

**Actions arising from the meeting of the Task Force on
instruments
12 April 2002**

Chair: P. Kind (RTD-B)

Present: P. Baader (INFSO), L. Karapiperis (RTD-B2) J-D Malo (RTD-A3), T. O'Hanlon (RTD-L4), N. Pantalos (ENTR), C. Renier (RTD-B2), M. Richards (RTD-G4), K. Rouhana (INFSO), I. Sabater (TREN), W. Schwarzenbrunner (INFSO), R. Zimmermann (INFSO)

Weekly events:

- **Visit of the German Secretary of State to A.Mitsos:** several concerns were expressed by the German side, particularly regarding the proposed financial regime for NoE (method for calculating the grant for integration, result-based payment system..).
- **European Parliament:** Ms Quisthoudt is currently redrafting her report on the Rules for participation, keeping three major concerns: joint and several liability, clear responsibility of European Commission for implementing the Framework Programme and NoE financial regime.
- **Court of Auditors: PK** to hold an informal meeting next Wednesday 17th April MM Feher and Weber, particularly to discuss future interaction with the Court on the design of the new instruments. The TF agreed on the PK proposal to offer to the Court of Auditors to attend the TF meetings.

Costs methodologies in Integrated Projects

The working group led by **JDM** and **KR** presented an interim report. The TF thanked the group for the encouraging progress that is being made towards a common understanding of the issues involved and towards an agreed set of cost methodologies for use by all instruments financed by a grant to the budget. It was agreed that the final report of the working group would be circulated by Friday 19th April for discussion by the TF at its next meeting on Tuesday 23rd April. This would permit PK to report on the results to the FP 6 Steering Group on 24th April.

Other financial issues related to Integrated Projects

Management costs to be supported at 100 % of direct costs

- The **TF agreed** on the following points:
 - Setting a ceiling for the management costs to be supported at 100 % of 6 % of the Community contribution for the project as a whole (reflection reserve from DG INFSO);

- Management subcontracting can be included in that ceiling;
- Participants will be free to classify their management costs either as such or as research costs if that is in their favour within the limits of the definition of research costs for the various methodologies;
- Necessity to develop a clear definition of the management costs to be supported at 100 % for the next edition of the IP working document;
- Additional cost participants would apply their normal definition of eligible costs to their management activities.

Training in Integrated Projects

The TF agreed on the necessity of defining clearly the costs that are to be taken into account; they should relate to the provision of training and not to the employment of the trainees. It was agreed to invite a representative of the Marie Curie fellowships scheme to a future meeting to discuss the interfaces between the scheme and the new instruments.

Updating of the IP and NoE working documents

Drafts of the updated working documents would be circulated to the TF members for comments by 19th April with a view to publishing the updated documents on Europa by 26th April.

Presentation of the LINK programme (UK)

Mr Alan Wootton, from the DTI, explained the improvements that have been brought to the LINK scheme so as to accelerate the decisional procedures, to provide a major flexibility and to maximise the efficiency. He raised several issues comparable to those we are facing with. Complete material will be circulated regarding the LINK scheme and the recent improvements.

Next meetings: Please note that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 23 April, at 9.00(room to be confirmed) dedicated to the cost methodologies in Integrated Projects with a view to preparing the report to the Steering Group of 24th April.

The following one will take place on Friday 3rd May, at 9.00 (room to be confirmed) and will concentrate on networks of excellence.