



ICT, FP7 and Technology Platforms

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Overview

DG Information Society and Media:
Policy Context

ETPs: Introduction

ETPs for the ICT Theme

Structural Funds and FP7



DG Information Society and Media

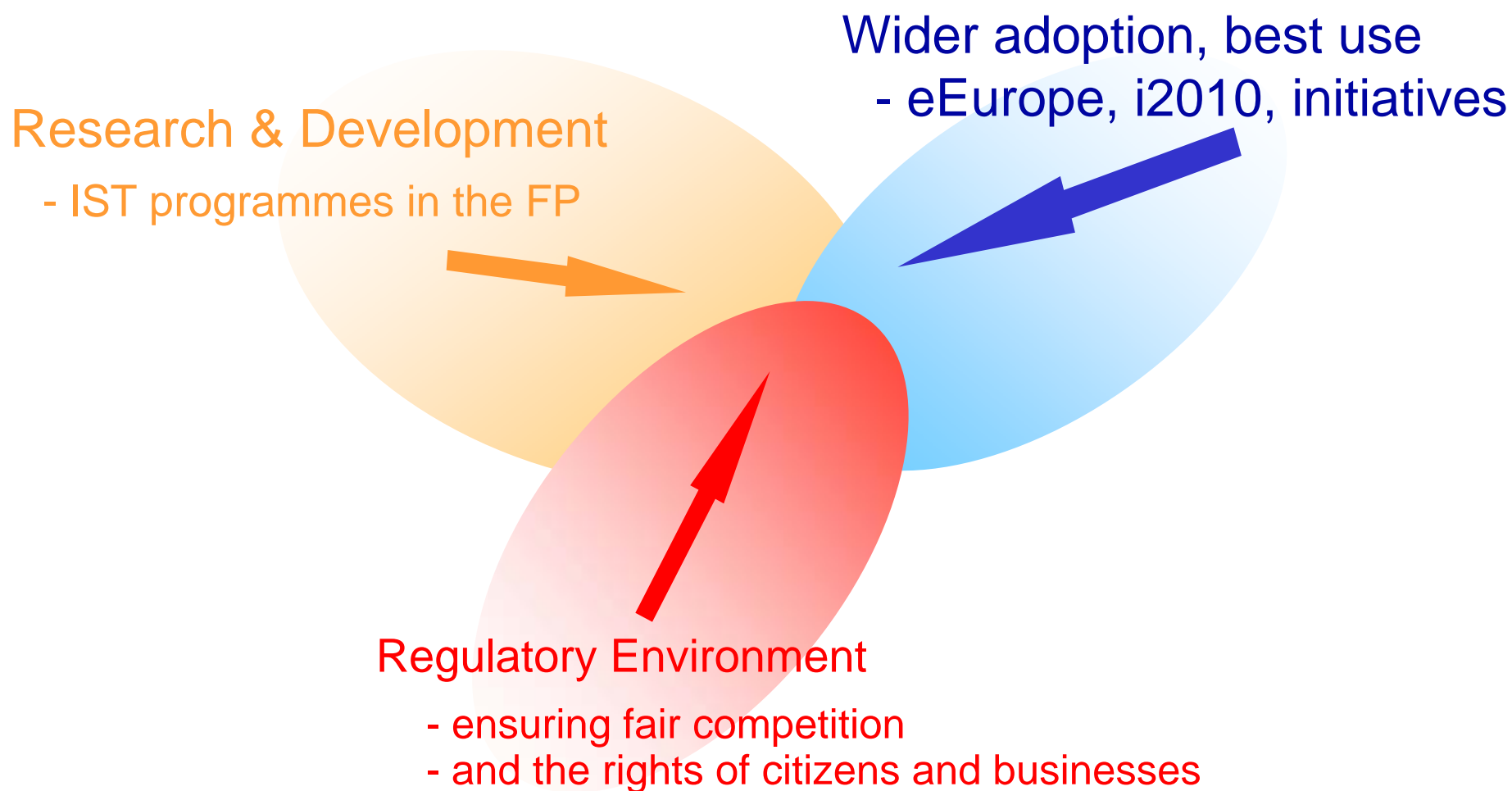
Three Pillars

- o Telecoms and Audiovisual Policy
- o Regulatory Framework
- o Technology Research (IST/ICT)

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/information_society/index_en.htm



A Three Pronged Approach to ICT Policy





New Regulatory Framework for Electronic Communications: Principles

- Based on clearly defined policy objectives (e.g. to ensure that a minimum of services are available to all users at an affordable price, that the basic rights of consumers continue to be protected).
- Keep regulation to the minimum necessary (markets are more competitive)
- Enhance legal certainty in a dynamic market
- Be technologically neutral
- Be enforced as closely as possible to the activities being regulated (globally, regionally or nationally)



e-EUROPE 2005 Action Plan

- Modern online public services
 - e-government
 - e-learning services
 - e-health services
 - a dynamic e-business environment
 - widespread availability of broadband access at competitive prices
 - a secure information infrastructure
 - uptake of 3G Mobile networks
- > Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Employment in the EU



ICT Policy for Growth and Employment

i2010 – European Information Society 2010

The three i's,

- A single European Information space
- Innovation and investment in research
- Inclusion, better public services and quality of life

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

(proposed funding €4.2 Billion)

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, particularly focussing on SMEs
- The ICT Policy Support Programme, to support the adoption of ICTs in business, administrations and public sector services
- The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme



i2010: A European Information Society for Growth and Employment

There is a Communication from the Commission, relating to the new policy framework: ***i2010***

i2010 is a framework for the ICT contribution to the (relaunched) Lisbon Strategy for growth and employment.

- The i2010 direct policy support activities will be funded through the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme. D1 makes contributions to policy activities, but will be mainly involved via the FP7 Research Programme, which will be the major funding source for “indirect” actions.



IST in the European Research Area (ERA)

The objectives of Community action in this field are to contribute to the creation of a European Research Area by stimulating and supporting programme coordination and joint activities conducted at national or regional level, as well as among European organisations, and thus help to develop the common knowledge base necessary for a coherent development of policies.

National IST Research Directors Forum

- The National IST Research Directors Forum brings together National IST Research Directors to discuss key policy and implementation issues related to the development of a European Research Area in IST. The forum complements the bottom-up approaches supported by the Framework Programme. The Directors meet on average twice a year.



ERA - The concept (1)

The idea of a European Research Area grew out of the realisation that research in Europe suffers from three weaknesses:

- insufficient funding,
- lack of an environment to stimulate research and exploit results,
- the fragmented nature of activities and the dispersal of resources.

See the Communication from the Commission:
Building the ERA of knowledge for growth, 2007-2013.

[COM(2005) 118 final]



ERA - The concept (2)

The objective of the European Research Area initiative combines three related and complementary concepts:

- the creation of an "internal market" in research, an area of free movement of knowledge, researchers and technology, with the aim of increasing cooperation, stimulating competition and achieving a better allocation of resources;
- a restructuring of the European research fabric, in particular by improved coordination of national research activities and policies, which account for most of the research carried out and financed in Europe;
- the development of a European research policy which not only addresses the funding of research activities, but also takes account of all relevant aspects of other EU and national policies.



ETPs: European Technology Platforms in the FP7 Research Programme

- o FP7: 2007 – 2013
- o Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a Theme of the “Cooperation” Research Programme
- o ETPs bring together main stakeholders in a given R&D field
- o Identify common R&D goals of industrial relevance and develop a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) to achieve those goals
- o The SRA should identify technological and non-technological barriers to the development, deployment and use of the technologies



ETPs: Rationale

- **European Technology Platforms (ETPs)** are set up for bringing together companies, research institutions, and any other organisations, with a view to defining, at European level, a common strategic research agenda (**SRA**) which should mobilise a critical mass of national and European public and private resources. They also address technological and non-technological issues for implementing this agenda.
- The benefits of ETPs include: improved structure and coordination of research activities, partnership building for resources, consensus building on strategies for technology development and on measures for exploitation of research results, and acceleration of innovation processes.



ETPs: Objectives

- To improve the impact of public and private research, to increase investment in European research, and to facilitate common approaches to technology progress and uptake.
- Identify common R&D goals of industrial relevance and develop a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) to achieve those goals
- The SRA should identify technological and non-technological barriers to the development, deployment and use of the technologies. The SRAs will be considered as an important input in preparing the Work Programmes of the IST thematic priority of the EU Framework Programmes. However, the Commission is in no way committed to incorporating general outcomes from the Technology Platforms.
- Other initiatives have been launched by industry and the stakeholders in ICT as well. These might develop into ETPs in the future.



ETPs: Role

- Provide a framework for stakeholders, led by industry, to define research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans on strategically important issues where achieving Europe's future growth, competitiveness and sustainability objectives is dependent upon major RTD advances in the medium to long term.
- Play a key role in focusing of research funding on areas with a high degree of industrial relevance, by covering the whole economic value chain and by mobilising public authorities at national and regional levels. In fostering effective public-private partnerships, ETPs have the potential to contribute to the renewed Lisbon Strategy and to the development of an ERA of knowledge for growth. They are proving to be powerful actors in the development of European research policy, in particular in orienting FP7 to better meet the needs of industry.



ETPs: Input to FP7 Work Programmes

- ETPs are expected to provide important inputs to the FP7 work programmes (primarily for “Cooperation”), such that FP7 keeps up to date with industrially relevant priorities and supports implementation of the ETP Strategic Research Agendas.
- Relevant inputs should be organised by the responsible thematic directorate. Such inputs should be received in time to be taken into account in the preparation of the annual work programme (i.e. in first half of the preceding year). They should be published on the internet.
- ETPs are one among many sources of advice the Commission will use in preparing the content of the work programmes and calls. ETPs only cover some parts of the FP7 themes and represent primarily industrial priorities. Other external sources include Advisory Groups, expert groups and stakeholder consultations. Internal consultations will include Directorate Generals responsible for all other EU policies.



ETPs: European Technology Platforms in the FP7 Research Programme (2)

ETPs or JTIs?

- JTI = Joint Technology Initiative
- New Instrument; implement through Article 169 or 171.
- May implement 3 JTIs initially, on trial basis
- ETPs: Projects, as in FP6 IPs and STREPS



Implementing ETP's Strategic Research Agendas: the role of the European Investment Bank

- The funding required to implement SRAs will come from industry, national and regional programmes, the Framework Programme and, increasingly, the EIB.
- The EIB is increasingly open to the area of high-tech and financially risky projects in the field of technology.
- The EIB considers ETPs as very important players and has set up an internal contact for each platform.
- There are several examples of EIB involvement in research in high-tech areas and it is hoped that additional pilot cases will be set up. Two concrete examples of collaboration between ETPs and the EIB: The European Steel Technology Platform ; Hydrogen and Fuel Cells.
- A working group will be set up (involving the EIB, ETP and Commission representatives) to develop a brochure containing a user-friendly 'decision tree' with which ETPs can assess whether individual projects are eligible to apply for EIB funding. The working group will also compile an inventory of possible additional mechanisms necessary to support projects, in particular those involving smaller players.



Cooperation of ETPs with EUREKA

- Cooperation with EUREKA, as well as with other programmes (e.g. ERA-NET and InnoNet) is a key aspect of ETPs.
- ETPs have a role in building cooperation between EUREKA and the Framework Programme. There is strong political support to enhance synergies between the two programmes in order to capitalise on their complementarities, and ETPs are proving to be useful tools for this.
- There are already many examples of good collaboration and this is generally most effective in cases where there is a EUREKA Cluster which addresses a relevant topic.



European Technology Platforms (ETPs) in the ICT area

Acronym	Name	INFSO unit		
ARTEMIS	Advanced R&D on Embedded Intelligent Systems	G3 L Flores		
eMobility	Mobile and wireless communications technology	D1 F Medeiros		
ENIAC	European Nanoelectronics Initiative Advisory Council	G1 M Hordies		
EUROP	European Robotics Platform	F1 T Skordas		
ISIS	Integral Satcoms Initiative	D1 P Jauhainen		
NEM	Networked and electronic media platform	D2 B Arroyo		
NESSI	Networked European Software and Services Initiative	F2/D3 M Banti J Gasos		
PHOTONICS 21	Consolidated European Photonics Research Initiative	G1 R Burgess		
<i>The views expressed in this presentation are of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission</i>				



The list of “approved” ETPs

“It should be noted that the inclusion of a given topic does not prejudice its individual merits to be known as a European Technology Platform. Moreover, the European Commission is not in any way bound by the views, results or recommendations arising from the activities of any of the technology platforms. ”



Some Related ICT Technology Platforms



Software & Services



Integral Satcom
Initiative



Networked and
Electronic Media



Nanoelectronics



Embedded Systems
ARTEMIS

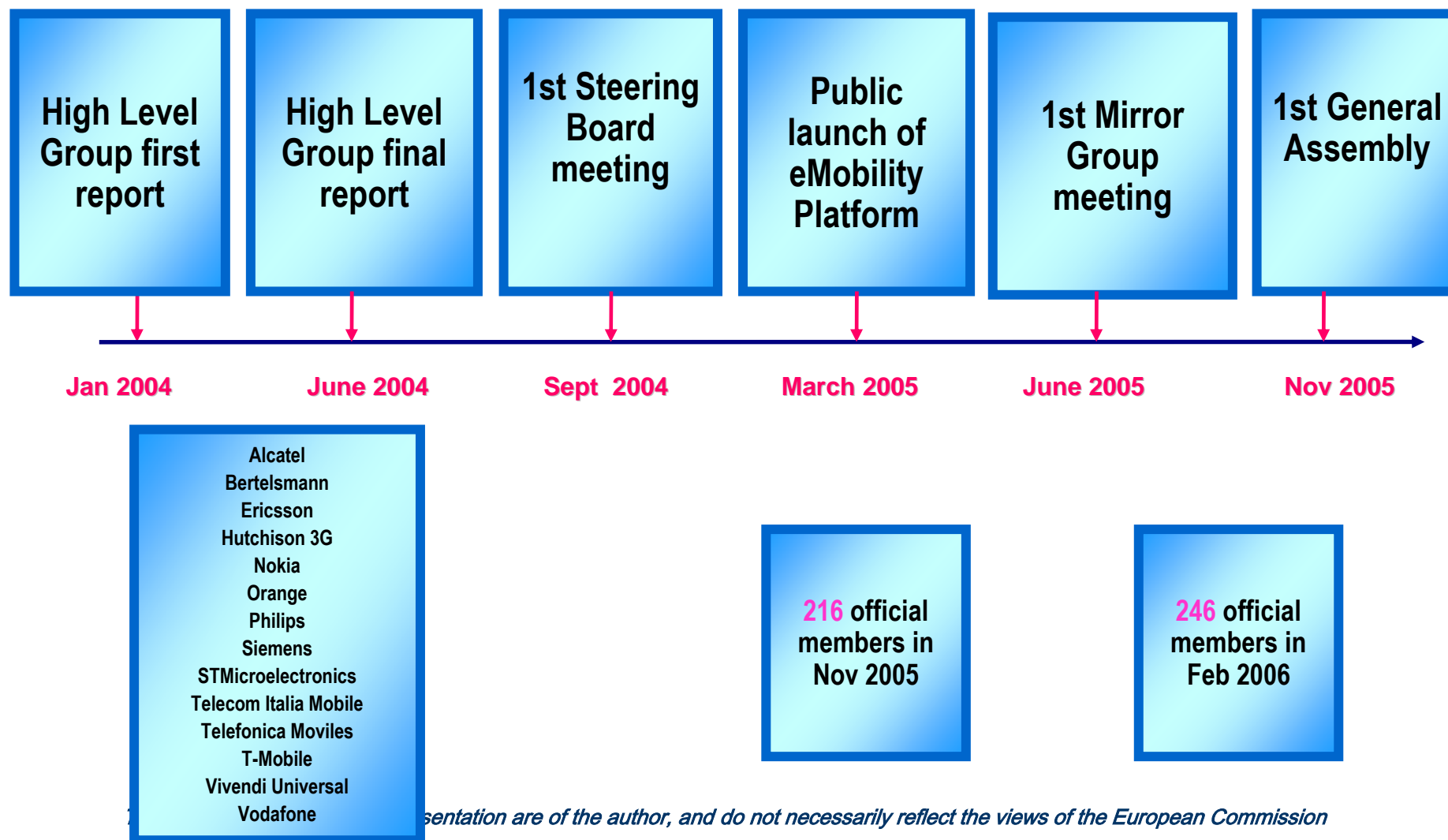


eMobility Technology Platform: Vision statement (*by 2020*)

- VISION: “The improvement of the individual’s quality of life achieved through the availability of an environment for instant provision and access to meaningful, multi-sensory information and content”
- TECHNOLOGY: will need to evolve from the current concept of “anywhere, anytime” to a new paradigm of “any network, any device, with relevant context, in a secure and trustworthy manner”
- **Strategic Research Agenda** Ver4 released Nov’05
- Website: <http://www.emobility.eu.org/>



eMobility: history



presentation are of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission



Members distribution (Feb 2006)

Current members are distributed in three categories :

Research Domain 107

Industry 81

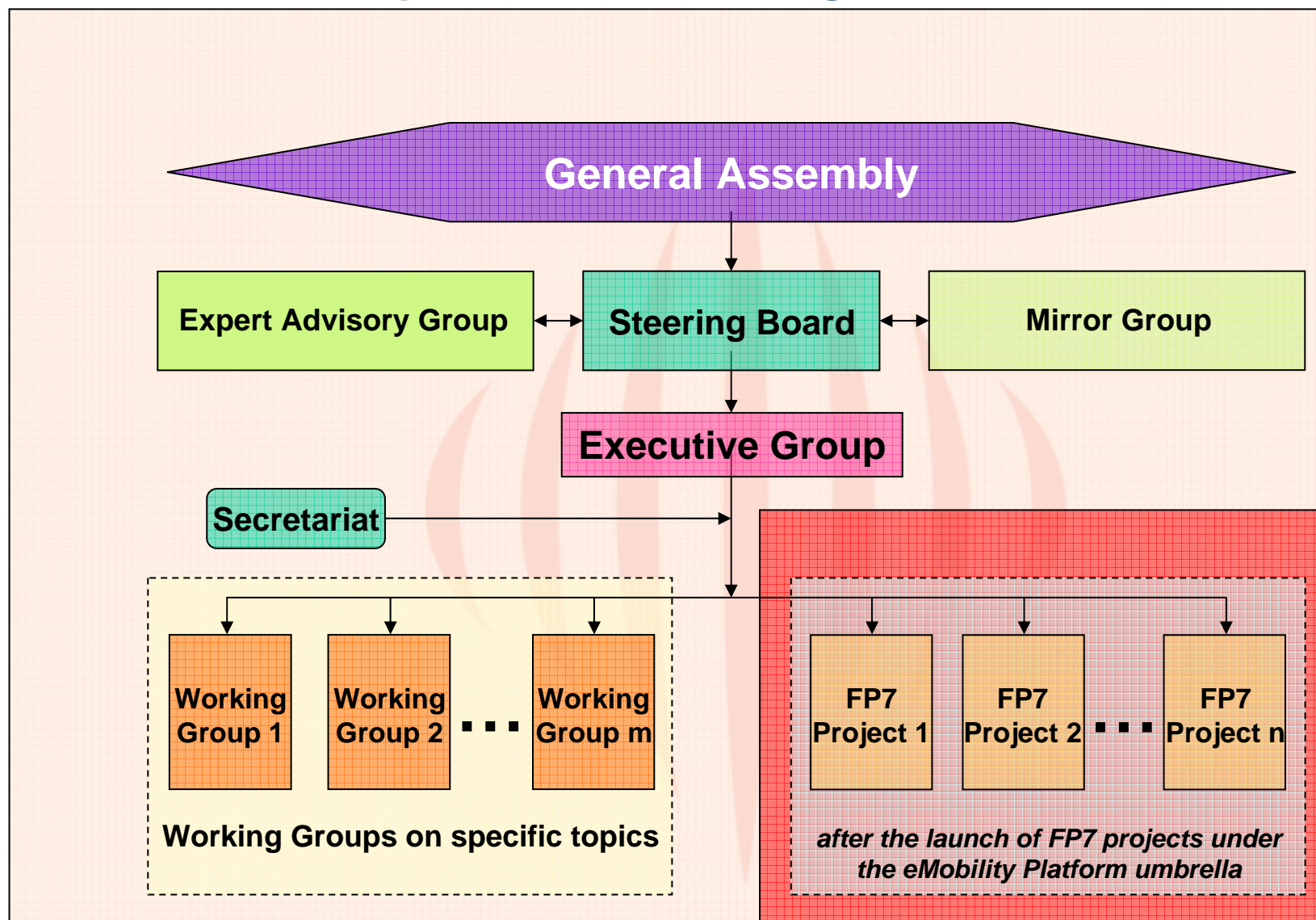
SME 58

Total 246

o Belgium	12
o Bulgaria	1
o Czech Republic	2
o Denmark	1
o Finland	9
o France	12
o Germany	23
o Greece	19
o Hungary	1
o Ireland	6
o Israel	6
o Italy	21
o Luxembourg	1
o Norway	3
o Poland	10
o Portugal	5
o Romania	7
o Russia	1
o Slovenia	6
o Spain	54
o Sweden	9
o Switzerland	4
o The Netherlands	5
o Turkey	2
o U.K	26
o Total	246



eMobility Platform: organisation





Steering Board members

INDUSTRY (17)

- o Deutsche Telekom
- o DoCoMo Communication Laboratories Europe
- o France Telecom
- o Polska Telefonia Cyfrowa
- o Telecom Italia
- o Telefonica Moviles
- o TeliaSonera
- o Vodafone

- o Alcatel
- o Ericsson
- o Lucent Technologies
- o Motorola
- o Nokia
- o Philips
- o Siemens
- o STMicroelectronics
- o Thales Communications

RESEARCH DOMAIN (4)

- o Warsaw University of Technology
- o IST - Technical University of Lisbon
- o The University of Surrey
- o Fraunhofer Gesellschaft zur Foerderung der angewandten Forschung

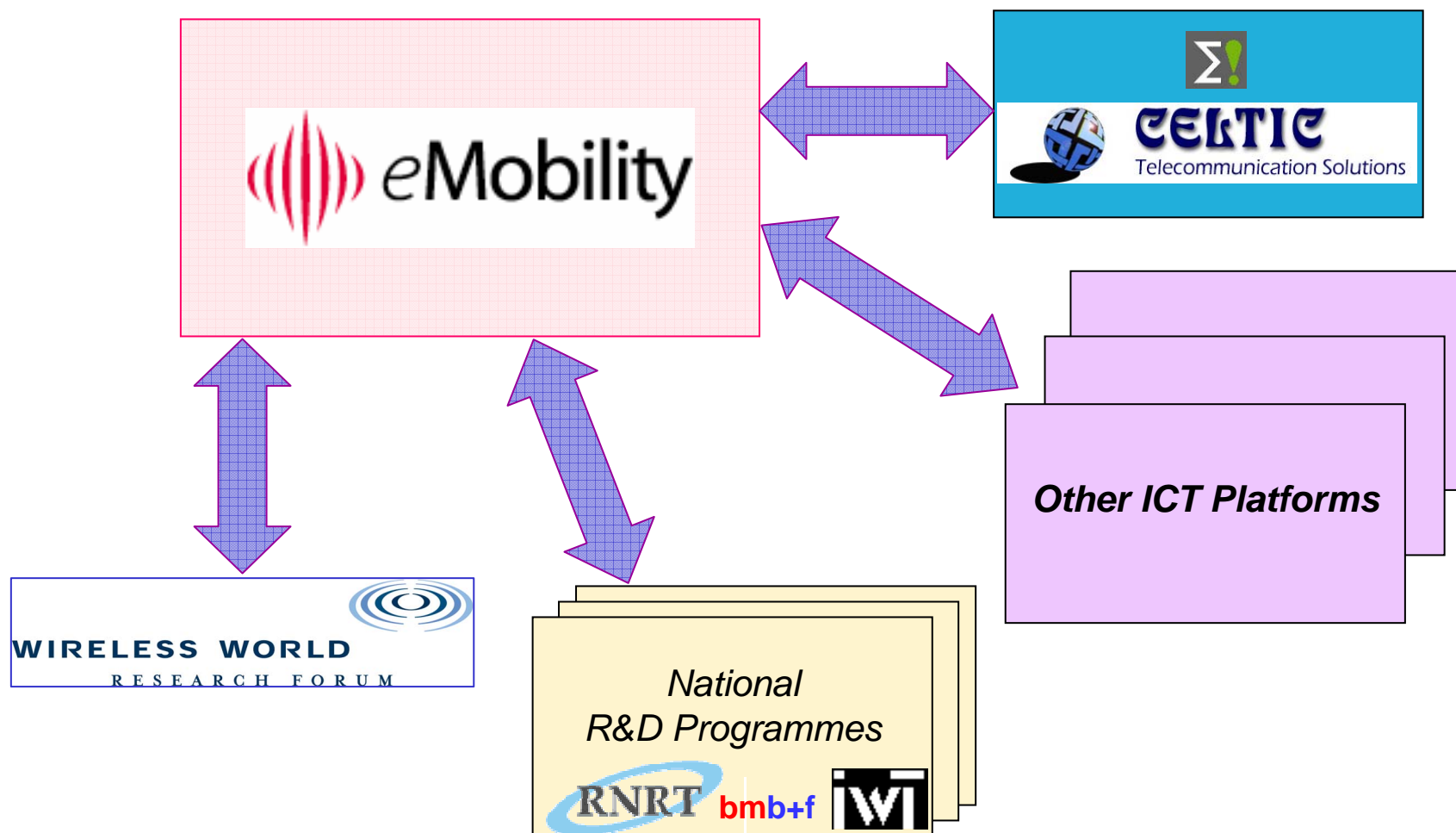
SMEs (2)

- o Iber WiFi Exchange (Spain)
- o European Dynamics (Greece)

Chairperson: Fiona Williams (Ericsson)
Vice-chair: Brigitte Cardinael (France Telecom)



eMobility and other RTD Initiatives





Networked Electronic Media (NEM)

The Objective of the NEM Industrial Initiative is to ensure that Europe is among the world leaders in providing an improved quality of life offered by the explosion of opportunities in the area of Networked and Electronic Media (NEM). This will be achieved through an effective use of the European Research and Development efforts within an overall competitive scenario. The driving objectives of this initiative are:

- To maintain leadership in a high added value sector with highly skilled workforce;
- To take advantage of the developing markets, notably those related to broadband home and office networks;
- To safeguard consumer and citizen interests through promotion of open and interoperable systems. The NEM Initiative, involving all major stakeholders, should play a central role in defining a strategic research agenda and creating the action plans to implement the NEM Industrial Initiative vision with the goal to ensure Europe is well placed to enjoy the opportunities, and overcome the barriers to success.

Further information, and the Strategic Research Agenda can be found at:

- <http://www.nem-initiative.org/Default.asp>



The Networked and Electronic Media Platform

- o **What is Networked and Electronic Media?**
- o Networked and Electronic Media (NEM) represents the convergence of existing and new technologies, including broadband, mobile and new media, across several ICT sectors, to create a new and exciting era of advanced personalised services.
- o NEM services will be an innovative mix of various media forms, delivered seamlessly over unified networks, to satisfy the highest user expectations.
- o The NEM Initiative is an industry-led initiative to promote and direct the large-scale initiative needed to accelerate the pace of innovation and technology evolution to position the European industry at the forefront of competitiveness and give users a wide choice of services. All these efforts will bear in mind the evolutionary framework from home and office environments towards broadband extended home and office environments.



The NEM Platform: Objectives

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<http://www.nem-initiative.org/Default.asp>



Integral Satcom Initiative (ISI): State of the play

- First meeting in Brussels July 19, 2005
- Vision document ready by Nov. 5, 2005, signed by more than 80 organisations
- Strategic Research Agenda ver. 1.0 ready in January 2006.
- Official inauguration by Comm. V. Reding on Feb. 1 2006
- **Website: www.isi-initiative.eu.org**
- See also the the European Space Technology Platform (ESTP): harmonising ESA and FP7 activities according to the already existing European Space Technology Master Plan, which is its Strategic Research Agenda.



Satellite Communications challenges (I)

- Enable the design and deployment of hybrid terrestrial/satellite systems
- Enable the integration of data communications with Galileo and GMES
- Enable the design and realization of European security systems
- Technical
 - Increase the power efficiency of satellite systems by a factor of 2 w.r.t. state-of-the-art
 - Increase the spectrum efficiency of satellite systems by a factor of 3 w.r.t. state-of-the-art
 - Enable the exploitation of higher frequency bands (Ka and above)
 - Align the form factor and power consumption of user terminals to those of terrestrial systems



Satellite Communications challenges (II)

- Lower the cost of terminals, networks, space segments, services
- Coordinate the industrial approach while preserving competition
- Reduce the time to market for commercial applications
- Develop the institutional market
- Achieve the harmonization of regulatory frameworks
- Ensure fair regulations for complementary ground components and spectrum usage
- Develop open standards as enablers for mass-market applications

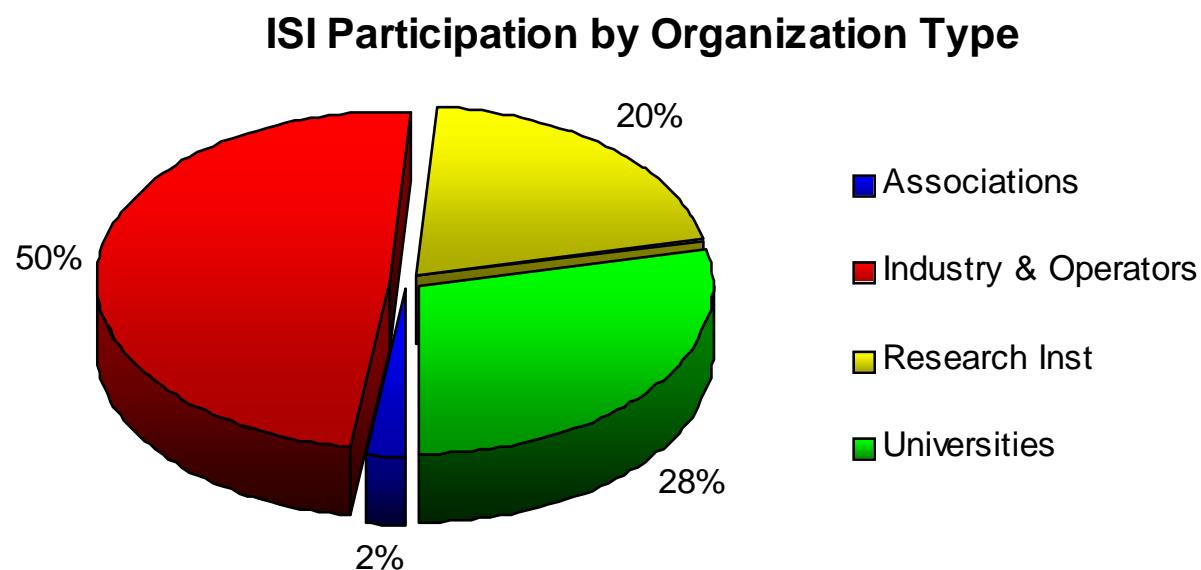


Integral Satcom Initiative (ISI):

Constituency

ISI Participants are increasing rapidly. Presently, there are more than 100 institutions from 17 different Countries:

- Austria
- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Israel
- Italy
- Luxemburg
- Norway
- Russia
- Slovenia
- South Korea
- Spain
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- USA





ARTEMIS Technology Platform

Advanced Research and Development on Embedded Intelligent Systems

- o Embedded computing systems (electronics and software) are becoming increasingly pervasive thanks to the availability of the underlying component technologies and communications infrastructures. It is necessary to mobilise and co-ordinate the private and public resources needed to meet business, technical and structural challenges and to ensure that systems developed by different vendors can communicate and work with each other via industry standards. Technical challenges include system design, seamless connectivity, reliability, security and quality of service.
- o The “Building Artemis” report has been published and has been endorsed by high level executives from the leading stakeholders. Management structures have been established and the platform was officially launched at the IST 2004 Conference in The Hague. The main activity at the moment is focused on the Strategic Research Agenda which is currently under preparation and will address research as well as infrastructural issues, including a closer co-ordination with Eureka (ITEA and MEDEA+ programmes). The ETP will be open to broader participation of the research community and industry.



ARTEMIS Technology Platform

Advanced Research and Development on Embedded Intelligent Systems

The key elements of the ARTEMIS mission are to:

- Drive forward the initial vision elaborated in the “Building Artemis Report” developing a Strategic Agenda and accompanying roadmaps, as well as ensuring their implementation;
- Align the fragmented R&D efforts at Community, intergovernmental, national, regional levels in the European Research Area along the common Strategic Agenda;
- Benchmark and link with relevant initiatives outside the EU;
- Advise on all structural, educational and regulatory matters (e.g. IPR, Open Source Software, standards, research infrastructure, training) required for a systemic approach to ensure an environment allowing for successful innovation in the market place and sustainable growth for the industrial sectors relying on Embedded Systems.
- Steer the development of any new legal structures that might be needed to ensure the effectiveness of ARTEMIS as a public-private partnership.



ARTEMIS Structure and Participation

- The Steering Board is currently composed of 27 members as follows:
 - Industry (18)
 - Academia (6)
 - Eureka: ITEA (1), MEDEA+ (1)
 - European Federation of High-Tech SMEs (1)
- 16 of the 18 industry seats and 4 of the 6 academic seats are currently occupied by the 20 organisations that have signed the *Building ARTEMIS* Report. 4 seats will be filled by the Steering Board on the basis of expressions of interest received in response to the open call, to companies, research centres and academic research groups that are active in embedded systems and related application areas and that subscribe to the vision and objectives of the ARTEMIS Technology Platform.
- Industrial sectors of interest include automotive, aerospace, consumer, communications, medical, industrial manufacturing, semiconductors and embedded software.
- Website: <http://cordis.europa.eu.int/ist/artemis/>



Networked European Software and Services Initiative (NESSI)

ETP	Aims	Expected benefits	Founding Members
Networked European Software and Services Initiative (NESSI) Start: 07/09/05	Develop new software and electronic services architecture based on open standards.	Firms: more flexible business models, easier to develop services Citizens: wider range of services, easier to use, greater privacy and safety.	Atos Origin, British Telecom, Engineering Ingegneria Informatica S.p.A., IBM, HP, Nokia, ObjectWeb, SAP AG, Siemens, Software AG, Telecom Italia S.p.A., Telefónica, THALES Group.

Website: www.nessi-europe.com



European Robotics Platform (EUROP)

ETP	Aims	Expected benefits	Founding Members
European Robotics Platform (EUROP) Start 07/10/05	Boost the development of robotic businesses within Europe and bring the benefits of capable robot services to European citizens.	Firms: maintain Europe's leadership in industrial robotics and expand it into the emerging service and security markets as well as to the space market through modularisation and standardisation. Citizens: assistive technologies for a better quality of life, improved security, and intervention in hostile and dangerous environments.	KUKA, ABB, COMAU, Philips, Finmeccanica, SAFRAN, EADS, Thales, INDRA, Dassault Aviation, BAE Systems, Electrolux, Zenon, RURobots, OCRobotics, Qinetiq, CEA, Fraunhofer

Website: www.roboticsplatform.com



ENIAC

<p>European Nanoelectronics Initiative Advisory Council (ENIAC)</p> <p>Start: 29/06/04</p>	<p>Master the transition to nano-scale devices, serve the future needs of European society, increase high-skilled employment, strengthen competitiveness of European industry, and secure global leadership in high-tech research.</p>	<p>Firms: coordinated research and use of infrastructures to keep pace with technological developments</p> <p>Citizens: leading-edge components enabling higher quality of life and reduced costs/function</p>	<p>Aixtron, AMD, ARM, ASML, Bosch, CEA/CNRS, CSEM, Fraunhofer, Freescale, IBM, IMEC, Infineon, MEDEA+, NMRC, Nokia, Philips, STMicroelectronics, Thales, Unaxis, VTT</p>
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Website: <http://www.cordis.lu/ist/eniac>



ETP Electricity Networks of the Future: SmartGrids (*DG Research*)

- To structure and coordinate socio-economic and technical research on future electricity networks at European level
- To stimulate increased public and private investment in research and development.
- Identify and to promote deployment opportunities both for energy infrastructure and for services.
- Ensure a balanced and active participation of the major stakeholders.
- Help develop awareness of the market opportunities of distributed and renewable energy sources and foster future co-operation, both within the EU and at global scale.



ETP: Electricity Networks of the Future SmartGrids

- Synergies foreseen between Electrical Power networks and Communications networks: eg with PowerLine Communications (PLC) for delivery of Broadband services
- Strategic Vision paper (V 4.0) : January 2006
- First General Assembly and launching the SRA:
April 2006 (in Brussels)

Web site for more information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/energy/index_en.htm



Austrian Presidency Conference on European Technology Platforms Vienna, Austria, 4-5 May 2006

The Austrian EU Presidency is organising a major conference on European Technology Platforms (ETPs) in Vienna, 4-5 May 2006.

The main objective of this event is to bring together, for the first time, a wide range of stakeholders in ETPs (industry including SMEs, the research community, public bodies, the financial world, regulators, consumer organisations, other end users and representatives of civil society) together with other interested parties. The event will facilitate wide-ranging networking between stakeholders with a view to promoting cross-platform exchanges of experience. The conference is also intended to assess the role of ETPs in boosting European competitiveness and the role of national authorities in this context.

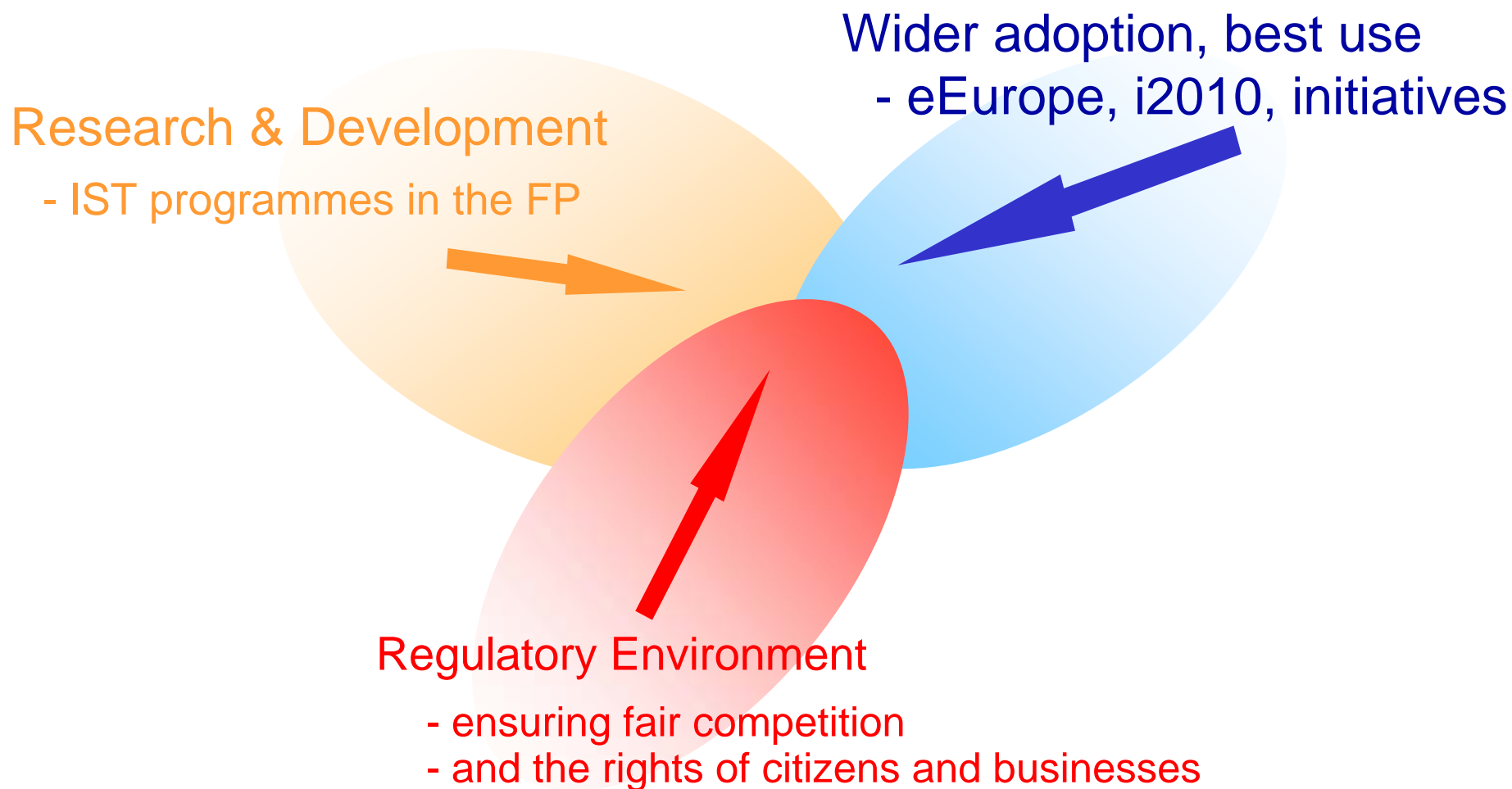
In parallel to the conference, an exhibition will be held at which individual ETPs will communicate their achievements to date and their future plans. (Participation is by invitation only).

Further information is available on the conference website:

www.eu2006-technologyplatforms.at

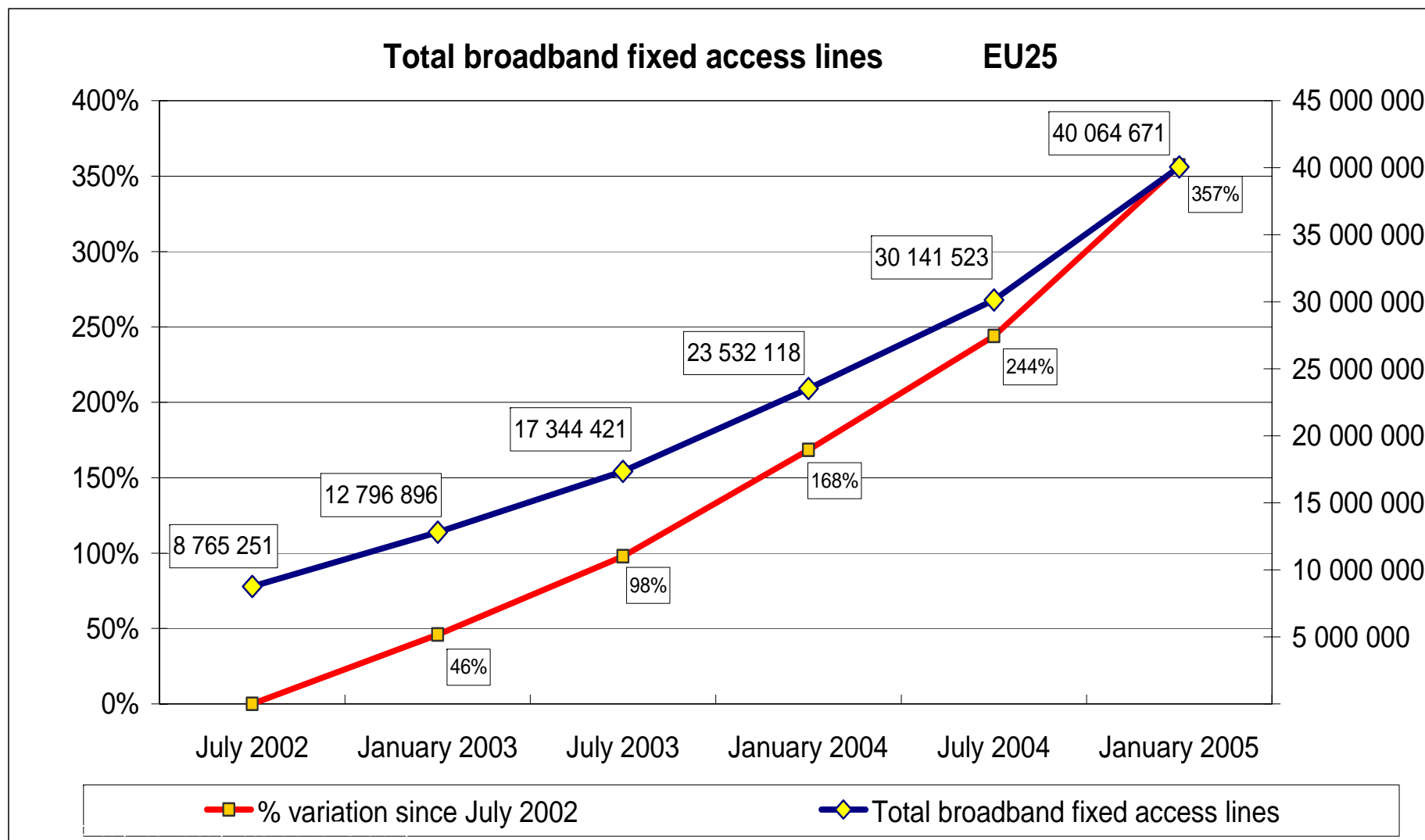


A Three Pronged Approach to ICT Policy





Total Broadband Fixed Access lines- EU25





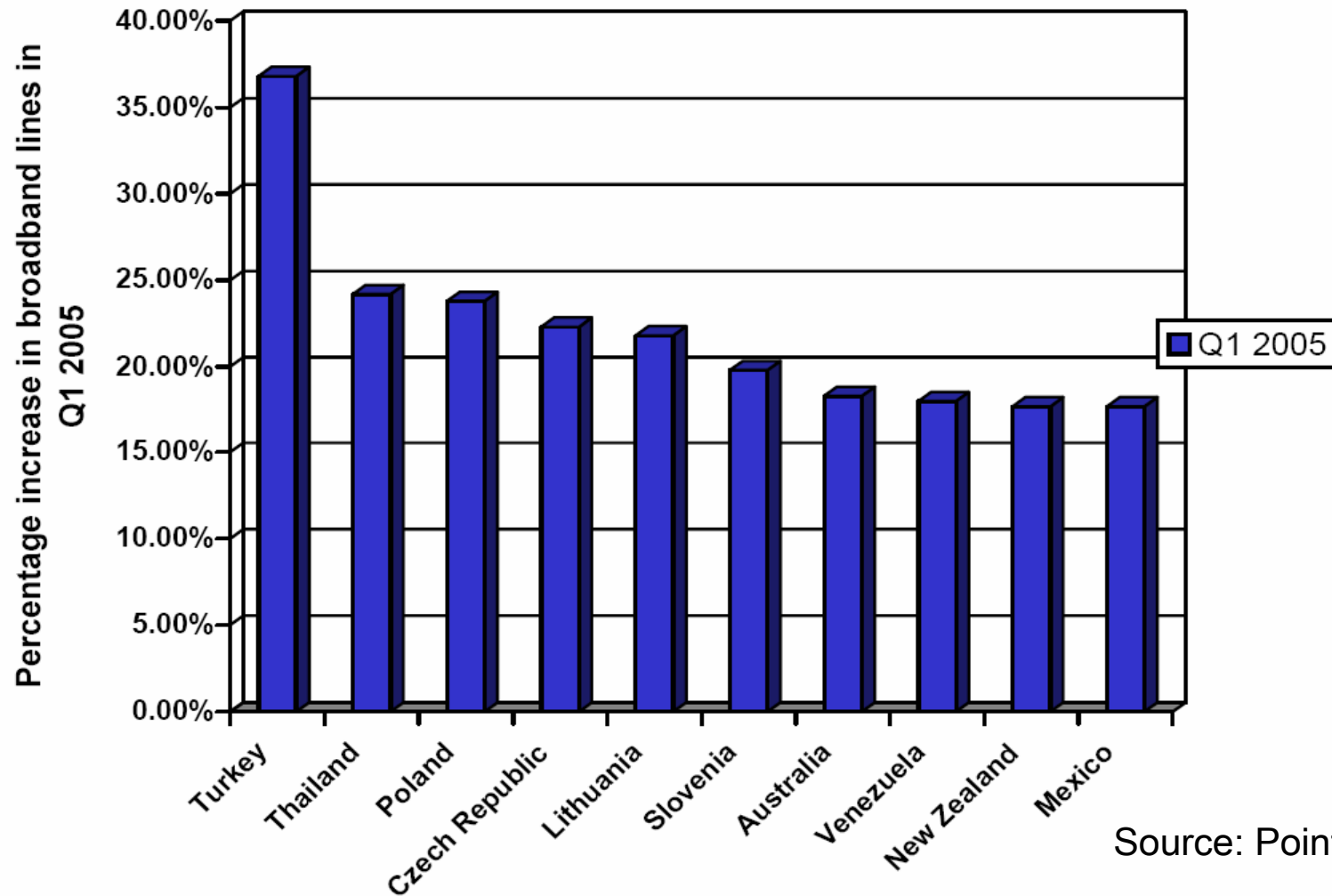
Broadband in Europe

- The **rapid growth of broadband** connections throughout Europe has been the most positive development in the telecoms sector in 2003/4.
- During the past year the number of broadband lines has increased by **+70%** and by Q1 2005 there were around 40 million connections in the European Union.
- In some MS, **over 50% of home Internet connections** already upgraded to broadband.
- DSL is the most widely deployed (75% of subscribers) and fastest growing platform, followed by cable modems.
- Other technology platforms (fibre, PLC, WiMAX, satellite, etc) are still in the early stages, with as yet few subscribers.
- Triple-(Quadruple-) Play will drive development of next generation of higher-speed broadband
- But growth is not uniform across the Union and there are still wide disparities in broadband penetration rates between Member States.
- Europe still lagging behind Asia-Pacific, in some respects.



Broadband Growth

Figure 5 'Top ten' broadband countries by growth: 31 Dec 2004 - 31 Mar 2005



Source: PointTopic



Digital Divide Policy Issues

- Broadband coverage is increasing, also in rural areas.
- Difference between coverage and take-up and lower propensity to subscribe in rural areas suggest importance of assessing local demand.
- Optimal mix of technologies depends on local topography and population density.
- Government intervention may accelerate deployment but needs to be cautious. Best when carried out at local level.
- National Broadband Strategies are an important policy means to stimulate roll-out.



DG Regional Policy

European regional policy is a policy promoting solidarity. It allocates more than a third of the budget of the European Union to the reduction of the gaps in Development among the regions and disparities among the citizens in terms of well-being. The Union seeks to use the policy to help lagging regions to catch up, restructure declining industrial regions, diversify the economies of rural areas with declining agriculture and revitalise declining neighbourhoods in the cities. It sets job creation as its primary concern. In a word, it seeks to strengthen the economic, social and territorial 'cohesion' of the Union.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/ns_en.htm



FP7, ERA and the Structural Funds

- FP7 will, for the first time, contain elements aimed at supporting research activity in convergence regions. These include the “Research potential” action and the extended “Regions of Knowledge” initiative for developing research-driven clusters.
- Similarly, the Structural Funds will complement Framework Programme priorities to a greater extent than in the past. The Strategic Guidelines have already provided a strong signal that the Structural Funds should enable all regions to participate effectively in the European Research Area. Managing authorities should use Structural Funding to implement their strategies for innovation, including those developed through the Regions of Knowledge initiative. The European Regional Development Fund and Social Fund will also complement the Research Potential action under the Seventh Framework Programme. When a Research Potential project is developed, the Funds can provide complementary investments for aspects of the project which are not financed through the Framework Programme, such as infrastructure facilities and training.



Support From the Structural Funds

For the period between 2000 and 2006, EUR 213 billion has been earmarked for all structural instruments for the 15 Member States.

In addition, about EUR 22 billion in preaccession aid, and another EUR 22 billion in structural interventions for the new Member States in the period 2004–06, will be spent within the Union 's adjusted financial perspectives.

The total of about EUR 257 billion represents approximately 37 % of the EU budget for the period up to 2006.

Most of the funding is being spent through multiannual development programmes, managed jointly by Commission services, the Member States and regional authorities.

The European subsidies do not replace but rather supplement national aid.



Structural actions in support of the Information Society (1)

- For Europe's regions and regional policy, the new technologies are both an opportunity and a challenge. An opportunity because these technologies create new prospects for development, especially in the more isolated regions. And a challenge because of the digital divide between rich and poor regions, urban and rural regions, and even within regions.
- Today, however, a region's competitiveness lies in its potential for innovation and the new technologies can be an instrument for social integration or a source of exclusion if not available to all.
- Regional development policies for 2000-2006 have consequently been steered towards the Information Society. They are contributing to the Europe of knowledge and know-how, the aim of the e-Europe initiative kicked off at the Feira European Council in June 2000. Today, the information society is an integral part of the development programmes being implemented under the Structural Funds.



Structural actions in support of the Information Society (2)

- Two principles underpin interventions in support of the Information Society:
 - the reorientation, allowing for exceptions of course, of structural assistance to the new technologies (human resources, innovation, etc.) rather than infrastructure, to help create the "digital reflex" that is sometimes lacking in Europe;
 - the consistent and structured integration of the Information Society into the priority objectives of regional policy.
- Supplementing these measures, the Innovative Actions enable the regions to develop pioneering projects, with support from the Structural Funds. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is the main financial instrument in support of EU cohesion and regional policy.



Guidelines for Structural funds for Electronic Communications

In its Guidelines for the 2000-2006 programmes: *European Commission, The Structural Funds and their coordination with the Cohesion Fund- Guidelines for programmes in the period 2000-2006, COM 1999 (344)*, the Commission identified the Information Society as a key priority for structural funds interventions, with a strong emphasis on demand for services and applications.

Investment projects need to be consistent with the criteria and guidelines as set out in Commission Working Paper of 28.07.2003 SEC (2003) 895 on ***“Criteria and modalities of implementation of Structural Funds in support of electronic communications”***

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/themes/infotech_en.htm

They should follow a number of key implementation rules, which derive from Community legislation relating to structural funds, state aids as well as electronic communications. The guidelines contain both legally binding provisions and guidance constituting best practice.

The main focus of the present guidelines is on communications infrastructure.



How do the Structural Funds promote research and innovation? (1)

- Support for research and innovation already accounts for a large share of Structural Fund investments, even when one defines innovation narrowly, excluding support for areas such as business investments, the information society or energy. Close to 10.5 billion euro is being invested in research, technological development and innovation by the Funds, chiefly through the European Regional Development Fund, between 2000 and 2006.
- These investments are in three main areas:
- research projects, especially for applied and pre-competitive research, based in universities and public research institutes;
- research and innovation infrastructure, including research facilities and equipment at public institutes but also technology transfer centres and incubators; and
- support for innovation and technology transfer, including support for partnerships between businesses and research centres.



How do the Structural Funds promote research and innovation? (2)

- The Funds provide investments of some 2.7 billion euro for research projects, 2.8 billion for research and innovation infrastructures, and 3.6 billion euro for innovation and technology transfer. There is also some 350 million euro for training researchers.
- Some 70% of total Structural Funds investment in research and innovation – about 7.8 billion euro – is made in the least-developed Objective 1 areas, which would not otherwise benefit from this type of investment. The pattern of investment is the same as in other regions: around 25% of the money is invested in public research projects, another 25% in research and innovation infrastructures and around 40% in technology transfer and innovation.



More Information from Web Links:

- o http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/information_society/index_en.htm
- o http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.cfm
- o http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/themes/infotech_en.htm
- o <http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/>

The CORDIS Technology Platforms Service has been set up with the objective of providing a unified access point to information from the European Commission services on the development of the various technology platforms:

- o http://www.cordis.lu/technology-platforms/home_en.html