industry, policy makers, government agencies, general public, etc.).
 - 'PROFET POLICY' project: The outputs will include a web page, preparation and dissemination of summary technical leaflets of project results and organisation of 10 specific workshops/seminars for targeted audiences. The

workshops/seminars will also discuss the needs for fisheries and aquaculture research for future European Union Research Programmes.

- Several other specific SSP projects were launched for the publication of synthesis of results of different individual complementary research projects funded in FP5 and FP6 in sectors such as 'Sustainable aquaculture' (AQUAFUNC), 'Interaction between environment and aquaculture' (SAMI); 'Interaction between environment and fisheries' (IBEFISH); 'Aquaculture breeding' (REPROFISH).

Exploitation/use of results

Policy Implementation Plan: a specificity of topic 1.3

Project co-ordinators deliver at the end or sometimes before the end of the project, a Policy Implementation Plan (PIP) describing the policy relevant research findings, a proposal on how these findings might be applied at the fishery policy management level within the EU and national policy frameworks (e.g. legislation, control, potential cost savings and economic impacts) on the time scales of short-, mid- and long-term, and the overall policy guidance conclusions. The targeted readers of this deliverable are policymakers, stakeholders and officials concerned with policy management issues.

Examples of major policy impacts of funded projects

Several research projects funded under SSP support the implementation and/or the preparation of new legislation on the Common Fishery Policy such as:

- UNCOVER project: 'Understanding the mechanisms of stock recover' for the Communication COM/2006/0134 (CNS) - Proposal for the Council Regulation establishing a multi-annual plan for the cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks.
- IMPASSE project: 'Environmental impacts of invasive alien species in aquaculture' for the Council Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 of 11 June 2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture.
- INDECO project: 'Developing indicators of environmental performances of the CFP' and IMAGE project: 'Indicators for fisheries management in Europe' for the Communication COM/2007/196 - Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries' sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy.
- NECESSITY project: 'Nephrops and Cetacean species selection information and technology' and DEGREE project: 'Development of fishing gears with reduced effects on the environment' for the Communication COM/2007/ 136 final 'A policy to reduce unwanted by-catches and eliminate discards in European fisheries'.
- SHEEL project: 'Secure and harmonised European Electronic logbook' for the Council Regulation (EC) No 1966/2006 of 21 December 2006 on electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities and on means of remote sensing.
- SLIME project: Restoration of the European eel population: pilot studies for a scientific framework in support of sustainable management" for the Communication COM/2005/472 final - Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European Eel.

Almost all projects (48) funded in area 1.3 (Fisheries and aquaculture research) are still running but many outputs have already been gained particularly to improve fishery management (new tools for management), sustain aquaculture (welfare issues, functional genomic, disease and stress resistance) and better integrate environment consideration (indicators of environmental performances, ecosystem approach to aquaculture, etc). Efforts will continue to promote the programme and disseminate the results to a large audience.

Conclusion

Despite the limited budget available for fisheries research under the 6th Framework programme, the way in which the SSP Programme has been implemented permits a much more targeted response to the research needs of the CFP, focusing particularly on issues that are directly related to policy needs, in the areas of fisheries management systems, aquaculture and the integration of environmental requirements into the CFP.

It is already clear that the introduction of Scientific Support to Policies (SSP) has been successful in the fisheries and aquaculture domain addressing specific scientific questions needing rapid responses. This has allowed projects to be more focused on solving management problems via pragmatic and much more applied research with shorter timeframes for individual projects. A number of projects expected to have direct impact on management actions have been launched. New approaches to fishery monitoring and control were investigated, and management strategies and systems are being studied and developed. This may lead to more risk-based management approaches.

▪ ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

TOPIC 1.4 : New and more environment friendly production methods to improve animal health and welfare including research on animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease, swine fever and development of marker vaccines.

Research tasks of topic 1.4 were aimed at improving prevention and control tools e.g. diagnostic tests, vaccine and vaccination strategies, epidemiology and knowledge on pathogenesis in order to support the Community Animal Health Policy (CAHP). The main targets were major epizootic diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), avian influenza (AI), bluetongue (BT), etc. Since there was an emergency related to influenza, a dedicated call was launched in 2005.

In that context, the participation of industry, including SMEs, has been important and the international dimension has been taken into account (participation or association of international organisations such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as well as the participation of third countries).

If the major liaison has been with DG SANCO, as responsible for the CAHP, an increased interaction was developed with DG DEV. This allowed giving more emphasis to the importance of trans-boundary aspects of the diseases, endemicity, conditions prevailing in developing countries and the contribution to the Millenium Developing Goals (MDG).

Awareness raising actions

Many activities of information and dissemination of results have been performed, in particular through thematic workshops, conferences and scientific articles. Several workshops have been

organised with the participation of DG SANCO and policy makers (for example in the framework of the FMD_IMPROCON project).

Projects have also undertaken a global dissemination programme targeted towards the main stakeholders. For example, the LAB-ON-SITE project is undertaking a global dissemination programme aimed at animal health services and authorities, including practitioners, field laboratories, abattoirs, central laboratories and policy makers. Establishment and maintenance of a global network is developed for the dissemination of the new methods to the veterinary services of EU Member States and Third countries.

Exploitation/use of results

The adaptations of the policy instruments/tools to the latest scientific developments and the increased knowledge provided by the SSP projects (sometimes transmitted through ad hoc consultancy/expertise as in the project FMD and CSF coordination action) contributed to the modification of the EU legislation on control measures for specific diseases. In addition, these improvements were in many cases taken on board by the OIE standards. The dedicated call on Avian INFLUENZA allowed an important quantitative and qualitative support.

Conclusion

Even if the topic 1.4 had been supported in previous Framework Programmes (FP3, FP4 and FP5), it is with SSP that a better and more detailed targeting of the research has been done in order to suit the precise requirements of the policy. SSP projects on FMD, CSF, BT, which gathered the leader scientists in the world, have had a huge impact on policy. However, one should highlight that the budget devoted to that topic was quite tight.

■ ENVIRONMENT

TOPIC 1.5: Environmental assessment (soil, water, air, noise, including the effects of chemical substances)

This topic is aimed at supporting Directives, thematic strategies of the VI Environmental Action Plan, the Thematic Strategies on Soil and the Urban Environment, the Sixth Environment Action Programme and the Sustainable Development Strategy. The scientific outputs could be various, such as identification of a method, indicators or guidelines.

Awareness raising actions

Most of the projects have developed a specific web site with all outputs and results and organised several thematic conferences involving the main stakeholders, especially policy makers.

For example, in the SSP project EPIC-ICT, 'Environmental performance indicators for information and communication technology', the cooperation between industry, research and consultancy partners has been very close in order to adequately integrate stakeholders' views. In the SSP project REBECCA, 'Relationships between ecological and chemical status of surface waters', results were disseminated throughout the project life-time to stakeholders at EU and national levels, particularly to the ECOSTAT Working Group on Ecological Status under the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the 'Water Framework Directive' (WFD) and the Geographical Inter-calibration Groups, the expert groups carrying out the WFD inter-calibration exercise.

Exploitation/use of results

SSP projects results have contributed to the modification and/or application of the EU legislation especially on Air Quality, Water, Groundwater, soil, bio-wastes, noise and biodiversity.

Several examples show how much SSP was efficient in terms of impact on policy making process.

- Results of the SSP project AIR4EU on ' Recommendations for air quality assessment by monitoring and modelling for regulated pollutants in Europe' directly support more efficient implementation of Air Quality directives through very comprehensive guidance documents on ambient air quality assessment and the combined use of modelling/measurement. Currently, the results are being used by DG ENV in the development of Implementing Provisions for Reporting under the new ambient air quality Directive, while the guidance documents are expected to provide basic building blocks for the updated Commission guidance for the assessment under the Directives.
- Two projects being interconnected provided useful results: VIROBATHE provided a procedure for analysing EU bathing waters concerning noroviruses and adenoviruses, better supporting bathing water assessment in Mediterranean waters and in the new Member States and better estimating effects associated with exposure to toxic algal products. EPIBATHE is investigating the level of risk associated with bathing water exposure by epidemiological studies in two partner countries, Hungary and Spain, where fresh water and Mediterranean bathing waters are being used. From policy point of view, VIROBATHE provided the scientific information essential for the Commission to review the existing Bathing Waters Directive (76/160/EEC) and meet related environmental health standards. The project provided verified data, not only to the Commission but also to the World Health Organisation (WHO), on the potential use of the viral determinants examined for assessing and setting quality standards for recreational waters. EPIBATHE helped in defining the nature and level of the risk and how exposure affects risk, indicating which level of protection is ensured by the threshold values in Directive 76/160/EEC. Its progress is being closely followed by DG Environment, and its findings may be integrated into the WHO review process of the 2003 Guidelines for Safe recreational Water Environments.
- BRIDGE project contributed directly to the Groundwater Directive.
- INSEA project provided results used in the Impact Assessment of the Soil Thematic Strategy and the cooperation with DG ENV has been particularly good.
- The LEnSE project is developing a methodology to assess the overall sustainability of existing buildings, major renovation schemes and plans for new buildings. This methodology should allow for future labelling or certification of buildings.

Conclusion

In this topic, almost all projects are foreseen to support the elaboration of environmental regulations. The major user is DG ENV which develops European environmental regulations. DG ENV was very much involved in the development of SSP projects and closely follows SSP projects' development in order to readjust them if necessary and to use SSP results as soon as possible.

TOPIC 1.6: Assessment of environmental technologies for support of policy decisions, in particular concerning effective but low-cost technologies in the context of fulfilling environmental legislation.

The implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) had the specific need of measuring and assessing innovation through ecological and economic performance and indicators. This included the estimation of willingness-to-pay to reduce risks of exposure to heavy metals and cost-benefit analysis for reducing heavy metals occurrence in Europe. Furthermore, a specific need was to provide training in methods and activities for the wider use of environmental technologies in key sectors.

Awareness raising actions

Most of the projects have developed a specific web site with all outputs and results and organised several thematic conferences involving the main stakeholders, especially policy makers.

Several workshops were organised with the participation of targeted politicians or decision makers in the context of SSP projects such as the project 'ESPREME: Estimation of willingness-to-pay to reduce risks of exposure to heavy metals and cost-benefit analysis for reducing heavy metals occurrence in Europe' or TETRIS – 'Technology Transfer and Investment Risk in International Emissions Trading'.

Exploitation/use of results

Among the SSP projects in topic 1.6, ESPREME has been useful in many aspects. The results of this project has been useful for the implementation of the 4th daughter directive on air quality (related to heavy metals) because it developed tools and methods to support Europe's environmental policy-makers and it contributed also to the EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (Clean Air for Europe programme - CAFE); provided information for the review of the list of priority substances under the Water Framework Directive; and gave information for the revision of the Directive on heavy metals and polyaromatic hydrocarbons. ESPREME has been also useful for feeding into the implementation of the Mercury Strategy and for providing details for the heavy metals protocol of the UNECE Convention on long-range trans-boundary air pollution.

The project SUBAT: 'Sustainable Batteries' provided an assessment of alternatives to Ni-Cd batteries in electric vehicles in preparation for a possible ban. It gave the necessary inputs to the members of the Technical Adaptation Committee (TAC) for reviewing the directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles. It provided policy-makers with information on alternative technology pathways with respect to electric vehicles and other battery applications.

Conclusion

In this topic as in topic 1.5, almost all projects are foreseen to support the elaboration of environmental regulations. The major user is DG ENV which is closely involved in the development of SSP projects. Often, the core project team of SSP projects met policy officers from DG ENV to discuss the interim results and project development.

2.3.2. Providing health, security and opportunity to the people of Europe

▪ **HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

Projects in the area of Public Health and Disabilities (2.1, 2.2, 2.4)

TOPIC 2.1. Health determinants and the provision of high quality and sustainable health care services and pension systems (in particular in the context of ageing and demographic change)

TOPIC 2.2. Public health issues, including epidemiology contributing to disease prevention and responses to emerging rare and communicable diseases, allergies, procedures for secure blood and organ donations, non-animal test.

TOPIC 2.4. Quality of life issues relating to handicapped/disabled people (including equal access facilities)

Awareness raising actions

Many communication initiatives have been undertaken to inform the scientific community about the opportunities offered under the SSP activity, among which information flyers, participation in scientific meetings and conferences, web and personal contacts.

- Summary information on the SSP-Health projects is distributed every year at the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG - <http://www.ehfg.org/typo3/index.php?id=15&L=1>) and a dedicated session on "The need for targeted research to improve the health of European citizens" has been organised by the Commission during the 8th European Health Forum in 2005.
- An Information Day on opportunities for submitting proposals under FP7 Health Research's Third Pillar: 'Optimising the delivery of health care to European citizens' has been organised in Brussels (April 2007). This Info Day was attended by 350 participants, and a further 90 people have showed specific interests and have received relevant information, including SSP-Health projects abstracts.
- A SSP dedicated web page is available from the Health Theme page on CORDIS, providing information and links to other relevant services of the Commission: <http://cordis.europa.eu/lifescihealth/ssp.htm>. A sub-page is dedicated to all projects, with summary information and direct link to specific projects web site: http://cordis.europa.eu/lifescihealth/ssp_projects.htm.
- Projects themselves, under their Plan for using and disseminating the knowledge have been actively involved in promoting their results among relevant stakeholders.
- In December 2007 DG EMPL will organise the Disability Conference which will focus on the active participation of persons with disabilities in the Internal Market. One or two SSP projects which refer to the subject of the conference should be presented.

Exploitation/use of results

- DG SANCO, DG EMPL, but also DG ECFIN, ESTAT and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) are among primary users of the research (in particular ECDC for SARS and Avian INFLUENZA related research). Project-related exchanges have provided an efficient support to the dialogue with these services, including for the preparation of FP7, and this spirit still continues.

- In topic 2.2, two projects addressed issues close to citizens' preoccupations, one in the area of organ donation (DOPKI) and another in the area of blood and organ supply safety (BOTIA). These projects are mentioned in the Impact Assessment annexed to the 'Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on organ donation and transplantation: policy options at EU level' to be adopted still in 2007.
- SSP-Health projects have also had an impact on relations with WHO (mainly through 2 disability projects MHADIE and DIS-QOL), as well as with the Parliament and the Council when Health Systems and Health Services were under discussion (Europe4Patients, MARQUIS, HEALTH BASKET and AHEAD projects).
- In the context of ensuring equal opportunities for all in the public built environment and the new initiative that is being launched by DG EMPL to issue a standardisation mandate for developing a European standard for accessibility to the built environment to be used in public procurement - two disability projects are of particular interest (POLIS and Reasonable Access).
- SSP has been used at two occasions (with the two calls for proposals on SARS and Avian INFLUENZA) as a tool to react quickly with specific calls to new diseases that pose or posed a considerable threat to the health of European citizens, in order to strengthen the evidence base needed for policy decisions and/or to work directly on research-based solutions to fight these diseases.
 The projects funded as a result of the above-mentioned SARS call have pioneered a number of EU-Chinese scientific collaborations. Many of the results in the domain of public health concerning SARS (projects EPISARS, SARS Control and SARSTRANS) or other infectious diseases (projects POLYMOD and EVENT) are equally applicable to the more recent threat of pandemic influenza. These projects are related for example to modelling of infectious diseases spread, risk assessment or preparedness and the establishment of Chinese-European collaborations and therefore constitute a very valuable investment for these and future threats.
- Projects carried out under SSP help to gather accurate information on discriminatory behaviours and attitudes towards people with disabilities. Defining measures needed to understand challenges and demonstrating the value of effective social policies for persons with disabilities allow for achieving equality of opportunities and full participation as addressed in the EU Disability Action Plan 2006-07 (COM/2005/604). Describing and measuring inequality in opportunities between people with and without disabilities in many areas of life - employment, education, built environment, transport and new technologies - prevent costly readaptations for disabled people.

Conclusion

In general terms, the FP6 SSP approach for Public Health Research has been emphasized in FP7 and became one main topic of Health Theme in the Cooperation programme. The principle of Health Policy driven research is now fully established, with regular and ongoing contacts with several users. Concerning the definition of the policy towards people with disabilities (DG EMPL), SSP has been quite useful.

TOPIC 2.3 The impact of environmental issues on health (including safety at work and methods for risk assessment and the mitigation of risks of natural disasters to people)

Two projects have developed salient impact on policy making processes.

- **Project ESBIO** (Development of a coherent approach to human bio-monitoring in Europe) aimed at developing a coordinated approach for human biomonitoring with focus on children in Europe, in line with Action 3 of the EU Environment and Health Action Plan (adopted in 2004) by providing strong scientific support for the EU pilot project to be launched in the near future.
- **Project EMF-NET** (Effects of the exposure to electromagnetic fields: From science to public health and safer workplace) aimed at managing, evaluating and collating the results of studies on EMF health effects and health implications; integrating European centres involved in research on occupational exposure to EMF in order to exchange experience and good practice and to support policy-makers.

Awareness raising actions

The projects have developed their own web sites to diffuse results and details on the numerous activities carried out by the project and have organised several high visibility events, some of which with a press release.

Exploitation/use of results

- The ESBIO project has been extremely active in engaging various stakeholders in discussing implications of human biomonitoring. These include NGOs and industry as well as representatives of DG ENV. It is actively involved in the work of the Consultative Forum of the Environment and Health Action Plan, which meets every 6 months (MS representatives, industry, NGOs...) to follow the progress of the Action Plan. Advice is given to policy makers.
- The project EMF-NET has been exceedingly active in providing information to policy makers, especially various services of the Commission on numerous occasions on specific issues related to human health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields via mobile phones or other means. The information is elaborated by the so-called Rapid Response team. The opinions are published as fact sheets on the project website. The project has directly contributed to the Opinion given by the DG SANCO Scientific Committee SCHER (Scientific Committee on Environmental Health Risks) on potential risks of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF), which also contains research recommendations⁵. DG SANCO is actively following the progress of the project.

Conclusion

In this topic, there are several kinds of users, such as NGOs, industry, national policy makers and policy services of the Commission such as DG EMPL, DG ENV and DG SANCO. The policy services of the Commission are closely involved in the development of SSP projects in order to use efficiently their outputs.

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_006.pdf

MIGRATION

TOPIC 2.5 'Comparative research of factors underlying migration and refugee flows, including illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings'.

DG JLS contributed to the preparation of several calls for proposals. As DG JLS contributed drafting SSP tasks in annual workprogrammes, results of research were directly related to JLS policy making. There have been projects selected in the area of 'Migration' e.g. UWT, IDEA and EACH-FOR inter alia on illegal immigration and immigration in Southern and Eastern Europe. The JLS unit 'Immigration and asylum' consults regularly the progress made in these research projects.

Even if several projects have been of great importance for the definition of the migration policies, two of them have been particularly successful:

- THESIM project: 'Towards Harmonised European Statistics on International Migration' made available up to date and comprehensive information on the systems which produce migration statistics for every Member State.
- NATAC project: 'The acquisition of nationality in the EU Member States: rules, practices and quantitative developments' compared nationality laws and their implementation in the fifteen old Member States.

Awareness raising actions

SSP projects in this field developed a web site and organised events to present and discuss results. A presentation of the results of THESIM and NATAC was organised in the European Parliament with the presence of the Chairperson of the Committee on civil liberties and representatives from THE International Organisation of Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Council of Europe. Publications are done in each project.

Exploitation/use of results

THESIM served as a basis for the discussion at the European Parliament on the Regulation on Community Statistics on Migration and International Protection (COM (2005) 375) in order to improve the situation of statistical data collection in terms of availability, reliability and comparability. It has been used to show Member States that in most cases the statistics required by the Regulation did already exist and were available. The development of the THESIM project was also useful to bring together national experts from different ministries and agencies (Ministry of Interior, Statistical Institutes, Refugee agencies, etc), who barely spoke to each other before, and to make them work together in order to reach a coordinated national approach for migratory statistics. In this sense, the work of the THESIM researchers can be considered as a preparation for the future implementation of the Regulation. The THESIM researchers were in some cases the 'agents' who raised awareness in Member States about the importance of the forthcoming Regulation.

NATAC provided reports on 27 modes of acquisition and 15 modes of loss of nationality across all countries for the period between 1985 and 2004; a comparative assessment of statistics; reports on the status of nationals with restricted rights, of third country 'denizens', and of quasi-citizens. Although nationality laws are of national competence, the results of this project show that the national policies in this field have an impact on other EU policies like migration. Some ongoing national reforms on nationality law are actually being inspired by the results of NATAC.

Conclusion

The SSP project results are being used both by policy services of the Commission, especially DG JLS, by national bodies and also by the academic world. Last but not least, the experience of the SSP calls has given the opportunities to strengthen enormously the collaboration between the different RTD programmes and the policy/user DGs.

SECURITY – CRIME – DRUGS

TOPIC 2.6. *'Improved means to anticipate crime trends and causes, and to assess the effectiveness of crime prevention policies; assessment of new challenges related to illicit drug use'*.

Awareness raising actions

- The MARC project: 'Developing Mechanisms for Assessing the Risk of Crime due to legislation and products in order to proof them against crime' co-organised with DG JLS a workshop in 2006, with the participation of several services. It was addressed to EU and member states' policy-makers, EU officials and Member States' legal affairs services, officials of international organisations engaged in impact assessment of legislation/regulation.
- Most of the projects developed a web site and organised workshop or conference, some of them (AOC: Assessing Organised Crime and IKOC: Improvement of Knowledge on Organised Crime) organised a joint final policy conference in 2006.

Exploitation/use of results

- The results of AOC and IKOC projects are being actively used by DG JLS and ESTAT in connection with setting up a European Crime Statistics System.
- Results of the CHAMP (Collaborative Harmonisation of Profiling of Amphetamine Type Stimulants) are being used by forensic laboratories across Europe and the World.

Conclusion

In this topic, there are several kinds of users, such as policy infrastructures in Member States and policy services of the Commission such as DG JLS which is particularly interested by crime issue and DG ESTAT which develops all statistics about crime.

TOPIC 2.7. *'Issues related to civil protection (including biosecurity and protection against risks arising from terrorist attacks), and crisis management'*.

The research in this topic explicitly relates to countering the effects of biological and chemical terrorism. It was introduced as a direct response to the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 in the USA.

The identification and prioritization of the topics to be included in the field of biological and chemical terrorism was a quite complex exercise involving the Member States, DG SANCO as primary client, DG RTD and the European Union *R&D Expert Group on Countering the Effects of Biological and Chemical Terrorism, set up as a follow-up of the Ghent Summit of 19th October 2001, responding to the events of 11 September*⁶.

⁶ Formally set up by the Council of Research Ministers of 30th October 2001.

Awareness raising actions

Many activities of information and dissemination of results have been performed for this topic:

- Press releases and newsletters prepared for the general public,
- Thematic workshops, conferences and scientific articles for specialised public,
- Dissemination activities undertaken by the projects: most of the projects developed their own web site.

Exploitation/use of results

All projects implemented in this topic are being used in policy making processes:

- ASSRBCVUL project assists policy-makers in planning and assessing counter-terrorism measures at national, EU and international levels and contributes to the development of European research policy in the area of counter-terrorism.
- ANTHRAX-EURONET project's deliverables contribute to the development of public health policies and future research priorities through both its networking and coordinated research activities. It could provide a model for similar research networks devoted to other high-risk infectious agents.
- CROP BIOTERROR project informs the development of scientifically robust policies and countermeasures to meet threats from bio-terrorism and highlights the advantages to be gained from preparedness that is based on early detection, rapid diagnosis and effective recovery. It identifies key gaps in scientific knowledge to assist policy-makers in prioritising future research requirements.
- VHF/VARIOLA - PCR project delivered an improved laboratory detection service providing rapid diagnosis of viral agents that may be used as biological threats. It strengthened the laboratory infrastructure providing enhanced preparedness against potential bioterrorism.
- INFTRANS project contributes to an integrated EU research capacity for scenario planning and outbreak response modelling/prediction and develops tools for strategic planning and emergency decision-making to control the spread of infectious diseases.
- BIOSAFETY EUROPE project provides data for the harmonisation of safety assurance (risk containment – risk assessment) criteria, definitions and schemes and corresponding legal frameworks applicable to biosafety level (containment level) 3 and 4 laboratories in the various Member States.
- RIVIGENE project provides an integrated inventory of strains of security-relevant viruses, including their genome sequences, which are used in European high security laboratories.
- BIOSAFE project enhances the capability of public health and civil protection authorities to respond adequately to the deliberate releases of biological agents by terrorists. It brings together, interprets and analyzes existing expertise on virulence factors of those pathogens and toxins that may be used in acts of bioterrorism, by means of the establishment of a European-wide network and a database information system.
- CORPS project analyzes biological security and threat perceptions and research and development values in order to strengthen cross-sector communication and

knowledge-sharing between agencies in the field of biological homeland security in the EU.

Conclusion

In the field of civil protection (including biosecurity and protection against risks arising from terrorist attacks), and crisis management, SSP has been quite successful. The SSP project results are being used at national, European (especially by many policy services of the Commission) and international levels.

2.3.3. Underpinning the economic potential and cohesion of a larger and more integrated European Union

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COHESION

TOPIC 3.1: Underpinning European integration, sustainable development, competitiveness and trade policies (including improved means to assess economic development and cohesion)

Awareness raising actions

Most of the projects developed a web site and organised workshops or conferences:

- The project EUKLEMS: 'The Productivity in the European Union: comparative industry approach' organised a conference involving several DGs (ESTAT, ECFIN, RTD) to present its results. These were also reported at the next EPC (Economic Policy Committee) as well as at the ECOFIN Council where support for the data has been requested in order to try and guarantee its long term existence. The national European Statistical office will ensure the development of this methodology and the database.
- The TAXBEN: 'Tax/Benefit Systems for Growth and Employment' organised a final policy conference involving DG TAXUD and the results were reported at the meeting of the EPC meeting.

Exploitation/use of results

- Findings from the Integrating Research and Standardisation (INTEREST) project are currently being used as a major input to the preparation by DG ENTR of a communication on Standards and Innovation.
- The Competitiveness Effects of Environmental Tax Reforms (COMETR), Competition Policy Foundations for Trade Reform, Regulatory Reform and Sustainable Development (CPFTR), Financial Integration in Europe and the Propagation of Shocks (FINPROP) and Methods and Tools for Evaluating the Contribution of Cohesion Policies to Sustainable Regional Development (SRDTOOLS) projects have all finished successfully and their results are being taken up by the relevant policy DGs.

Conclusion

In this topic, several policy services of the Commission are involved in SSP projects, such as DG ESTAT, ECFIN, ENTR and TAXUD. These policy services of the Commission follow the development of SSP projects in order to use efficiently their outputs.

ENERGIE

TOPIC 3.2 The development of tools, indicators and operational parameters for assessing sustainable transport and energy systems performance (economic, environmental and social).

The major policy services of the Commission involved in this topic are DG ENV and DG TREN. Three successful projects are detailed below.

- SESSA project: 'The European Regulation Forum on Electricity Reforms' is a European forum on electricity reforms, bringing together various energy stakeholders.
- MAXIMA project: 'Dissemination of external costs of electricity supply: making electricity external costs known to policy makers' is providing, by fostering discussion between the energy industry, policy makers and NGOs, an accepted scientific methodology for taking into account the external costs of electricity in European policy consideration, and will provide a consensual set of external cost estimates.
- ENCOURAGED project: 'Energy Corridor Optimisation for the European Markets of Gas, Electricity and Hydrogen'. In view of the importance of diversifying the EU's energy supply, this project assesses the optimum network and interconnection infrastructure for electricity, gas and hydrogen in neighbouring regions, such as North Africa, the Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe and Russia. These regions are expected to play a key role in energy supply in the coming decades.

Awareness raising actions

- SESSA results were presented at a Conference entitled 'Implementing the internal market of electricity: proposals and time-tables' held in 2005.
- The methodology and data produced in the project MAXIMA have been presented to policy makers with two publications and one large symposium which involved stakeholders. The web site is complete and regularly updated.
- ENCOURAGED results were presented and discussed at several stakeholders and policy-makers seminars dealing with electricity, natural gas or hydrogen corridors between the EU and neighbouring countries. A publication will be finalised soon.

Exploitation/use of results

- Recommendations from SESSA project have been an important input to the 2006 European review of the internal energy market.
- The publication on the methodological update provided by MAXIMA project has been used in the strategy for air pollution cost-benefit analysis. Results provided by the project ENCOURAGED have already been used. The project has evaluated the implications of a large European energy network, and made recommendations on how to implement strategic energy corridors.

Conclusion

In that topic, the policy makers have been involved in such a way that the SSP projects outputs have been used. One can highlight the genuine participation of the relevant policy DGs (essentially DG TREN and DG ENV) and the involvement of the right stakeholders (industries and NGOs) according to the task addressed and since the beginning of the project.

TRANSPORT

TOPIC 3.2 The development of tools, indicators and operational parameters for assessing sustainable transport and energy systems performance (economic, environmental and social).

TOPIC 3.3 Global security analysis and validation systems for transport and research relating to accident risks and safety in mobility systems.

Under these topics, research concentrates on monitoring the implementation of the European transport policies through an efficient, rapid and secure access to reliable and harmonised data and enhanced forecasting tools, and assessing the impacts of individual policies and policy packages in terms of sustainability indicators and harmonised approaches.

Awareness raising actions

- TRANSFORUM: 'Towards common ground for European transport policy'. During the last three years, this project has brought together policy-makers, analysts and developers of policy impact appraisal tools in four TRANSFORUM Forum Meetings. The project presented recommendations to policy-makers and policy-analysts within the European Commission, along with other stakeholders on a Final Conference.
- HEATCO: 'A harmonised approach to assessing costs for transport projects at the European level'. In the Final Conference of the HEATCO project, suggestions for a harmonisation of methods were presented with a focus on the valuation of time and congestion, accident risks, health impacts and nuisances from pollutant and noise emissions, and infrastructure costs.

Exploitation/use of results

- TRANSFORUM project developed a consistent and widely-accepted set of decision-support tools that enables stakeholders to reach consensus quickly on the ways and means to give effect to the goals of the European Union's Common Transport Policy (CTP).
- HEATCO project developed new, harmonised guidelines for the evaluation of transport projects and policies of interest at EU level. The HEATCO methodology might be used in the future by DG TREN to assess project proposals submitted by the Member States for Trans-European Network infrastructure financing and for making the required ex-post analysis of completed Trans-European Network infrastructure projects.
- TRANS-TOOLS: 'A new way to model transport across Europe'. The TRANS-TOOLS model helps policy-makers to make sound judgements about alternative transport investment options and allows a comparison of the effectiveness and efficiency of policies that aim to stimulate regional development with those that seek to ease such problems as congestion. The project gives European policy-makers a greater understanding of how international and national traffic patterns relate to each other. TRANS-Tools is the largest and most comprehensive European transport model which covers the whole of Europe, all modes, freight and passengers transport. It is probably the largest transport model in the world as far as population and GDP covered.

Conclusion

For these topics, DG TREN is both implementing SSP projects and using the outputs of these projects. Some results have been already used but since most of the projects are still running, the information on policy development and major dissemination events are often limited or not available.

ENVIRONMENT

TOPIC 3.4 Forecasting and developing innovative policies for sustainability in the medium and long term

Topic 3.4 supports the EU Sustainable Development Strategy including the development of tools for the sustainability impact assessment of EU policies. Special attention was given to the development of Environmental Impact Assessment (indicators and quantitative tools); various instruments for sustainable consumption practices and greening of the market and urban thematic strategy.

Awareness raising actions

Most of the projects developed a web site and organised events such as workshops or conferences.

- GAINS-ASIA project: 'Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies'. The project brings together state-of-the-art disciplinary models on air pollution and climate change to assess technical and market based policies that maximize synergies and benefits between these policy areas. This project developed interactive web-based software aimed at providing stakeholders with access to the GAINS-Asia Model. This web-based model allows developing country partners to conduct independent analyses of the interactions between air pollution and climate change policies.

Exploitation/use of results

- (IMP)3 project: 'IMProving the IMplementation of Environmental IMPact Assessment' contributed to the improvement of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) application throughout Europe by elaborating different policy options in order to gain broader consistency in the fields of human health, risk assessment regarding various sources of risks (natural hazards, accidents, sabotage) by integrating risk exposure (potential of dangers) and vulnerability (damage potential). Additionally, the results of the project will be used in the context of the new Five Year Report on the application and effectiveness of the EIA Directive. There is an explicit reference in the contract to this report, requiring the contractor to consider the results of the (IMP)3 project.
- I.Q.TOOLS: 'Indicators and Quantitative Tools for Improving the Process of Sustainability Impact Assessment' aims to give an evaluation of the policy at the initial stage of the proposal and assess the potential effects of the policy on the three dimensions of sustainability. It provides an indicator review and a list of key indicators for priority areas, and a decision-support tool for Strategic Impact Assessment. The specific decision support tool is desktop software including electronic checklists applying the indicators for a practical appraisal of Community policies. I.Q. TOOLS is providing policy-makers with desktop software that helps to assess the compliance of draft policies with sustainability objectives. This software is

hosted by DG JRC, IPTS. In addition, the site provides reference documentation on impact assessment methods, existing modelling tools and practices and a checklist of sustainability impacts and a macroeconomic model that quantifies the interlinks across policy areas (economic, environmental and social).

- TISSUE project: 'Trends and Indicators for Monitoring the EU Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Development of Urban Environment' is designed to give input for the development of the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment, within the 6th Environment Action Programme of DG ENV. It includes the development of appropriate indicators and other monitoring tools to assess the effectiveness of the strategy. TISSUE evaluated whether existing urban environment indicators are good enough to inform the Commission strategy, before deciding whether new ones need to be developed. The project results were used to identify the data needs for monitoring the impact of the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment and the state of the environment in Europe's urban areas more generally especially in the revision of the environment indicators in DG REGIO/EUROSTAT Urban Audit.

Conclusion

In this very broad topic, many policy services of the Commission are involved. The DG ENV is the 'user/policy' DG the most involved but other DGs like INFSO, REGIO, ESTAT are interested as well in specific SSP projects.

INFORMATION SOCIETY

TOPIC 3.5 'Information Society issues (such as management and protection of digital assets, and inclusive access to the information society)'

SSP projects launched under the Information Society topic address various policy themes such as Linking rural areas to prosperity (A-BARD project), Broadband's impact on the knowledge economy (BEACON), Extending the reach and range of access to the information society (eINCLUSION@EU), Fine tuning policy for music download technologies (MUSICLESSONS), Building the e-business expressway (SEEMseed), Building confidence in ambient intelligence (SWAMI).

Awareness raising actions

All of the projects developed publicly accessible web sites on which project activities and outputs were published.

They also organised thematic conferences/workshops involving the main stakeholders, including policy makers.

For example:

- The SEEMseed project organised a workshop at which technical developments, practical deployments in different niches, and policy-oriented results were presented to an audience of over 60 senior representatives of relevant stakeholder communities.
- The eInclusion@EU project, organised stakeholders events and issued a regular electronic news bulletin (distributed by email and on their website).

The work of these SSP projects has also been more widely disseminated to policy makers and law makers via:

- DG INFSO's "Information Society Policy Link" (ISPL) initiative. This initiative is focused on linking the results of Information Society research projects with relevant policy makers. It covers 16 different policy areas and in various ISPL thematic brochures produced by the initiative, SSP projects managed by DG INFSO were highlighted along with information on their contributions to the policy areas.
- DG INFSO's "ICT Results" service (an editorial service created to showcase EU-funded ICT research and activities) has focused on the achievements of a number of INFSO-managed SSP projects in a number of feature articles it has published. Projects featured by the service include SEEMseed, A-BARD, SWAMI and eInclusion@EU.

Exploitation/use of results

- eInclusion@EU: Following consultation with stakeholders from 12 countries, the European Commission, disability and consumer organisations (EDF and ANEC), standardisation bodies (ICTSB/DATSCG) and the European ICT industry (EICTA) the project formulated policy measures to address the theme of eAccessibility (access for people with disabilities and older people to ICTs and the wider services of the Information Society). The recommendations were distributed to targeted policy makers who are formulating future policies in this area.
- A-BARD: The project in focusing on how to recognise, manage and optimise the power of broadband ICT to drive change for the betterment of Europe's rural areas. Comprehensive recommendations structured into four categories were issued: policy aspects, strategic actions, standalone initiatives and further research & innovation. Their consultation process embraced national regional authorities in addition to DGs AGRI, REGIO & INFSO (e.g. for Broadband Strategy Review, Universal Services Directive Review).

Conclusion

By actively targeting relevant policy services of national bodies and of the Commission, these SSP projects have secured participation of policy makers in their activities. This engagement ensured that the results of these SSP projects would converge with the needs of policy makers and therefore, via take up of their findings, increase the potential for SSP projects to have a positive impact on the shape of future policies. The considerable efforts of the projects in raising awareness of their achievements and findings have been complemented by INFSO communication initiatives such as "Information Society Policy Link" and "ICT Results".

CULTURAL HERITAGE

TOPIC 3.6 Protection of cultural heritage and associated conservation strategies

The aim of this research topic is to assess and protect the tangible cultural heritage, made of movable and immovable objects, from natural and man-made damages (including those resulting from climate change and pollution) and to develop new methodologies and tools for an improved and sustainable conservation, taking into account their cultural, social and environmental interest as well as their impact on tourism and the economy.

Awareness raising actions

All of the 23 projects operated in a very wide range of activities, developed a web sites and organised events such as workshops or conferences.

- The PICTURE project: 'Pro-active management of the Impact of Cultural Tourism upon Urban Resources and Economies' disseminated existing knowledge and good practices of sustainable cultural tourism in Europe in particular those concerning the effects upon the conservation and enhancement of built heritage diversity and urban quality of life.
- The Sustaining Heritage project: this project involved organising the 6th EC supported Conference in London; this event -which gave rise to an overall Declaration of the participants- highlighted more particularly the role of cultural heritage in many areas of economic and regional development: construction, tourism, job creation, education and improving skills through technological innovation, environment and social identity.
- The SAUVEUR project: 'Safeguarded Cultural Heritage-Understanding and Viability for the Enlarged Europe' has been designed to further define the role of Europe's cultural heritage research within the international context and as part of international cooperation. This project organised the 7th EC Conference on Cultural Heritage Research in Prague, which consisted of sessions dealing with public dissemination and exploitation of cultural heritage research, and also explored the possibilities for SMEs in contributing to competitiveness and job creation; it issued a political "Concluding message" reinforcing the London Declaration of 2004, and paved the way for the embedding of cultural heritage in the FP7 Environment Theme.

Exploitation/use of results

- The NOAHS ARK project: 'Global Climate Change Impact on Built Heritage and Cultural Landscapes' enabled the prediction of the effect of climate and pollution on cultural heritage and investigation of future climate scenarios on a European scale. The study offered also guidelines to help limit the effect of climate change on monuments, suggesting methodologies such as the increased frequency of repairs or installation of barriers on buildings to reduce salt deposits. The project includes a Policy Advisory Panel composed of two members of the European Parliament and three Noah's Ark representatives. The Policy Advisory Panel met regularly and directed project outcomes to legislators at European level.
- The PICTURE project: 'Pro-active management of the Impact of Cultural Tourism upon Urban Resources and Economies' aimed at developing a strategic urban governance framework for the sustainable management of cultural tourism within small and medium-sized European cities. It provided local governments and decision makers with tools to facilitate the assessment of the impact of tourism in a locality, with particular regard to built heritage issues and relevant quality of life parameters, in order to improve their strategies, plans, and policies. The main project impacts are the identification and benchmarking of innovative urban governance strategies for sustainable development of cultural tourism within small and medium-sized cities.

Conclusion

This topic is quite significant for many kinds of research end-users such as conservators, restorers, architects, SMEs but also for policy makers at EU level (DG EAC, DG ENV, Members of European Parliament), for policy authorities at national, regional, or local level (e.g to manage sustainable tourism), and for citizens who are directly concerned.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COHESION

***TOPIC 3.7 Improved quality, accessibility and dissemination of European statistics
(Development and improvement of indicators for the knowledge economy)***

Awareness raising actions

The single project under this topic KEI (Knowledge Economy Indicators) has a web site and has organised a series of workshops and conferences open to a specialised audience. The final policy conference is scheduled to take place still in 2007 and it will be attended by policy makers as well as specialists in the field.

Exploitation/use of results

The earlier results from KEI and its workshops were of considerable help to DG RTD and ESTAT in preparing the workprogramme of 'Socio-economic and human sciences' priority (Activity 8.6) of the FP7 Cooperation programme.

The final results of the project will be used by DG ESTAT and RTD and potentially other policy DGs such as ECFIN, ENTR, EMPL and INFSO. The part of the project on composite indicators, led by the JRC, should be of widespread applicability.

Conclusion

The early stages of this project were useful to DG RTD but also to DG ESTAT and the final results should be also interesting for several policy DGs such as DG ECFIN, EMPL, ENTR and INFSO.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Scientific Support to Policies (SSP) activities introduced in the 6th Framework Programme have allowed projects to be more focused on solving policy problems via pragmatic and much more applied research with shorter timeframes for projects. It has also addressed specific scientific questions needing rapid responses such as SARS and Avian INFLUENZA. Furthermore the Action Plan on 'SSP awareness raising and SSP exploitation of results' has been implemented as much as possible by horizontal activities as well as by thematic activities in order to allow policy makers to know about SSP and its potential as well as to use properly the results of SSP projects.

The awareness raising (information on SSP and dissemination of results), has been done within the scientific community as well as among policy makers through different ways. SSP concept and results of SSP projects have been presented to the scientific community as well as to the various stakeholders, especially policy makers at different occasions such as general conferences on 6th RTD Framework Programme or thematic conferences/workshops on European research. Leaflets, posters on SSP concept have been elaborated and broadly distributed. In 2004, an SSP web site was designed. It has been developed by making accessible on line popularised information on each SSP project to a wide public, including policy makers. This information has been also disseminated to appropriate targets through the SINAPSE tool developed in the 'Science and Society' programme of FP6.

In order to move scientists and policy makers closer together, implementation rules have been developed and common guidelines followed. Thus, the scientific and policy services of the Commission cooperated several times. They worked together on the work-programmes and co-organised events to disseminate SSP research results to stakeholders using information supports available. They also followed some projects together allowing, if necessary, adjustments in medium term regarding policy needs. In that context, the policy services of the Commission have often been the best users of SSP projects.

Within the projects themselves, many activities have been developed to contribute to the moving closer of scientists and policy makers.

SSP concept and output have been very much appreciated by the SSP users, especially policy services of the Commission (Directorates general such as DG AGRI, DEV, ECFIN, EAC, EMPL, ENTR, ENV, ESTAT, FISH, INFSO, JLS, REGIO, SANCO, TAXUD, TREN). Even if many projects are still running and if efforts should continue to disseminate the results to a large audience in view of their exploitation, many outputs have been gained and it can already be said that SSP programme has been successful.

Beside the results of the projects, an important salient output of SSP programme is the huge improvement of links between scientific and policy services of the Commission. Furthermore SSP allowed developing ways and networks involving scientists and policy makers at regional, national, European and international levels. This is of a particular importance in the framework of the development of the 7th Framework programme which foresees to strengthen the research support to policies. FP6 SSP paved the way for the development of a genuine and efficient research in support to policies in FP7.

In that context, the links between scientific services and policy services of the Commission should be maintained and even developed.

Several ways to increase relations between scientists and policy makers are suggested:

- Foresight exercises which involve stakeholders, scientists and foresight experts in order to identify the major driving forces.
- Mainstream science within the tasks of policy officers in policy DGs and mainstream policies within the tasks of scientific officers.
- At a more general level, frequent exchanges of best practices concerning the relationships between scientists and policy makers should be worth examining.

Furthermore the SSP concept can be reinforced in FP7 and the SSP like projects in FP7 should be mainstreamed (especially by improving the description of the policy expected results under the 'expected impact of the project' within the work-programmes).

Finally, since the SSP programme is still ongoing, exploitation / use of results is still partial. But, instead of performing a specific final impact of SSP, its impact could be done within the FP6 global evaluation.

4. ANNEX: LIST OF POLICY DIRECTIONS GENERAL OF THE COMMISSION INVOLVED IN SSP

DG:	Directorate-General
AGRI:	Agriculture and Rural Development http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/agriculture/index_fr.htm
DEV:	Development http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm
ECFIN:	Economic and Financial Affairs http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/economy_finance/index_en.htm
EAC:	Education and Culture http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/index_fr.html
EMPL:	Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/employment_social/index_fr.htm
ENTR:	Enterprise and Industry http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/index_fr.htm
ENV:	Environment http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm
ESTAT:	Eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu
FISH:	Fisheries and Maritime Affairs http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fisheries/index_fr.htm
INFSO:	Information Society and Media http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/information_society/index_fr.htm
JLS:	Joint Research Centre http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/index_fr.htm
REGIO:	Regional Policy http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/regional_policy/index_fr.htm
SANCO:	Health and Consumer Protection http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/index_fr.htm

TAXUD: **Taxation and Customs Union**
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/index_fr.htm

TREN: **Energy and Transport**
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/index_fr.html