



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL – Information Society

Information Society Technologies Advisory Group



Brussels, 24 May 2000

**ISTAG-2000/2-1**

**DRAFT “OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS” OF THE MEETING OF THE  
INFORMATION SOCIETY TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY GROUP (ISTAG)**

Held in Brussels, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000

**1. Opening of the meeting – Mr. A. Airaghi**

Mr. Airaghi opened the meeting and invited Mr. Metakides to give an update on the IST programme implementation.

**2. IST Programme Update – Mr. G. Metakides**

Mr. Metakides presented an update on the implementation of the IST Programme and in particular gave an analysis of Call.1 and Call.2 which shows that the distribution of the budget is closely aligned with the distribution as laid down in the Council Decision for the IST Programme. The overall proposal acceptance rate is *circa* 1-in-5 (it is acknowledged that 1-in-4 would be better), with acceptance rates in the application areas (Key Action I, II and III) being a little lower than in the technology areas (this observation is consistent with the former experiences in FP4). Responding to a question from ISTAG, Mr. Metakides agreed to continue to provide acceptance rate overviews for cumulative calls (next update will include Call.3).

The participation of the pre-adhesion states in the funded proposals of Call.2 has increased over that observed in Call.1, but the funding has roughly remained the same. This can be further discussed at the next ISTAG meeting where it is expected that the new members Mr. Boyanov (Bulgaria) and Mr. Wierzbicki (Poland) will be present.

The participation of SME's in the IST programme is ~25% and is the highest of all the Framework Programmes. In the IST application areas SME's are participating largely as users, whereas in the technology areas you find both SME users and suppliers.

Mr. Metakides also gave an update on the programme of calls in 2000 (Call.4 in June, and Call.5 in September). The preparation of the workprogramme for 2001 has now started. Inputs are being gathered from ISTAG Working Group 4 (working closely with the Commission and the IPPA study) and from the Programme Consultation Meetings (PCM's) which are taking place during May. Mr. Metakides confirmed that a "synthesis" of the PCM meetings reports will be sent to the ISTAG before the June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**3. Presentation Working Group 5 (Scenarios) – Mr. M. Schuurmans**

Mr. Schuurmans expanded on the draft terms of reference (distributed in advance of the meeting to ISTAG members). The "scenarios-project" will build on the ISTAG “ambient intelligence” vision and develop 3-5 scenarios which will provide a longer term vision for the sustained global competitiveness of the European IST industry. These scenarios are aimed at influencing FP6. The JRC-IPTS in Seville will define the key drivers and uncertainties and draft the scenarios by September 2000. The scenarios will then be discussed in expert workshops (to be held during October and December 2000). The resulting scenarios are expected to be available in February/March 2001. ISTAG endorsed the “terms of reference” as prepared by WG5.

Mr. Schuurmans called on ISTAG members, DG-INFOS and IPTS to propose a total 50 names by the end of May (e-mail request sent to all ISTAG members 15<sup>th</sup> May by D. Broster). Mr. Schuurmans emphasised that getting the right calibre of expertise (in particular "original thinkers") is key to a scenario building exercise and WG5 had provided some guidelines for expert selection. Moreover, it is very important to avoid reaching "averaged" opinions in the workshops. ISTAG agreed that the final selection of 20 experts (from the pool of ~50) will be made jointly by WG5, IPTS and DG-INFOS. Experts participating in the project will be reimbursed travel and subsistence by the Commission.

In conclusion of the discussion it was agreed that the overall responsibility for quality control of the scenarios lies with ISTAG and to this extent ISTAG will be actively engaged in the project. Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by WG5 who will report back to ISTAG regularly. ISTAG also agreed to a presentation on the first outcomes of the project at the IST2000 Conference (6-8 November in Nice).

#### **4. Presentation on eEurope – Mr. D. Eckert**

Mr. D. Eckert (DG-INFOS) gave a presentation on the background and methodology of the eEurope initiative. He explained that eEurope links implicitly with the IST-programme, because it reflects some of the same strategic issues. Mr. Eckert said that the IST-budget will not be affected as such, but that the flexibility of the IST-programme should be used to focus on certain initiatives.

Mr. Eckert's presentation gave rise to a lively debate. ISTAG members emphasised the importance of exchange of information on the manifold initiatives taking place at national level, several also felt that issues such as harmonisation of treatment of stock options, which are a key issue to the development of the new economy, should be addressed in eEurope. ISTAG also expressed some concerns about the risk of diversion of the IST budget to issues which should be addressed by Member States. Following these discussions a small sub-group was formed to incorporate the results of the discussions into ISTAG's draft position paper on eEurope. The output of this were then later discussed in the ISTAG plenary session, edited en-séance, and agreed upon. The resulting ISTAG position paper on eEurope has been sent to Mr. Verrue.

#### **5 Presentation of the IPPA-report – Mr. G. Comyn**

Mr. G. Comyn presented the Integrated Programme Portfolio Analysis (IPPA) of Call.1 and Call.2. ISTAG warmly welcomed the study and its findings. In the following discussion the "5-to-10 year gap" which was highlighted in the study, was addressed. Questions also raised included :- "does the evaluation/selection process itself prejudices innovative proposals ?" and, "Is it possible for the IST Programme to accommodate projects with a very short time to market, or should other mechanism (e.g. incubators, fast track mechanism, open-scheme) be further stimulated ?". Mr. Airaghi concluded the discussion by proposing that ISTAG in a future meeting should devote time to further exploring ideas on how to stimulate and promote innovation.

#### **6 Presentation of Working Group 4 (Roadmaps) – Mr. A. Bravo**

Summarising the work of the group, Mr. A. Bravo presented five recommendations to ISTAG, some of which relate or arise from the IPPA-report.

The first three are aimed at Workprogramme 2001 :

- Re-balancing with respect to longer-term research;
- Better matching of the nature and the size of projects to specific requirements of topics;
- Encouragement of new participation's;

The fourth is aimed at a further improvement of IPPA :

- More refined and coherent monitoring mechanisms

and the fifth addressed the need for flexibility :

- Flexibility to respond to technology and market developments.

In the discussion Mr Richonnier remarked that an answer to some of the recommendations is encourage a better mix of research on applications combined with technological building blocks.

Mr. Airaghi complemented WG4 on doing an excellent job. WG4 will further fine-tune it's recommendations, including points relating to eEurope and consolidating feedback form the ongoing Programme Consultation Meeting (PCM). The recommendations are further elaborated in the WG4 draft report which will be finalised and presented to ISTAG for adoption at their June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **7 Presentation of Future & Emerging technologies – Mr. S. Bensasson**

Mr. S. Bensasson, Head of Unit for IST's "Future and Emerging Technologies" (FET), presented the open and proactive schemes of FET. The open scheme of FET aims to fund any idea of quality (any "cool" idea). He showed how ideas and initiatives stimulated in previous Framework Programmes had matured and in some cases moved to mainstream. It was also pointed out that one of the two action lines in the current proactive scheme, "the disappearing computer" ties in closely with ISTAG's vision. Mr Airaghi complemented Mr Bensasson on making an excellent and stimulating presentation.

#### **8 Presentation of Key Action II – Mrs. R. Zobel**

Due to time constraints the presentation prepared by Mrs. R. Zobel on "New Methods of Work and Electronic Commerce" had regrettably to be moved to the next ISTAG meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June.

#### **9. Other business**

- ISTAG were reminded that Commissioner Liikanen will participate in the June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Any suggestions for topics which they would like to be addressed on this occasion are to be sent to A. Airaghi and Dave Broster by e-mail by early June.
- The IST conference is confirmed as taking place in Nice (F) from 6-8 November 2000. ISTAG members will receive a personal invitation to attend and participate.

#### **10. Future meeting**

ISTAG had a meeting planned for 27<sup>th</sup> October in Brussels. As this is so close to the IST2000 conference it was decided to try to accommodate an ISTAG meeting in Nice. The date proposed is the day after the conference, i.e. 9<sup>th</sup> November. Member are asked to pencil this (and the conference dates) into their agenda's.

Further ISTAG meetings in 2000 are on :

- **29<sup>th</sup> June 2000** (Brussels)
  - **15<sup>th</sup> September 2000** (Brussels)
  - **9<sup>th</sup> November** (Nice)
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List of participants at the ISTAG meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000

ISTAG	Angelo Alain Michel Christos Rosemary Juhani Paul Bernard Gregers Cesare Ian Martin Javier Hannes	AIRAGHI BRAVO FENEYROL HALKIAS HORWOOD KUUSI LAGASSE LARROUTUROU MOGENSEN MOSSOTTO PURVES SCHUURMANS UCEDA WERTHNER	Chairman
<i>Unable to attend</i>	<i>Kiril Tarja Paolo Michael Wolfgang Ann Marie Ursula Jacob Luc Andrzej Piotr</i>	<i>BOYANOV CRONBERG GALLUZZI HEALY MERKER NILSSON PACHL VORTMAN WAGNER WIERZBICKI</i>	
Commission	Frans George Michel Rosalie  Simon Gérard Detlef  Michael Dave John Khalil Norman Marian	DE BRUINE METAKIDES RICHONNIER ZOBEL  BENSASSON COMYN ECKERT  ARENTOFT BROSTER DOYLE ROUHANA SADEH SANDERS	

