

ETNO Reflection Document on IST Work Programme 2005 / 2006

Executive Summary

To select successful IST projects that will have a good uptake and downstream deployment of their results, ETNO believes that the appropriate involvement of major sector players is essential. The research ambitions of major European IST sector players are not adequately represented in the Integrated Project (IP) evaluation process. Specific evaluation criteria capturing the relevance of the proposals to the needs of the sector should be included and evaluation teams should have a higher proportion of industrial sector experts.

As for the IST Work Programme 2005 / 2006, a significant part of the budget should be dedicated to extend existing IPs in strategic objectives where major European sector players are well represented: Broadband for all, Mobile and wireless systems beyond 3G and Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms.

ETNO recommends that the 2005 / 2006 IST Work Programme must support a balanced mix of new and ongoing work. The Programme should also be flexible enough to take into account the lessons learned from the first phase of FP6.

If the benefits anticipated from Integrated Projects (IPs) initiated in the first two Calls are to be realised, the Work Programme must support the second phase plans of these IPs. To facilitate a smooth progression of existing work, Call 4 should primarily be used to extend IPs from Call 1, while Call 5 should be used for Call 2 IP extensions.

ETNO believes that the appropriate involvement of major sector players is essential for successful projects and for the uptake and deployment of their results.

Therefore, ETNO recommends that a significant part of the IST Work Programme 2005 / 2006 budget should be dedicated to extend existing IPs in the following strategic objectives where the major European sector players are well represented:

- Broadband for all
- Mobile and wireless systems beyond 3G
- Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms

Where existing IPs are not adequate in terms of major sector player involvement, resources should be made available to encourage more participation. The topic areas where this would be appropriate are:

- Towards a global dependability and security framework
- Open development platforms for software and services

In addition, the strategic objectives should be extended to address the following topics:

- Network security and resilience
- Audiovisual and home services convergence with the mobile world
- Identification and authentication management

More information is provided in annex for these topics.

As regards the "new instruments", ETNO supports the Integrated Project concept provided IPs are industry led, and a persistent impact is ensured through the involvement of major sector players. Networks of Excellence (NoE) have proved to be of much less value to industry. For some areas of the Framework Programme NoEs may be appropriate. However, for the IST programme IPs and Specific Targeted Research Projects (STREPs) are the preferred instruments. In the implementation of the 2005 / 2006 Work Programme ETNO recommends that there is no further provision for NoEs.

ETNO members feel more dissatisfied with FP6 processes in comparison to FP5. The major concern is that research ambitions of major European IST sector players are not adequately represented in the IP evaluation process. Specific evaluation criteria capturing the relevance of the proposals to the needs of the sector should be included.

In addition, to ensure that proposal evaluations are made with a real understanding of the economic implications and downstream potential, evaluation teams should have a higher proportion of industrial sector experts.

ETNO would welcome further discussion on these topics with the European Commission in advance of the fourth IST Call of FP6.

Annex to ETNO Reflection Document on IST Work Programme 2005 / 2006 Additional topics to be addressed

Network security and resilience

Strong resiliency is today a must in nearly any telecommunication service and it has a main role in service creation, deployment and exploitation processes, and has become a common user requirement in the recent past. The openness of the new service provision model (based on open platform and network technologies) has uncovered the vulnerability and criticality of the services and networks at different levels. An open platform is prone to be attacked by anyone with enough knowledge and proper network connectivity, in contrast to what happened in legacy, proprietary systems. Moreover, there is a growing concern about service-availability in critical situations of outages, either following accidents or sabotage. Neither a network-critical business nor any information provider can afford to stay off-line even for minutes.

Therefore, to be an effective evolution target for present technologies, the elements of the next generation network must be fault tolerant and recoverable, so that strict availability guarantees can be ensured, covering all aspects of the service provision chain. Important issues to be addressed are:

- Resilience strategies for the communication infrastructure, especially in architectures with decentralized control.
- Architectures for high availability for information systems.
- Mobility issues: diversity in the access technology, with varying reliability level.
- Countermeasures for intentional attacks

The user's confidence level in the resilience of the new services will depend on the perception of resiliency as an end to end feature, rather than a specific advantage of a particular technology. Therefore, it is essential that the mechanisms to improve resiliency at different architecture levels offer a consistent view to the users. In this regard, network management must play a fundamental role to achieve this unified vision.

Audiovisual and home services convergence with the mobile world

The objective is to develop end to end networked audiovisual systems and applications, and open trusted and interoperable multimedia user platforms and devices notably for broadcasting and in-home platforms with full interactivity capacity.

The only missing aspect is the **convergence with the mobile world**: platforms allowing access to services from anywhere. This could be developed in the sub-objectives, by adding a paragraph on fixed vs. mobile convergence.

Allow users to access their home services virtually anywhere outside their home with their mobile phone. Provision personalised services at home and anywhere by sharing the user profile and authentication procedure.

Use context information to provide best adapted services on the device used.

Identification and authentication management

Nowadays, identification and authentication are linked to service specific sessions. Surfing and consulting the numerous internet and telecommunication services are hindered by repetitive identification and authentication procedures which often obliged heavy users to store long lists of logins, passwords and/or other identification elements. From the service operator point of view, identification of users when entering a new service is also considered as a hurdle to user friendly navigation when the current commercial trend is to offer integration of consultations in the same session (for instance mobile and fixed internet) or bunches of services in the same consultation. Therefore, the following topics should be addressed:

- To strengthen confidence and to enhance the usability of the identification and authentication systems and services for internet, fixed and mobile telecommunication services.
- To establish technical standards either for the operational identification and authentication systems or for the interoperability of the systems standards in order to facilitate the development of such services as E-Administration, E-Health and alike.
- To develop the concept and profession of providing identity and authentication services.