European Technology Platforms Conference 2010

Workshop D1

ETPs and National Authorities: Working Together on Societal Challenges
Session 5, 12 May, 11h00 - 12h30

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1. Introduction

The ETP 2010 conference aims to engage ETPs in working together on key areas that contribute to tackling society's most pressing problems. It aligns with a trend in research and innovation policy to relate much more closely to societal challenges.

ETPs are not the only ones to reposition themselves. Putting societal challenges at the core of research and innovation policy requires a much more dominant role of the public sector. Public authorities need to articulate societal needs and priorities and ensure that the outcome of these initiatives serve the public interest by setting clear objectives. Once the work goes beyond research and expands to take into account innovation, a strong coordination across policies and governance levels to address framework conditions should support the achievement of the objectives. Moreover, the whole process should be organised in such a way that cooperation is balanced with competition and that any initiative is open to innovative ideas from new players.

This conference session discusses the governance of research and innovation initiatives that address societal challenges, in particular the role of national and EU policy makers, research and innovation programme owners and ETPs.

2. Objectives

- ➢ Present the general state of affairs as regards the role of national and EU policy makers, research and innovation programme owners and ETPs in specific research and innovation-related policy initiatives that contribute to tackling societal challenges.

- ➢ Exchange ideas and experiences concerning the different governance models that exist

- ➢ Draw up a list of concerns and suggestions as regards the best mechanisms to improve coordination and maximise synergies in the definition of research and innovation priorities as it comes to addressing societal challenges.

3. Chair person and rapporteur

- ➢ *Chair: National Contact Point in Poland:* **Andrzej Siemaszko,** Director of the National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU, Secretary General of Coordination Committee of Polish Technology Platforms

- ➢ *Rapporteur:* **Christine van Wunnik,** European Commission

4. Speakers

➤ *SET-Plan Steering group:* **Gerrit Jan Schaeffer**, Energy Research Director, Flemish Institute of Technology Research VITO

MS involvement in the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (role of the public sector: research programming)

Member States steer the implementation of the Strategic Energy Technology Action-Plan through the Steering Group on Strategic Energy Technologies that is composed of high level government representatives and chaired by the Commission. It will reinforce the coherence between national, European and international efforts. It allows Member States and the Commission to plan joint actions and coordinate policies and programmes.

➤ *Steering group of the eHealth Lead Market Initiative*: **Eric Maurincomme,** Chair of eHealth Industry Stakeholders Group; Chair of COCIR[1] Healthcare IT Committee; Vice-President, Chief Strategy & Marketing Officer, Agfa HealthCare (tbc)

MS involvement in the eHealth Lead Market Initiative (role of the public sector: to identify and address non-technological barriers)

The Lead Market Initiative is the first comprehensive effort at EU level for a coordinated demand-side innovation policy approach. It uses a number of policy instruments to facilitate the uptake of new innovative products and services in the market.

eHealth was chosen to be one of the six markets of the Lead Market Initiative due to its market potential in terms of growing demand and market growth opportunities, changing demographics, disease patterns and healthcare capabilities.

As part of the LMI for eHealth, a roadmap of policy recommendations for the period 2008-2010 was developed in cooperation with an EC-wide task-force coordinated by DG INFSO. This resulted in the establishment of an expert group that discusses the preparation of a coordinated work program by EU MS. The eHR-Q-TN project was launched under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme for this purpose.

➤ *Societal Research and Innovation Programme*: **Karen de Ruijter,** Programme Manager of the Societal Research and Innovation Agendas at the Inter-ministerial Knowledge and Innovation Department, the Netherlands.

The Dutch cross-ministerial Knowledge and Innovation initiative (role: to set the objectives and to give direction)

The Dutch societal research and innovation programme links economic and societal objectives. Launched in 2007 by a then new government and the outcome of a political process, the first batch of challenges chosen was: health, water, energy and safety.

The programme is managed by an inter-ministerial 'Knowledge and Innovation' directorate under political responsibility of the ministry of Economic Affairs. Challenges are dealt with by temporary (2008-2012) inter-ministerial project teams, that are lead by the most relevant ministry for the particular challenge.

The inter-ministerial project teams draft a societal research and innovation agenda and agree upon a common objective for its challenge on the basis of a SWOT-analysis. Developing solutions and implementing them is considered a task for the market or for public-private partnerships. Once the

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[1] European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry.

priorities are set, policy instruments are developed to support this process, notably: research funding, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), the public sector as a launching customer, innovation vouchers, innovation performance contracts.

> ➤ *AAL Joint Programme:* **Rafael de Andrés-Medina,** Member of the Executive Board of the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Association & JP, Brussels; Chief of the Department, Documents & Technical Studies, Fund for Health Research (FIS). Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain

MS involvement in the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Joint Programme (role of the public sector: to fund the implementation of new solutions)

The AAL Joint Programme is a joint research and development funding programme implemented by 20 European Member States and 3 Associated States.

The objective of the AAL Joint Programme is to enhance the quality of life of older people and strengthen the industrial base in Europe through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The motivation of the new funding activity is in the demographic change and ageing in Europe, which implies not only challenges but also opportunities for citizens, healthcare systems as well as industry.

Main activity under the AAL Joint Programme is the funding of R&D projects in the AAL domain which is managed by the AAL Association and the national funding organisations of its members. The European Commission contributes to the implementation with a substantial financial support granted on the basis of article 185 of the Lisbon Treaty (the previous article 169 of the EC Treaty).