

ICT PSP National Contact Point News

Jan – April 2010



This newsletter supports the activities of the CIP ICT-PSP [National Contact Points](#). We will produce it on a quarterly basis. The information contained here is not confidential and may be further disseminated. If you have any information which would be of interest to your NCP colleagues in this newsletter, email it [here](#).

ICT PSP Call 4

The [fourth ICT PSP call](#) was launched on 21st January and is open until 1st June, giving us time to complete the evaluation of proposals and send out the Evaluation Summary Reports to the proposers before the summer break.

The call includes 20 objectives spread over six themes:

- *Theme 1: ICT for a low carbon economy and smart mobility*
- *Theme 2 : Digital Libraries*
- *Theme 3: ICT for health and inclusion*
- *Theme 4: Open Innovation for future Internet-enabled Services in "smart" Cities*
- *Theme 5: ICT for improved services for citizens and businesses*
- *Theme 6: Multilingual Web*

As usual we offer proposers a [pre-proposal check service](#) using a form. We also offer a [list of contact persons](#) - colleagues involved in each the themes with whom proposers can informally discuss their proposal ideas. More general questions about how to prepare proposals or the financial conditions of the programme can be sent to the ICT PSP Information desk, info-ict-psp@ec.europa.eu.

Pilot B Guide for applicants

We have made a slight correction to the Pilot B Guide for applicants since the original publication in January, following an error spotted by our NCP colleague Ramon Rentmeester in the Netherlands. The original Guide for Applicants, in describing the parameters of a Pilot B (and re-using text from previous guides), said that Pilot B projects should implement their pilot service in at least *four* countries. The current ICT PSP Workprogramme only says *several* countries. As it is the Workprogramme which has legal force, we have modified the Guide to correspond with it.

This does not change the eligibility requirement of the minimum number of countries to be represented in the proposal overall, which for a Pilot B is at least four different EU Member States or ICT PSP Associated countries. It just loosens the definition of the number of those

countries in which the pilot service must be implemented. But proposers must be aware that competition is always fierce – proposals which might now interpret "several" to mean two or three are going to be up against others in which "several" means five or six !

NCP representation at ICT 2010

We have started reflecting on the concept of the European Commission stand for the [ICT 2010 event](#). Our current thinking is to focus the EC area on three core activities:

1. Providing information to the participants about funding possibilities and themes – this is our job as the European Commission,
2. Communicating research results - CORDIS plays a major role here,
3. (Last but not least!) Providing assistance by intermediary organisations ("multipliers") on support in proposal preparation and partnering.

So we are envisaging a central EC stand with two satellite stands, CORDIS and the DG INFISO National Contact Points. The **National Contact Point stand** would have three functions, to present the FP7 ICT NCPs, to present the ICT PSP NCPs and to present Ideal-IST. Visitors at any of the three stands with questions could be dealt with on the spot, or directed to whichever other stand is more appropriate.

We will expect the Idealist project to take the lead in setting up the National Contact Points stand, since they are a funded project and have some budget to do such things. But we will need also your presence as our ICT PSP NCPs, so that a visiting proposer can always meet his NCP whichever of the programmes he is interested in.

We will be holding a joint FP7-ICT PSP National Contact Point meeting during the event, and of course there will also be FP7 and ICT PSP Committee meetings, so we hope you will all be able to be with us in Brussels on 27th-29th September.

Association MoUs in preparation.

At the end of last year Serbia joined the list of ICT PSP associated countries which already comprises Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey. Currently Memoranda of Understanding on participation in the ICT PSP programme are in preparation with two more countries, the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** and **Montenegro**. Once these MoUs are signed, organisations from these countries will be funded when participating in ICT PSP projects.

We get many questions at the ICT PSP helpdesk from consortia which are considering the inclusion of **Israeli** or **Swiss** partners - they know of course that organisations from these countries provide valuable participation in many FP7 projects. Unfortunately, as neither of these countries has yet signed an association agreement with ICT PSP, such organisations may participate in projects, but without Commission funding.

Europe 2020 strategy

At the end of the Lisbon strategy which has provided the high-level guideline for the Commission policy over recent years, the Commission has launched a [Europe 2020 strategy](#) designed to bring the EU out of recession and to promote economic growth over the next decade.

This policy introduces seven Flagship Initiatives', a key one for us is the "Digital Agenda for Europe," which means delivering sustainable economic and social benefits from a Digital Single

Market based on ultra fast internet. The goal of this initiative is that all Europeans should have access to high speed internet by 2013.

And our new Commissioner **Neelie Kroes** welcomed Ministers' support for the European Digital Agenda at an informal [meeting of EU Telecoms and Information Society Ministers](#) which took place under the Spanish Presidency in Granada on 19th April 2010.

At the meeting Vice-President Kroes presented the key areas and main obstacles which will be addressed by the European Digital Agenda that the Commission will adopt in the next few weeks:

- 1. Lack of investment in networks:** more needs to be done to facilitate current investment in the new fast internet networks that will be the centre of a competitive and inclusive future economy.
- 2. Fragmented digital markets:** Europe is still a patchwork of national online markets.
- 3. Lack of skills:** Europe is suffering from a growing professional ICT skills shortage and a digital literacy deficit.
- 4. Fragmented answers to common societal challenges:** Europe misses out on much of the potential of ICT because it does not give common answers to challenges facing society (such as the ageing population, rising health costs, climate change).
- 5. Rising cybercrime and low trust:** Internet users will not engage in ever more sophisticated online activities, unless they feel confident their privacy is secured and they can fully rely upon their networks.
- 6. Insufficient research and innovation efforts:** Europe continues to under-invest and fails to convert intellectual advantage of research into the competitive advantage of market-based innovations.
- 7. Lack of interoperability:** Europe does not yet reap the maximum benefit from interoperability. Weaknesses in standard-setting, public procurement and coordination prevent digital services and devices used by Europeans from working together as well as they should.

The meeting concluded by approving the [Declaration of Granada](#), which includes initiatives such as a common electronic ID card, and a boost for international meetings via videoconference to save costs and pollution. Appropriately enough, the meeting itself took place principally by videoconference - under a cloud of volcanic ash !

Jacques Bus

Our colleague **Jacques Bus**, Head of Unit of F5 "Trust and Security" has retired. Jacques holds a mathematics PhD from the University of Amsterdam. He worked as a researcher at the Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica in Amsterdam for 15 years before joining the Commission in 1988, initially in the Esprit programme. **Gustav Kalbe** will be acting HoU until the post is filled.

Change at the top

And **Fabio Colasanti** has also reached his retirement. Fabio, whose background is in economics, has served as Director-General since 2002, joining us after some years as head of DG Enterprise.

Fabio is replaced by **Robert Madelin**. Robert joined the UK civil service after graduating from Oxford in 1979. His civil service career included two years study at *I'ENA* in Paris. He joined the Commission in 1993, initially in a cabinet post. Robert has most recently served as Director General of DG Health and Consumer Protection.

INFSO organigramme	The ICT PSP website
INFSO who's who	Application to work as an expert in evaluations
Our Commissioner's website	The ICT PSP Information desk
The Commission staff directory	Questions on Intellectual Property Rights
Information Society A-Z	The Enterprise Europe Network