

WORK PROGRAMME

III. STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

12. Support for the coherent development of policies

TABLE OF CONTENTS

12.1	INTRODUCTION.....	3
12.2	OBJECTIVES, STRUCTURE, AND OVERALL APPROACH.....	3
12.3	TECHNICAL CONTENT.....	4
12.3.1	ANALYSES AND STUDIES, WORK RELATING TO FORESIGHT , STATISTICS AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS.....	4
	<i>Monitoring and Analysis of Science and Technology Foresight and Indicators Activities</i>	<i>4</i>
	<i>Community Innovation Survey, studies and analyses on innovation-related trends.</i>	<i>5</i>
	<i>Co-ordination activities.....</i>	<i>5</i>
12.3.2	BENCHMARKING OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POLICIES AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL	5
	<i>Benchmarking research policies.....</i>	<i>5</i>
	<i>Benchmarking innovation policies.....</i>	<i>6</i>
12.3.3	MAPPING OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES AND EXCELLENCE IN EUROPE	6
12.3.4	IMPROVING THE REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN EUROPE.....	7
	<i>Monitoring and analysis of factors influencing industrial investment in RTD.....</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>Activities focussing on specific issues</i>	<i>7</i>
12.4	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND RELATED ISSUES	8
12.4.1	INSTRUMENTS TO BE USED.....	8
12.5	BUDGET FOR 2003 AND CALL INFORMATION	9

12.1 Introduction

The coherent development of research and innovation policies in Europe requires a comprehensive understanding of the structure and evolution of science, technology (S&T) and innovation activities and of the present and future challenges to be addressed by Europe's research and innovation policies.

The following activities should provide national, regional and Community policymakers with knowledge and decision-aiding tools to help in formulating policy:

- analyses and studies, work relating to foresight, statistics and science and technology indicators;
- benchmarking of research and innovation policies at national, regional and European level;
- mapping of scientific and technological activities and excellence in Europe;
- improving the regulatory and administrative environment for research and innovation in Europe.

12.2 Objectives, Structure, and Overall Approach

Analyses and studies, work relating to foresight, statistics and science and technology indicators will support the coherent development of research and innovation policies in Europe through the development and dissemination of science and technology indicators, economic analyses, studies and the exploitation and synthesis of the results of foresight activities carried out at regional, national, European and international levels.

Benchmarking of research and innovation policies aims at providing support to improve design and implementation of RTD and innovation policy at national, regional and European level. It also aims at providing further development of synergies and co-ordination of research and innovation efforts in Europe, thus improving their performance and effectiveness.

Through the gathering and analysis of information and performances and through a continuous, dynamic and mutual learning process among participating countries, the benchmarking exercises in RTD and innovation policies will help in identifying and disseminating “good policy practices” taking into account the specific national contexts. They will allow each participating country to learn from the others and ultimately, to provide insights into how national RTD and innovation policies may be improved and made more effective.

The benchmarking exercises will include among others, topics relevant to developing policies aimed at achieving the goal agreed at the European Council in Barcelona, i.e. to increase EU investment in R&D (approaching 3% of GDP by 2010, of which two-thirds is to come from the private sector)

The mapping of scientific and technological activities and excellence in Europe (Member and Associated States) would help to form part of the knowledge base necessary for the development of consistent national research policies. The wide dissemination of the mapping results to policy makers, scientific community, industry and investors should increase the visibility of European research.

A variety of framework conditions, involving several policies, have an influence on European research and innovation performance, in particular on the effectiveness and impact of public research and on private sector decisions to invest in research and innovation. Improving framework conditions is particularly important in order to achieve the goal set by the European Council in Barcelona. The objectives of **improving the regulatory and administrative environment for research and innovation in Europe** are therefore:

- to identify and analyse regulatory and administrative factors having an influence (either positively or negatively) on research and innovation performance;
- to identify and disseminate good practices, and formulate new approaches, with respect to the regulatory and administrative framework, thereby better taking research and innovation into account in the elaboration of other policies (internal market, financial markets, competition, fiscal, industrial competitiveness, etc.).

12.3 Technical content

12.3.1 Analyses and studies, work relating to foresight, statistics and science and technology indicators

Monitoring and Analysis of Science and Technology Foresight and Indicators Activities

The activities will be implemented through the setting up by the Commission services, in close relationship with policy makers and policy experts in Member States, candidate and Associated States, of a European Science and Technology Foresight and Indicators Knowledge Sharing Platform. The Platform will aim at providing a service to those responsible for the definition and implementation of research and innovation policies at various levels through the permanent collection of information and preparation of analyses and syntheses about ongoing activities in the areas of science and technology foresight, economic analysis and indicators.

In the area of science and technology foresight, the activities referred to above will be designed and implemented in close co-ordination with the direct actions of the Joint Research Centre in the context of the joint promotion of a European Area for Foresight: the focus here will be on the shared use by policy-makers of the results and knowledge produced by foresight initiatives at all levels, in view of informing a forward-looking and coherent research and innovation policy-making in Europe. The techno-economic foresight activities of the JRC, as well as its work aiming at establishing a European scientific reference system for foresight will significantly contribute to the service provided by the Platform in this area.

The results of this monitoring and analytical work will be permanently disseminated in regular Newsletters and via a Portal Web site. In addition it will be necessary to add value to the information gathered and to the reports by providing secondary analysis and policy-oriented exploitation of the results. This could take place through seminars, working and expert groups, dissemination activities and separate publications such as the regularly published “Key Figures” or European Science and Technology Indicators Reports. Moreover, the results of the activities will be exploited through the publication of a Synthesis Report on main issues and challenges for Europe as well as of targeted thematic publications on mid to long term issues.

Community Innovation Survey, studies and analyses on innovation-related trends.

The Community Innovation Survey (CIS), strengthening its contribution to the European Innovation Scoreboard and to knowledge of the innovative behaviour of enterprises in an enlarged Union, will be a key element for the statistics of innovation. It will also be one of the main sources for specific studies such as, for instance, on sector activity (increasing role of knowledge and the service sector) and on new and emerging forms and sources of innovation. Studies and analyses will be complemented by surveys, workshops, peer reviews and dissemination activities.

Co-ordination activities

The activities under the Platform mentioned above aim at servicing a broad spectrum of policy and decision makers at European, national and regional level. Consistency and complementarity with the activities of Eurostat and the actions of the other specific programmes, in particular the EC programme of the Joint Research Centre (techno-economic foresight activities in support of both its work in priority areas and the needs of Community policies), will be ensured through co-ordination.

12.3.2 Benchmarking of research and innovation policies at national, regional and European level

The benchmarking of research and innovation policies consists of a mutual learning tool for policy making, scoreboards and indicators. Efforts will be made to ensure that they are carried out in full coherence.

Benchmarking research policies

The first exercise of benchmarking national research policies began in September 2000 and covered five broad themes: Human Resources in RTD, Public and Private Investment in RTD, Impact of RTD on Competitiveness and Employment, S&T Productivity, Promotion of RTD Culture and Public Understanding of Science.

The reports on these themes are available and will be debated and disseminated through policy workshops in Member and Associated States. Following the evaluation of the results of the first cycle in the first part of 2003, the Commission will present a proposal for the design of the second cycle.

The second cycle will be extended to all the States associated to FP6 and will take into account the experience of the first cycle. The second cycle will concentrate on a small number of more focused topics. An appropriate operational set-up ensuring an active involvement of Member and Associated States will be designed. The development of indicators will be pursued.

The topics could, for example, be chosen from among the following issues: development of human resources for public and private research, public investment in basic research, actions by Member States to encourage private investment in research, local clustering of research and development resources, government policies to promote scientific knowledge among the public and actions to involve citizens in the discussion of research issues.

Benchmarking innovation policies

Benchmarking of innovation policies will rely on continuation and further development of the Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe, including regular compilation of the European Innovation Scoreboard. Development will include continuation of work to incorporate Associated States and, in particular, Candidate Countries in the Trend Chart. The Trend Chart will also take account of the global context, for example through incorporation of information on the policies and performances of other countries (USA, Japan, etc) for comparison purposes.

A regional dimension to benchmarking of innovation policies will be developed by collection and analysis of information on regional schemes and performances, and exploiting synergies with regional activities.

Activities to provide a forum for policy-makers and innovation programme managers will be continued and strengthened, for the sharing of experience, identification of “good practices”, improved co-ordination and coherence of innovation policy, and production of recommendations.

The work will be complemented by dissemination activities, such as workshops, publication of reports, and a website.

12.3.3 Mapping of scientific and technological activities and excellence in Europe

A pilot exercise has been undertaken to experiment with different methodologies, to identify the potential users and their needs and to determine whether and how to develop the next phase of the mapping of activities and excellence.

The evaluation of the mapping pilot exercise will be completed in the first part of 2003. On the basis of that evaluation, the Commission will present a proposal for the next phase.

12.3.4 Improving the regulatory and administrative environment for research and innovation in Europe

Monitoring and analysis of factors influencing industrial investment in RTD.

The Commission will support a platform for the monitoring and analysis of trends in industrial R&D activities in Europe and of factors (horizontal and sector-specific) that influence business investment in R&D and innovation. The activities will build on and complement relevant activities at national level, cover the period 2004-2006, and include surveys, studies, workshops, seminars and publications. Mutual compatibility between different information systems developed by the Commission will be ensured, in particular with the integrated information system on national or regional research policies, programmes and activities (see section 11.3.1.3).

Activities focussing on specific issues

Studies, information collection and analysis, backed by seminars, workshops and peer reviews as necessary, and including dissemination of the results of the work to policy-makers and other stakeholders, in areas such as:

- factors affecting RTD collaboration and knowledge transfer between public research organisations and enterprises;
- innovative public and private financing mechanisms for R&D and innovation (including university research);
- interaction of research and innovation policies with other EU policies and priorities (regional, education, etc);
- obstacles to market entry in technological markets;
- European accounting standards and practices for intangible investments, in particular RTD and intellectual property;
- encouraging RTD and innovation through public procurement, through competition rules, and through fiscal incentives;
- adapting IPR systems to technological advances and changes in research and innovation processes.

Where appropriate, the work will take account of the international dimension of research and innovation policies.

12.4 Implementation Plan and Related Issues

12.4.1 Instruments to be used

In 2003, activities will be implemented using specific support actions and in particular for their main part open calls for tender. The detailed specification of these actions will be contained in the calls for tender.

In the subsequent years, calls for proposals for co-ordination actions or targeted research projects may also be envisaged as could be the use of framework contracts for publication and IT services in addition to the specific support actions.

12.5 Budget for 2003 and Call information

ACTIVITY	TIMETABLE OF THE CALLS FOR TENDERS	DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE BUDGET FOR 2003 (COMMITMENTS)
European Science and Technology Foresight and Indicators Knowledge Sharing Platform	An open call for tenders will be published immediately after the start of the implementation of the specific programme with the aim of setting up networks of organisations that will implement the activity for the whole duration of the programme.	The call will aim at identifying a consortium (consortia) that will provide a service (services) consisting in the permanent collection of information and preparation of analyses and syntheses about ongoing activities in the areas of science and technology foresight, economic analysis and indicators.	8 Mio€
Community Innovation Survey and other statistical tools;	Mainly in collaboration with Eurostat, second half of 2003. Annually thereafter (indicative)	Calls to be organised by Eurostat for statistical surveys and methodologies (partly funded from FP6)	0.3 Mio€
studies and analyses on innovation-related trends	First half of 2003	Precise topics will be defined according to policy developments and needs	
Benchmarking research policies	To be defined in an update of the work programme		1.5 Mio€
Benchmarking innovation policies (Trend Chart)	15.1.2003	The open call for tenders will cover (1) information collection, analysis, dissemination, (2) statistics and performance analysis, (3) peer reviews, (4) external monitoring and user feedback.	3 Mio€
Mapping of scientific and technological activities and excellence in Europe	To be defined in an update of the work programme		0.5 Mio€

Improving the regulatory and administrative environment for research and innovation in Europe	First half of 2003	Precise topics will be defined according to policy developments and needs	1.5 Mio€
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