

Member Newsletter



Issue 2, October 2008

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Word from the Secretary General

A survey on the 34 Technology platforms which were operating in the beginning of 2008 has been organized by the EU Commission and carried out over the past months. Its outcome was discussed on September 30th at the occasion of the 9th seminar of ETPs industrial leaders.

There is a large consensus (Commission, Member States, ETPs' stakeholders) to acknowledge the positive role of ETPs to structure the long term R&D and the European Research Area.

Positive comments have been written regarding ESTEP and in particular its high involvement in technical programmes which are already on their way to be successful (ULCOS and others addressing the CO2 issue for example).

Regarding implementation there are large differences between ETPs. Some of them see their SRA well reflected and others not at all. Furthermore some ETPs which

have a good coverage of their SRA obtained a poor success rate as well. ESTEP like other ETPs has made huge efforts and has invested both time and money to prepare proposals which are finally being rewarded.

A major issue was addressed in this seminar: the way ahead for ETPs. As the number of ETPs has increased over the past years and is still increasing the question is how to avoid duplication and fragmentation? What's the best way now to implement the SRA ? Is a JTI the route to go further ?

Coordination and cooperation are recommended between ETPs to identify common priority topics. The submission of proposals between collaborating ETPs is encouraged as well.

Going towards a JTI is not obvious. There are pros and cons and ETPs are far from sharing the same viewpoint. The Commission doesn't seem to be pushing. This topic will be again addressed next time.

ESTEP follows the way which was recommended by reinforcing collaboration



with several relevant ETPs (e.g ZEP, Wind, ECTP and more recently MANUFUTURE) to obtain calls responding to topics of common interest. ESTEP is also evaluating the interest of a JTI with other manufacturing industries (Glass, other metals, Chemistry, etc.) and ETPs (MANUFUTURE).

Last but not least, the survey encourages ETPs to identify needs and to provide Training and Education. In this respect ESTEP's dedication was underlined and it was suggested to the Commission to offer specific instruments to the ETPs.

The Mirror Group

The Mirror Group focussed on the state of play of the Strategic Research Agenda, in particular the implementation of the second phase of the ULCOS programme on reducing the CO₂ emissions in steelmaking. However a few other priority topics have been addressed.

The CO₂-CCS issue was recognized as a priority issue for both the EU Commission and Member States representatives. The ESTEP and ZEP platforms should collaborate for the CCS demonstration part of the ULCOS II programme. This should be included within the EU flagship programme.

Legal and administrative problems around the use of CCS technologies should also be addressed. International cooperation should be envisaged to get more resources to tackle the CO₂-CCS issue.

As the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of ESTEP is being updated and roadmaps being finalised a few other high priority topics have been presented: Scale free and Energy efficient processes; Sustainable use of resources; Intelligent manufacturing and new steel solutions for energy efficient buildings and Energy production and transportation, including Wind Energy. ESTEP got the support of the Member States representatives to implement these topics in European programmes.

ESTEP should be more included in the FP7 priorities. Furthermore other

instruments should also be used such as national programmes (under the umbrella of Eureka), structural funds in specific countries, or other dedicated funds. Another appropriate alternative would be ESTEP extended by a JTI despite the difficulties to go through the Commission and Council demands.

The human resources programme of ESTEP was recognized as a high priority issue. However it should be put into perspective with other materials to be addressed in EU programmes (i.e. ERANET, KIC). ESTEP should also look within the People programme of the EU Commission.

Contacts with Zero Emission Platform (ZEP)

The first meeting between representatives of both ETPs (ZEP and ESTEP) was held on the 16th of July in Brussels. On behalf of ESTEP, members of the "ULCOS Core Group" and Secretariat attended; for ZEP the Coordination Group chairman and ZEP Secretariat; for the EU Commission, MM Raffaele Liberali, Philippe Vannson and Vassilios Kougionas attended. This first meeting was very positive as important decisions were taken:

- ESTEP/ULCOS as representative of the steel industry (energy intensive industry) will be involved in the consultation process organized by ZEP to identify the `why, what and how` of a CCS demonstration programme and the rationale behind it

- a follow up more technical oriented discussion should be held to identify in more detail common research and technology needs that could be addressed in a co-ordinated manner

- It was also agreed that it would be sensible to ensure that the new Task Force on `Infrastructure` to be formed by the ZEP would benefit from representation from other relevant industrial sectors such as the steel one.

The next meeting will be held in October/November to go further in identifying synergy and common activities.



ETP's Survey

The full report of this survey can be downloaded from http://cordis.europa/technology-platform/home_en.html.

Regarding ESTEP, it gives information on the Strategic Research Agenda and an update on the Platform's activities. It also describes the first results and the next steps. The feedback from the EU Commission is positive.

Contributions to the ICT Survey

ESTEP contributed to the Consultation group organized by the EU Commission about "ICT and Energy Efficiency". Process industries, manufacturing and semiconductor manufacturing industries were represented in this group. Technology providers, in particular ICT made significant contributions. The report concludes with a list of recommendations for ICT deployment activities in 2009-2015 and R&D needs for new ICT benefiting manufacturing in the long term (2015-2020), including R&D needs in the process industries. See the Report on "Energy Efficiency in Manufacturing: The role of ICT". Final Draft 31 July 2008

Support Group

An update on the preparation of the roadmaps was given. All roadmaps were appreciated and approved. Regarding Intelligent Manufacturing a collaboration with Manufuture is envisaged. Next steps: finish and prepare two documents

- a short document (1 page with the « Implementation schedule ») for the attention of the EU Commission

- a 5/6 pages max. to be submitted to the next ESTEP Steering committee of February 2009.

It was decided that the ECTP would be invited to the Implementation meeting in October.

Implementation Group

This meeting was organized with a focus on Energy and a representative of the EU DG Research was invited to give a presentation about upcoming calls. There does not seem to be much for ESTEP in the upcoming calls 2009 to 2010. It has been decided to try to coordinate even further with other Platforms in order to maximize the chances for ESTEP.

It was agreed that the focus for research funds should be RFCS, FP7, & Eureka. A template will be used for lobbying documents. Links with other ETP's should be strengthened as FP7 is multisectoral. The Mission of the Implementation group would remain to define and organize lobbying towards the EU Institutions and to organize ad'hoc communication. It was decided that the Implementation meetings would continue in the same format.

WG 1 - Profit

The main actions presently managed by WG1 deal with the building of the roadmaps for the two items "From a smart scale to a scale free" and for "Intelligent manufacturing" as well as the preparation of RFCS proposals in line with the selected priorities.

During the latest meeting of June 26, feedback was given about the positive reaction from the Support Group of the two roadmap documents. The work is now progressing. A first round table has also taken place concerning the possible proposals for the 2008 RFCS call. In June a new member was welcomed from the Polish Steel Platform.

Two presentations linked to the WG1 activities have respectively been made at the Mirror Group "Updating the SRA priorities" and "European Steel Response to World Challenges. The Strategic Agenda of ESTEP" was presented at SMEA (Sheffield Metallurgical and Engineering Association)



WG 2 - Automotive

A meeting took place on the 22nd September with EUCAR to update the needs of the Automotive sector.



WG 3 – Construction

Current priorities for TGS8 have been discussed over the past months: Structural safety in extreme conditions, advanced prefabrication and execution technologies and Sustainable steel intensive construction. Proposals for next RFCS call have been prepared: Rehabilitation of historic metallic bridges, Design of joints to composite columns for improved fire robustness.

WG 4 – Planet

A WG meeting took place on September 18 in Madrid. The roadmap on sustainable use of resources has been reviewed to be presented in the Support group meeting of October 14. First discussion about 2009 RFCS priorities was on the agenda. The status of the FP6/FP7 projects and proposals were reviewed, ULCOS, SOVAMAT, Increase of energy efficiency, ENFELEM & SURESTEP.



WG5-People

Working Group 5 is promoting the EU Steel Forum, a highly concentrated short training course for operatives of the Steel Industry. It aims to offer the conceptual and operative tools necessary to cope with the complex situation faced by companies in an increasingly competitive and global steel market. EU steel forum participants can earn 20 “M” level Masters credits, validated by Cardiff University. You will find more course details available on www.icsim.it

ESTEP will be represented at the 16th International Students day in Ostrava (Czech Republic) by Mr Charbonnier and Mr Birat.

Currently WG5 is organising two European events. For autumn 2009 the conference “Talent management in European Steel Companies and Universities” is announced. This will be the follow-up conference of the Warsaw 2007 event

“Working together for growths and jobs”. In 2010 a 1st Steel school is planned in April 2009 as a concrete measure to attract young people to the steel industry. In addition to preparing these events, WG5 is creating a best practices toolbox as a structured approach to identify and transfer European experiences in recruiting and training activities.

WG6 – Energy

There is on-going preparation of a roadmap on Materials for energy, wind farm, materials for power generation and oil and gas. The HighperPipe project is envisaged for FP7. New steels for offshore applications of wind farms, e.g for wind towers and for gear boxes. Power generation will focus on austenitic steel. A meeting was held in Brussels on September 25

Forthcoming calls FP7

Forthcoming calls FP7				
Co-ordination theme	Call Identifier	Call Title	Publication date	Deadline
NMP	FP7 NMP-2009-SME-3	Theme 4	November	March/April
Energy	FP7 ENERGY-2008 TREN 1	Energy call Part 2	29/04/2008	8/10/2008
	FP7 ENERGY-2009 -1	Energy call Part 1	3/09/2008	25/11/2008
	FP7 ENERGY-2009-2	Energy call Part 2	3/09/2008	29/04/2009
	FP7 ENERGY 2009-3	Energy call 3	03/09/2008	25/11/2008
ICT	FP7 ICT 2007 -C	FET Open scheme	22/12/2006	20/01/2009
Environment	FP7 ENV-2009-1	FP7 ENV 2009 -1	3/09/2008	8/01/2009

Participation at International conference

Scanmet **9,10,11 June**

Jean-Claude Charbonnier
ESTEP- Towards competitiveness and sustainability

SMEA **17, 18 June**

Jean-Claude Charbonnier and Christian Marique
European steel responses to World challenges – The strategic agenda of ESTEP

Both papers available on <http://circa.europa.eu/members/irc/rtd/estep/library>

OECD, **23 September**

Jean-Claude Charbonnier, OECD 133 Committee

Towards sustainable competitiveness: From ECSC to ESTEP



Forthcoming meetings

Meeting WG4	18 September
Meeting WG2	22 September
Meeting WG5	24 September
Meeting WG6	
ESTEP, Brussels	25 September
Meeting WG1	
ESTEP, Brussels	9 October
Meeting WG Implementation	
ESTEP, Brussels	13 October
Support Group meeting	
ESTEP, Brussels	14 October

Colophon

The ESTEP Member Newsletter is issued on a regular basis by the ESTEP Secretariat to the ESTEP members. The editorial panel consists of JC Charbonnier, N. Remoy and WHL Moonen.

Contributions for the newsletter can be sent to the ESTEP secretariat.

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