

THE FP5 EUROPEAN PROJECT **SEWING**  
"SYSTEM FOR EUROPEAN WATER MONITORING"

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Warszawa, 28 March 2003

**Report from the IST Concertation Meeting on Environment Application  
Research Projects, Brussels, 24.03.2003**

**1. Introduction**

The meeting was obligatory for current IST projects in the field on environment, all partners were welcome. On February 3 I sent an e-mail to all SEWING partners asking, who would like to attend. Nobody wanted, so I prepared the presentation myself (attached) and I attended the meeting alone.

The meeting agenda had two parts: Plenary session with 5 presentation and 3 parellel sessions:

- Environment (this I attended)
- Risk management
- Humanitarian demining

In the meeting participated also our SEWING Project Officer, Mr Mario Verdesse. On the plenary session participated about 70 people. All slides were printed and disseminated among attendees.

**2. Plenary session**

The first presentation by Mr Guy Weets from DG INFSO was about risk management project combined with GMES (Global Management for Environmental Security). Long term global changes are excluded, only natural and industrial disasters, terrorist threats, humanitarian crisis etc. are investigated. Research should concern assessment, mitigation, early warning. IST projects in Risk Management (will be open in second call, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003 with closing date October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003) are combined with priority 4 (Space) and 6 (Sustainable Development). In IST the following problems are to be solved:

- Technology integration
- Open system architecture
- Standardisation
- Wireless communication
- Modelling and high performance computers (Grid computing)
- New sensors

Risk management is a field which is not yet sufficiently developed. IPs, STREPs and SSAs are expected, research is needed, so NoEs are not preferred. Commission knows that life is complicated and it is difficult to have projects concerning one priority only.

The remaining 4 presentations concerned projects of rather general, political, not research or technological character. The next was by Mr F. Martin-Dupont: "State of the Art in Risk Management in Europe" and simply described the project RiskForce. Only natural disasters are encompassed: floods, fires, landslides, storms and earth quakes. Problems and review of solutions were given.

The next project was E-Cuisine: "A European user Group on Environmental Information System", given by Mr Thomas Schutz. The objective of the project is to establish a network of the main institutional users of Systems for Environmental Information (SEI). So the partners are ministries and agencies: the project is not technical. Five meetings were organised, each having different topic, mainly concerning water basins. One of the objectives of the project is "Public Information Rights", each citizen should have access in internet to environmental data.

The next presentation was about Humanitarian Demining by Mr H. Sahli (the problem does not interest me).

The last "To Bridge the Gap from RTD and Trans-European Deployment – the e-TEN programme" presented by Mr I. Aaro. E-TEN is part of the trans-European Network policy – Energy, Transport and Telecommunications, supports e-services, e-business etc. In this programme small projects (250k€ - 1.5M€) are open to move forward the e-European problems. There are now 75 active projects. Next call will be in May 2003, information: [www.ten-telecom.org](http://www.ten-telecom.org).

### **3. Environment parallel session**

Five projects were presented.

- SUMARE – autonomous observation of natural fields. This concerns mainly marine and coastal regions, sensors are in self controlling torpedoes, transmitting pertinent information.
- SEWING – discussion about our project was quite intensive, mainly concerned accuracy, life-time and costs.
- GIMMI – Geographic information and mathematical models inter-operability. The objective is to automatically create maps and forecasting of existence of pesticides in soil.
- I-MARQ – Information system for marine aquatic resource quality. It will provide coastal management tools, which forecasts, monitors and reports water quality. All problems found in SEWING were also reported: sensors, data fusion, models, and problems with data correlation.
- APNEE – Air pollution network for early warning and on-line information exchange in Europe. It is also a very concrete project leading to new technical solutions.

Discussion after all these presentations has shown many common problems, which are being solved individually, and not always in an optimal way. All partners found the idea of NoE SIMPLE interesting from that point of view.