

**Actions arising from the meeting of the FP6 Task Force on  
Instruments  
13 September 2002**

**Chair:** P. Kind (RTD-B)

**Present:** J.D Malo (RTD-A3), A. Mandenoff (RTD-B2), L. Karapiperis (RTD-B2), M.Moller (INFSO), N. Pantalos (ENTR), C. Proflis (RTD-B2), C.Renier (RTD-B2), M. Richards (RTD-G 05), E.Rille (RTD-L4), K. Rouhana (INFSO), I.Sabater (TREN) N.Sabatier (RTD-A3), R.J Smits (RTD-B2), G. Valgarcel (RTD-B 3), R.Zimmermann (INFSO).

**State of the affairs after the summer break**

- Updated versions of the **working documents** dedicated to IPs, NoEs and STREPs have been published on the web on 5 August. A modification to the NoE document regarding a bonus for PhD students was noted in particular.
- July meeting of the **Steering Group**: the group requested from DG RTD a document analysing the impact of the FCF model on SMEs; **JDM** to elaborate that document. The item will be put on the agenda of the **next TF meeting**.
- **Council decisions:**
  - Final text of the Framework Programme has been published on 29 August ;
  - Specific programmes should be adopted without discussion by the Competitiveness Council on 30 September;
  - Rules for participation: the final text should be published during November or December (important since the calls may not be launched before the entry into force of the Rules for participation, i.e. their publication)
- **Evaluation manual:** Legal Service limits its content to strictly procedural provisions, evaluation criteria have to be included in the work programmes.
- **November FP 6 Launch conference:**
  - The chairman requests support from other DGs to ensure Commission representation in the stand on instruments; A proposal will be made by DG RTD to the next meeting of the TF (**LK**);
  - LK explained the state of advancement of the instrument brochures;. DG INFSO requested 5000 copies in view of its conference in October and insisted on the fact that the final version of the different brochures should be ready by the time the NCP training sessions (the first of which will take place from 14 to 16 October). It was agreed that the final draft of the brochures would be presented for comments to the members of the TF in the week of 16 September (**LK**)

### **Working documents by DG INFSO on coordination actions and specific support actions**

After discussion, the following elements have been **agreed** by the group and will be reflected in the updated version of the working documents **(MM)**:

- Coordination actions and Specific support actions have very distinct objectives: Coordination actions aim at coordination through a well-defined programme of activities and are always multi-partner, while Specific support actions are more of an ad-hoc nature with no multi-partner requirement;
- Contractual arrangements could be relatively similar for both instruments, except for certain funding issues;
- Regarding the activities, there is a need for a clear statement that in both instruments research activities are not covered;
- For the specific support actions, beneficiaries may be directly identified in the work programme.

Regarding the **financial aspects**:

- Coordination costs in coordination actions may be supported up to and including 100 %;
- For the Specific support actions, the situation is different, since, according to the new Financial Regulation, the Commission has to ensure that the actual costs are higher than the Community financial support. Various options exist and will be explained in a document to be elaborated by **JDM** and **NRS**, keeping in mind that the financial regime should not be disadvantageous for the participants compared to the current situation.

### **Working documents on IP, NoEs and STREPs**

All potential remaining major issues should be settled at the end of September. A draft updated version will be circulated at the end of the month for discussion at the TF on 4 October.

**The next meeting will take place on 20 September, in SDME 3E, at 9.00, will be chaired by RJS in absence of PK, with the following agenda:**

- **Discussion of the next version of the working document on CA and SSA (MM)**
- **Options regarding the financial regimes of CA and SSA (JDM-NRS)**
- **Specific measures for stimulating SMEs participation in FP 6 (XG, document already circulated)**
- **Results and implications of the expression of interest exercise (+ David Miles)**