

ISTAG plenary meeting of 28 June 2012

Meeting notes

1. Opening

Wendy Hall (WH) welcomed all the participants. The meeting notes of the previous meeting (1 March 2012) and the agenda of the meeting on the 28 June were approved.

2. Information

(a) Follow-up of recent ISTAG reports



ISTAG reports INFSO
Follow-Up print.pptx

Tour de table

Points to be further developed:

- International Cooperation: examine under which conditions third countries (including developed countries) can be funded
- KPIs: more attention should be devoted to the impact of funding on the development of spin-offs and innovative SMEs and the social impact of funding of research and innovation especially in terms of "growth and jobs" (on-going work in UK and Finland can provide useful guidance)

(b) Horizon 2020 – brief state of play



ISTAG H2020
news.pptx

(c) DG INFSO becomes DG CONNECT



ISTAG = DG
CONNECT.pptx

3. ISTAG WG on Software Technologies – "Software the Missing KET"



MC-ISTAG Soft Tech
KET.ppt

Tour de table

Points to be further developed:

- The recent developments in this area are not simply incremental changes, they reflect a paradigm shift from systems design to cope with a set of well-defined constraints to "ensembles" composed by "systems of systems" that need to deal with more dynamic requirements.
- ICT is becoming increasingly imbricated with other domains (e.g. bio-informatics, social computing).

As an example there is an emerging area designated as "quantified-self"¹ that uses quantitative analysis of personal information (e.g. bio-data, movement) to develop new applications in areas such as genomics, behavioural analysis, etc. It would be useful to consider this social dimension of software and the research issues to be addressed in this new context.

- Ethical issues should be also mentioned more prominently specially in the context of big data and social computing applications.
- Europe suffers from a systematic lack of presence in the market of infrastructural software (eg operating systems, large data-base management systems). This issue could be given some attention either in the current report or as part of the "strategic research agenda" that is proposed to be developed.
- Software is clearly a key capability that is essential to preserve European competitiveness and to support growth and jobs. Not enough is being done in this domain, specially in terms of identifying new opportunities and supporting industry. As an example, in the last couple of years the development of new software technologies undertaken by SAP and Software AG, two major European software companies, has been done mostly through acquisitions outside Europe involving investments estimated at roughly 15 billion USD).
- Other topics that deserve further development are the role of education in the development of software capabilities and also the use of software in education.

Conclusions and next steps

- The importance and timeliness of the report were stressed by all the participants and there was general consensus about the appropriateness of the recommendations.
- The report will be finalised in the coming weeks and delivered to the Commission before the end of July. It will constitute the point of departure for a more elaborated reflection that will be translated into a "strategic research agenda" addressing the various dimensions of software technologies.

Comments from the Commission

- This document and its reference to software technologies as a KET is a useful input into the follow-up discussion of the KETs report that is now taking place in the Commission.

4. Commission Chief Scientific Advisor



CSA ISTAG
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In her address to ISTAG, Prof. Glover outlined the mission statement of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) and its role in stimulating the dialogue between science and society, notably by contributing to develop a better understanding of how science, technology and engineering can contribute to the improvement of the lives and prosperity of European citizens.

This dialogue with the civil society is also embedded in the Commission approach to policy making where Commission proposals are supported by a body of evidence (Impact Assessment) which includes an extensive analysis of the alternative policy choices.

In a context where citizens tend to develop an ambivalent relationship with science and technology – basically there is a sentiment of mistrust but citizens are submerged by a world where technology is increasingly pervasive – it is important to move away from an emotional debate about these topics and reinforce the elements of rationality.

Tour de table

- This first contact between ISTAG and the CSA is a good opportunity to develop a two way communication channel between the CSA and this advisory group. This could be extended to include other organisations at national level (the example of the German Innovation Roundtable was

¹ See for instance <http://quantifiedself.com/>

mentioned).

- To give a sense of purposefulness to the message around the benefits of science, technology and engineering it is important that more emphasis is placed on how these areas are major engines of innovation.
- The issue of open access for scientific information was discussed. While it is clear that open access can indeed favour dissemination of scientific ideas, it may in some contexts deprive industry from the ability to exploit the potential application of new scientific discoveries in the form of new products and services

Commenting on "open access" DG CONNECT stated that the approach developed in the upcoming Communication on "scientific information" proposes to further develop the use of open access as an engine for dissemination of scientific knowledge and scientific discovery, notably by making available data-sets used as empirical evidence. As part of this analysis attention will be paid to minimise the risk that open access dissemination could present for the effective exploitation prospects of research results.

The dialogue with Prof. Anne Gover was considered unanimously of great interest opening an additional communication channel with the high level decision-making instances in the Commission. The contacts will be pursued in the future with the NEW ISTAG.

5. **The NEW ISTAG**

In his address to the ISTAG plenary, Zoran Stancic (ZS) Deputy Director General of DG INFSO / (future DG CONNECT) presented the key ideas of the new structure replacing ISTAG.

The Commission and DG INFSO is especially grateful for the engagement demonstrated by ISTAG members in the activities of the Advisory Group and for their contribution to the design of European ICT research and innovation.

The mandate of FP7-ICT ISTAG comes to its end and there is a need to reflect on the design of advisory bodies for Horizon 2020. The approach that is being developed within DG INFSO / CONNECT builds on the following points:

- It is important to consider the broader scope of activities covered by the new framework programme, not only in terms of priorities addressed - "industrial leadership", "societal challenges" and "excellence in science", but also regarding the articulation between research, technological development and innovation.
- There is also a need to enlarge the representativeness of ISTAG and engage in the debate about the future of ICT research and innovation in Europe as a broader constituency, which gives a voice to people beyond the traditional stakeholders.

Having in mind these aspects it is proposed to reorganise the NEW ISTAG as follows:

- Representatives of the **core ICTs**, including researchers and people with an industry background, including well-established companies in the sector as well as innovative SMEs and with an **organic link** to the relevant **European Technology Platforms**.
- Experts with a more multidisciplinary thinking reflecting the **ICT perspective of the societal challenges** where INFSO has a stake (health and demographic change, energy, transport, climate, inclusion and security).
- **civil society stakeholders** – i.e. people representing citizens and consumer groups, regulators, professional associations, investors and entrepreneurs. This would open the way for the engagement of citizens in the collective reflection about the role of ICT in shaping the future.

As part of this process we also propose to rename the ISTAG. A name that emerged during our discussions was CONNECT Horizon 2020 Advisory Forum (CHAF) which would reflect the new and more encompassing nature of the group.

- We have also reflected on the lessons learnt from the FP7-ICT ISTAG and there are some aspects that, in our view, would need to be further developed and improved in the NEW ISTAG / CHAF:
- Raise the profile of the NEW ISTAG/ CHAF by facilitating the communication channels with high level decision makers in the Commission and other European institutions – the presence of Prof. Glover in our meeting today is an indication of the steps we are taking in this direction.
- An outward communication strategy – the voice of the NEW ISTAG / CHAF must be heard not only within the European institutions but also in the wider world, notably decision makers (private and public, including politicians) in Member States, prominent think tanks, similar advisory groups in countries around the world.
- As part of this communication strategy, it is also important to explore the untapped potential of social networks to involve citizens in the reflection about the impact of new technological developments.

These advisory structures are becoming the object of increased scrutiny, notably by the European Parliament. In order to make the overall process as transparent as possible The Commission has to provide information about the composition of the group and the affiliation of its members. It happens that members affiliated to private companies tend to be perceived as having some vested interest in the advice provided and in the Commission terminology are now designated as representing organisations and stakeholders, instead of designated "ad personam".

DG INFSO / CONNECT would like to insist on a very important point – regardless of their affiliation with specific stakeholder organisations, members are expected to guide their conduct in the group by discussing the questions put forward and providing advice in their relevant fields of expertise to the best of their ability and pursuing the collective interest of the EU and of its citizens, instead of focusing exclusively on the interests of the organisations they may be affiliated with.

Another implication of this demand for maximum transparency is the need to open up the process of recruitment of members of the NEW ISTAG. We will be launching a call for expressions of interest addressed to the stakeholders Community.

In order to preserve an important element of continuity, DG INFSO / CONNECT intends to address the current ISTAG members invitations asking about their willingness to become members of the new Advisory Forum.

Tour de table

The following points were raised by various members during the subsequent "tour de table":

- While the idea of bringing together CONNECT and Horizon 2020 in the title of the new advisory group is interesting, the proposed acronym is not very appealing in the English vocabulary.
- Opening up the forum to a wider constituency is well intentioned, but this may result in situations where there is such a diverse group of people that it becomes difficult to develop a meaningful discussion about the relevant issues. DG INFSO / CONNECT could explore other mechanisms to achieve this opening towards the "civil society" such as focus groups, panels.
- It is essential that expertise and knowledge remain the key selection criteria for the people participating in the new group. Many high ranking people are unlikely to submit an application to become members of the advisory group, while they will respond differently if they were invited to be part of it (as it has been the case with the current ISTAG).
- The ISTAG working groups played an important role in supporting the deliberation and discussion of the various topics of interest addressed by ISTAG members. However, the overall group would benefit by giving a more permanent status to these working groups.
- Horizon 2020 is predominantly about research, technology and innovation and it is important that members reflect a good level of understanding of how these issues affect ICT landscape in Europe and globally.

In his reply ZS emphasised specially that current members of ISTAG would not be asked to apply. Instead they would be invited to join the new group in response to the call for expressions of interest. He also took good note of the additional remarks made on the composition and operation of the new advisory structure.

Annex I - Attendance list

First Name	Family Name
Emile	AARTS
Josef	AFFENZELLER
Giovanni	BARONTINI
Michel	COSNARD
Paolo	DARIO
Gilbert	DECLERCK
Franc	DOLENC
Dieter	FELLNER
Valerie (Ms)	FRISSEN
Elisabeth (Ms)	GIACOBINO
Wendy (Ms)	HALL (chair)
Chris	HANKIN
Lutz	HEUSER (vice chair)
Heikki	HUOMO
Wacław	ISZKOWSKI
Hermann	KOPETZ
Maarja (Ms)	KRUUSMAA
Ossi	KUITTINEN
Magnus	MADFORS
Vincent	MARCATTE
Carmen (Ms)	MOLDOVAN
Alberto	MORELLO
Ferran	SANZ
Luis Miguel	SILVA
Berit (Ms)	WESSLER
INFSO	
Morten	MOLLER
Eric	BADIQUE
Carlos	OLIVEIRA
Zoran	STANČIĆ
Mario	CAMPOLARGO

ISTAG Members	
Emile AARTS	Lutz HEUSER (vice chair)
Giovanni BARONTINI	Wacław ISZKOWSKI
Michel COSNARD	Hermann KOPETZ
Paolo DARIO	Maarja KRUUSMAA (Ms)
Gilbert DECLERCK	Ossi KUITTINEN
Franc DOLENC	Magnus MADFORS
Dieter FELLNER	Vincent MARCATTE
Valerie FRISSEN (Ms)	Carmen MOLDOVAN (Ms)
Elisabeth GIACOBINO (Ms)	Luis Miguel SILVA
Wendy HALL (Ms) (chair)	Berit (Ms) WESSLER
Chris HANKIN	
EC - DG INFSO	
Zoran STANČIČ	Pierre CHASTANET
Mario CAMPOLARGO	Francisco MEDEIROS
Eric BADIQUE	Michel LACROIX
Carlos OLIVEIRA	Erika MAGONARA
Tom CLAUSEN	Prabhat AGARWAL
Other EC services	
Anne GLOVER (Prof.) - Chief Scientific Advisor	