European Commission

FET Exchange

Building up research domains for future technologies.

WP description

*c) FET Exchange: **structuring** an emerging FET-relevant topic and the interdisciplinary communities around it. This shall include research **roadmapping**, stimulating **learning and exchange** (possibly with related initiatives worldwide) involving the appropriate **range of disciplines and actors** such as young researchers and high-tech SMEs, and **broader stakeholder engagement**.*

Typical EU contribution: 0.3 to 0.5 M€

Expected impact

- *European thought-leadership on new and emerging technologies with a* **strong engagement** *of scientists, citizens, innovators and policy makers.*

- *Improved long-term* **innovation** *potential in Europe both from the abundance of novel ideas and the range of actors ready to take them forward.*

- *Improved readiness across Europe to engage in* **silo-breaking research collaboration** *and to take up new research and innovation practices.*

Structuring an emerging FET-relevant topic

This could involve a wide variety of tasks, e.g.

- Defining the research domain
- Building a critical mass for self-sustainability
- Identifying potential end users, preparing take-up
- and many more …

Roadmapping

- Define eventual goal of the research topic
- Identify intermediate results
- Estimate timescales to reach these results
  - Problems to be addressed
  - Resources available
  - Research community interest
- Public, peer-reviewed roadmap document/summary

Learning and exchange

- **New problems – learn from others' approaches**
  - Especially look for new types of collaborators in other disciplines
  - International collaboration outside EU+ encouraged
- **Important to involve young researchers**
  - Training on new topics to accelerate progress
    - eg summer schools, researcher exchanges
  - Could involve specialised university curricula
  - Source of new ideas
  - Needed for long term research
    - Who will keep the topic going in the future?

Range of disciplines and actors

- FET topics are inherently multidisciplinary
- CSAs should look for new relevant disciplines as well
- Other actors should also be involved when relevant eg
  - Standards organisations
  - Clinical bodies
  - Potential end-users
- Look to avoid potential "roadblocks" 5-10 years ahead

Broader stakeholder engagement

Plan comprehensive dissemination activities:

- **General public**
  - Attract wide support
  - Future recruits!
  - Avoid potential ethics problems
- **Other research communities**
  - Source of new tools to solve problems
  - Funding for domain topic
- **Policy makers**