

# **information management**

**Third report on the activities of the committee for  
information and documentation on science and technology  
of the European Communities**

(August 1975 — December 1977)





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Directorate-General 'Scientific and Technical Information  
and Information Management', Luxembourg

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THIRD REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR  
INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (1)

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(August 1975 - December 1977)

1. General

1.1. Set up by a Council of Ministers' Resolution of 24 June 1971, the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST) has continued to give the Commission of the European Communities advice on matters relating to scientific and technical information and documentation and has held some 10 meetings between August 1975 and December 1977.

1.2. Section 2 of this report describes the activities of the Committee during the period in question, whilst section 3 concentrates on the work of the Committee's working groups. Section 4 is devoted to the future implementation of EURONET.

Appendix I shows the membership of the Committee and Appendix II relates national activities in the field of IDST.

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(1) The first report was published as doc. EUR 5177 (dk,d,e,f,i,n) in September 1974 and the second as doc. EUR 5597 (dk,d,e,f,i,n) in June 1977.

## 2. Committee Activities

### 2.1. First three-year plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation (1975 - 1977)

2.1.1. Once the plan of action had been adopted by the Council of Ministers on 18 March 1975, following favourable opinions from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the necessary funds for 1975 became available, in August 1975, to finance the various projects arising from the action plan.

2.1.2. The annual budgets granted by the Council for the three years amounted, in units of account, to 1.84 million (1975), 2.15 million (1976), and 2.65 million (1977). The Commission was able, on the advice of the Committee, to award from action plan funds the following number of service or study contracts: 80 in 1975, 56 in 1976, and 44 in 1977.

2.1.3. Apart from the three interdependent objectives set out in the plan, namely:

- the development of sectoral information systems,
- the creation of a European network of scientific and technical information, and
- the development of the infrastructure essential for the effective operation of the network,

both the Committee and the Commission had recognised the usefulness and need to undertake a number of actions in addition and complementary to these three objectives. The Committee considered, however, that such actions should be financed from resources other than those of the plan of action.

Two main areas to receive special attention were the adaptation to the standards and special features of the EURONET physical network of the various existing or planned data bases of the Community institutions for the purpose of making them accessible on-line to Community users, and the automation of certain selected Community files complementary to the field of science by applying methodology which had already proved itself in the context of IDST.

A third area was the application and adaptation of multilingual tools and automated systems under development in order to initiate action designed to lower language barriers. Here it was the Committee's wish



to continue to finance multilingual activities of direct concern to STI from the IDST action plan funds.

- 2.1.4. An important step in having the action plan's annual activity programmes and budgets adopted by the Council was the prior submission by the Commission to the Committee for Scientific and Technical Research (CREST) after CIDST had first examined them and formulated its opinion.
- 2.1.5. The Committee has submitted some other opinions to CREST on several matters, e.g. proposals on minimum data requirements for the compilation of research inventories, the project on a data bank for matching organs and blood, and the project for a Community legal document retrieval system.

The Secretariat of the Committee provided CREST with annual reports of the Committee's activities.

## 2.2. Implementation of the physical network for EURONET

- 2.2.1. In its resolution of 24 June 1971, the Council of Ministers had stressed that the keystone of an information policy worthy of Europe lay in the coordination of action being carried out throughout the Community in such a way as gradually to establish a European information and documentation network, which, by linking together the scientific information resources of the Member States, would bring considerable benefit and saving, both economic and intellectual, to all Community users.

Since such a network should be set up, according to the Council, by the most modern methods and under the most favourable conditions regarding speed and expense, the Committee recognised that the most appropriate vehicle for carrying this information would be a telecommunications network.

- 2.2.2. As a result of the Committee's unanimous decision, in July 1975, in favour of the telecommunications network being installed and managed by the national PTT authorities of the Member States, and following negotiations between the Commission and these PTTs, a multilateral agreement was concluded by the combined PTTs, whereby one PTT, that of

France, was appointed to sign, on their behalf, a contract with the Commission for the installation and subsequent management of the telecommunications network for EURONET. At an ad hoc meeting on 5 December 1975, the Committee approved the broad lines of the contract, which was subsequently signed by the Commission and the French PTT on 15 December 1975. Two addenda were later made to the contract by the two parties, in July 1976 and in June 1977 respectively.

2.2.3. It soon became clear to the Committee that it would be desirable to explore the possibilities of interfacing with the PTTs in the implementation of the network. The Committee's bureau, the Standing Group, together with officials from the Commission, therefore met with representatives of the PTTs in May 1976 for an initial informal exchange of views on the subject. It was agreed that contacts should be maintained at the technical and commercial levels. The Committee provided an appropriate mechanism for this, but unfortunately it did not come into operation.

2.2.4. The technology for and design of the network was sub-contracted by the PTTs to a multinational consortium of companies led by SESA-LOGICA.

2.2.5. Whilst the ultimate decision, expected in early 1978 (2), on tariffs for EURONET rests with the PTTs, this has not prevented the Committee from advising the Commission on its negotiations with the PTTs. It has, of course, been kept regularly informed by the Commission on the progress of these negotiations. It is important to note that the agreed tariffs will embody fundamental Community principles. For example, there will be a common unique tariff for international data transmission, thus avoiding discrimination against users in the various Community countries. Furthermore, the tariffs will be independent of distance and will be based on data volume transmitted rather than on fixed subscriptions, which will especially benefit the small and medium scale users.

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(2) Agreement has since been reached with the PTTs on tariffs, and a press announcement was made on 6 February 1978.

2.2.6. The Committee received information on the Commission's negotiations with nominated host organisations concerning their planned connection to EURONET. The Committee members were further given copies of a draft letter of intent between the Commission and each host setting out the rights and obligations of both parties. It recommended discussing this draft at meetings at national level with the nominated hosts.

2.2.7. The Committee received further reports on the continuing discussions between the Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA) on setting up a framework for achieving practical cooperation between the two organisations, particularly with regard to making ESA's space documentation service available via EURONET. These discussions finally culminated in an exchange of letters of intent between the Commission and ESA in summer 1976.

2.3. Principles and policy guidelines for the provision of information services via EURONET

2.3.1. In February 1976, the Committee had initial discussions on presenting proposals to the Commission for guidelines on making contractual arrangements with data base suppliers and host organisations for mounting their services on EURONET. It was agreed then to discuss further the whole question at a special meeting in May.

2.3.2. As a result of the special meeting, the Committee set up an ad hoc group of its members with the tasks of preparing an outline of basic principles regarding the provision of information services via EURONET.

The ad hoc group held several meetings of discussions before presenting to the Committee its draft policy paper, which was adopted as a provisional version (3) in May 1977. General agreement has not yet been reached on certain issues; these will be incorporated in the policy paper at a later stage.

2.3.3. Much time has been devoted by the Committee to discussing the circumstances under which hosts should be connected to EURONET.

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(3) Available as doc. CIDST/250/76 (provisional version) from the Secretariat of CIDST, Office B4/036, DG XIII, Commission of the European Communities, Jean Monnet Building, Kirchberg, Luxembourg.

Indeed, the Committee generally supported the policy of connecting as many host computers to EURONET as technically possible and of encouraging the use of all data bases mounted on EURONET. At the same time, the Committee saw the need to avoid wasteful duplication of data bases for EURONET.

In particular, the Committee recognised during its discussions that the main responsibility for the adaption and connection of a host computer to EURONET, including the associated financing, was a matter for the host operator. However, it also accepted that the Commission itself should be prepared to support development projects which might be of value to a number of host computers in the Member States or of value to users of EURONET.

- 2.3.4. To consider further the "wasteful duplication" problem, a second ad hoc group was given the task of producing guidelines for putting together a first mix of data bases and host computers for connection to EURONET. This resulted in a report to the Committee at its meeting in July 1976, at which the Commission was requested to transmit to the PTTs the results of the Committee's deliberations.

This report also contained an analysis of the replies to a questionnaire sent in by the national delegations provisionally offering various data bases and host computers for connection. These offers were gradually revised with additional information from the delegations.

- 2.3.5. Following a report by the Commission to the Committee on an assessment of these revised offers and on the closely associated problem of duplication, the Committee decided, at its July 1977 meeting, to set up a small group to continue the work and report back in October 1977.

The group held two meetings of discussions and review and duly reported back with its conclusions and recommendations. As a result of this report and in view of CREST's request that the Committee should submit a first report to it on the results of efforts to rationalise information services offered via EURONET, the Committee recommended that national delegations should notify the Commission of the hosts and data bases which would be linked to EURONET at the start of the initial phase and that the Commission should obtain firm commitments from these hosts on their full agreement to the generally agreed basic principles set out in the policy paper (cf. 2.3.2.).

2.3.6. The Committee also considered, as another important principle in providing an information service via EURONET, that if agreements on the production, ownership, and exploitation of data bases constituted territorial barriers within the Community, it should be the aim to abolish such barriers, e.g. by systems of royalty payments. Moreover, no host operator should have exclusive rights to connect a data base under his control to the technical network.

A particular problem had arisen in this area over the transfer by contract in December 1975 of the running of the European Nuclear Documentation System (ENDS) and the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), previously operated by the Commission, to the Belgian authorities. Some members expressed concern within the Committee over the problem of exclusive rights with regard to the exploitation of the INIS data base under the new operating system.

2.3.7. The question of establishing policy guidelines on the possible extension of EURONET services to non Community countries has also been raised with the Committee. In December 1977, the Commission sought the Committee's initial advice on the subject following a formal request to the Commission from the Swiss Mission to the European Communities that exploratory negotiations be opened with regard to Switzerland's possible participation in EURONET. Other such European countries are showing similar interest.

Consultation between the Committee and the Commission is continuing.

#### 2.4. New activities

The Committee had decided, in July 1975, to set up a small ad hoc group notably to work out the broad lines of a Community policy for "information for industry", making at the same time recommendations for its implementation within the framework of the action plan, to draw up proposals for an initial working programme in this field, and to identify and make recommendations on any gaps or deficiencies in the provision of or utilisation of information services for industry meriting action at the Community level. The group's subsequent proposals on policy approach and a programme of activities were accepted by the Committee. Terms of reference were then given to the ad hoc group so that it could start its work (see 3.1.10.).

## 2.5. Cooperation with other services of the Commission

2.5.1. The Commission's Directorate General for Industrial and Technological Affairs (4) requested the Committee, in January 1976, to give its opinion on the project for the specification and development of a computer-based information storage and retrieval system. The Committee examined the project, in February 1976, on the basis of a document submitted by the Commission to the Council within the framework of an overall programme on Community policy for data processing.

After further examination, the Committee gave its opinion in April 1976, declaring itself ready to contribute, together with representatives of the Commission, to the work of the technical committee which would be set up for the project.

2.5.2. In October 1976, the Committee expressed the wish to be closely associated with the Advisory Committee of the Joint Data Processing Programme, set up by Council decision (5), and with its sub-committees for "retrieval system for legal documentation" and "data bank for matching organs and blood".

Contacts were made with the competent service of the Commission, the Directorate General for Internal Market and Industrial Affairs, and it was subsequently agreed that the Committee would provide a representative for the first sub-committee whilst representation on the second sub-committee would be via the Commission's services.

## 2.6. Organisation and preparation of Committee activities

2.6.1. The Standing Group, set up by the Committee in March 1975, has been composed of the Committee's Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen, although other members of the Committee could attend the Group's meeting if they so wished.

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(4) Now called "Internal Market and Industrial Affairs" (DG III)

(5) Official Journal No L 223 of 16 August 1976

During the period in question, 17 meetings were held, during which the Standing Group has continued to prepare the Committee's work, in particular by planning its agendas for meetings, and to cooperate closely with the Commission on certain urgent matters, in particular on contracts, during the intervals between Committee meetings.

The Group was able to finalise, on behalf of the Committee, some formal opinions, which had been requested of the Committee on some subjects, and to prepare the Committee's recommendations on various aspects of project implementation. It also advised the Committee on the approach to be adopted towards certain topics.

A number of joint meetings were held with some of the Committee's working groups in order to review and, where necessary, reorientate their work.

- 2.6.2. As a result of a proposal from the Chairman based on contributions from Committee members, the Committee adopted, in July 1977, guidelines in an effort to improve further the functioning of and relationship between the Committee, the Standing Group, and the working groups.
- 2.6.3. At the same time, the Committee made an initial examination of another document by its Chairman on a possible reorganisation of the Committee and its working groups.
- 2.6.4. It may be of interest to note at this point that the 10 working groups, set up by the Committee, and their different sub-groups and task forces held, during the period under review, some 400 meetings; this figure includes a proportion of minor meetings. The groups regularly submitted to the Committee activity reports and proposals for working programmes.

## 2.7. Publicity

- 2.7.1. Following a wish the Committee had expressed some time previously to give wide publicity to the planning and development of EURONET, the Commission launched the pilot issue of EURONET NEWS in summer 1975. So far there have



been ten issues, including a special one devoted exclusively to UNICE's (6) opinion on EURONET. EURONET NEWS is published (7) bi-monthly as a supplement to EUROABSTRACTS.

In December 1977, the Committee decided to set up a small task force to advise the Commission on its editorial policy towards EURONET NEWS.

- 2.7.2. As a further part of its publicity drive for EURONET, the Commission has also published two brochures following a proposal made by the Committee (8).

## 2.8. International cooperation

- 2.8.1. Following an invitation made by the Danish delegation in November 1976, a member of the Committee, together with a Commission official, visited the Chairman of the SCANNET (9) Management Committee in Stockholm in January 1977 in order to gain information and ideas on SCANNET's organisational structure.

The report on the visit was warmly received, as a result of which the Committee resolved, in July 1977, that periodic contacts at chairman level as well as at the technical level between the SCANNET and EURONET organisations would serve to cultivate a regular exchange of viewpoints and experiences. These contacts would also be of value in view of a possible later interconnection between the two networks.

- 2.8.2. In July 1977, the Committee gave a first opinion on the

- 
- (6) Union of Industries of the European Community.  
(7) Published by and available from Directorate General for Scientific and Technical Information and Information Management, Jean Monnet Building, Kirchberg, Luxembourg.  
(8) 1. "EURONET - The European On-line Information Network" (2nd edition);  
2. "EURONET - Guidelines for Cooperation between Data Base Suppliers and Host Organisations."  
(9) SCANNET is a private network making use of the packet-switching technique to provide scientific and technical information to users in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

establishment by IAEA (10) of a two-year experimental network which would provide INIS and other centres with a facility for accessing the bibliographic data bases held by IAEA, i.e. INIS and AGRIS (11).

2.8.3. Also in July 1977, the Committee noted the favourable opinion of its agricultural working group on Portugal's desire to participate in AGRIS via EUR-AGRIS. The Committee was informed that the Commission raised no objection to such participation. The Committee, however, considered that action plan funds should not be used for this exercise.

### 3. Activities of the Working Groups and Systems

#### 3.1. Progress made by the Working Groups

##### 3.1.1. Technical Aspects of Information

The major event in this period was the signing of the PTT/Commission contract in December 1975 for the implementation of the physical network for EURONET, in which the Technical Aspects Group (TAG), by following up the work of the former Telecommunications Network Task Group and by launching and evaluating the study on operational requirements for the physical network, played a decisive part.

However, as far as its terms of reference were concerned, the Group realised that, in order to take account of the implementation of the telecommunications network, its work would have to be reorientated more towards:

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(10) International Atomic Energy Agency

(11) Agricultural Information System operated under the aegis of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

- user/network interface problems, both at the communications and information levels;
- terminal/host/network compatibility;
- harmonisation of retrieval/storage techniques and command sets.

More specifically, projects were either carried out or initiated in the following areas:

- support for host centres to adapt to network interfaces;
- development of terminal support;
- development of a standard command set for information retrieval systems;
- development of user support features;
- study of document supply and complementary services;
- harmonisation and development of information retrieval techniques.

The increasing awareness of the need for a multilingual effort led the Group to launch a series of projects, starting with a survey of the state of the art and then going on to initiate pilot projects, such as participation in the development of a controlled syntax translation system and an automatic translation system (12).

With the growing complexity in implementing the EURONET project, the Group came to the conclusion that its planning was being determined by certain trends, one of which was the closer involvement of issues, such as the economic consequences of technical decisions, which were not covered by the Group's terms of reference.

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(12) In the meantime, a separate action plan for the improvement of information transfer between European languages was decided by the Commission. A special advisory committee (CETIL) was set up and provision was made for consultation on the IDST part of the plan.

The Group was therefore prompted to submit proposals jointly with EFAG (see section below) to the Committee in February 1977 for redefining the framework for continuing the work in developing EURONET.

The Group held its last meeting in June 1977 following the Committee's tentative approval of these proposals (cf. section 3.1.3.).

### 3.1.2. Economic and Financial Aspects

The Economic and Financial Aspects Group (EFAG) has continued its practice of setting up small study groups to perform various short-term tasks, such as preparing opinions, drafting specifications for projects, etc.

One such study group prepared specifications for and substantially contributed to the completion of the study, "Economic aspects of the European information network (EURONET)".

Other projects which were completed as initial steps towards assessing the financial implications for EURONET were:

- i) extension and revision of the cost/accounting scheme to interactive systems of the network;
- ii) development and use of models for the prediction of costs for alternative information systems;
- iii) in-depth case studies of cooperative information systems in the European Communities;
- iv) demand for on-line information services as a function of the charges;
- v) EURONET marketing study;
- vi) financing and pricing in Europe for IDST services.

So as to give additional input to project v), a panel meeting was held, in which Commission officials, host operators, data base suppliers, and

users took part. The results of the studies on projects i) and ii) have since been published (13). It was also recommended that the final report on the study for project vi) be made available to potential service suppliers.

A further study group was set up to consider relations with service suppliers for EURONET. This group prepared papers on the following subjects:

- objectives and requirements in agreements between service suppliers and the Community;
- allocation of responsibilities for interfacing with users within EURONET;
- alternative contractual schemes for the EURONET/supplier/user relationship;
- pricing.

A study group for tarification was formed to deal with the main issues relating to EURONET tariffs, whilst a task force was set up to consider the economics of EURONET. The task force also included members of TAG.

In February 1977, the Group submitted, in conjunction with TAG, proposals to the Committee that EFAG and TAG be merged. This received a favourable response from the Committee, and EFAG as such ceased to exist in mid-1977.

### 3.1.3. Economic and Technical Aspects of EURONET Development

Set up by the Committee in July 1977 as an interim measure pending a final decision, the Economic and Technical Aspects of EURONET Development Group (ETAG), which has met twice to date, has devoted its initial tasks to taking stock of the work it had inherited from TAG and EFAG, and to organising its activities in accordance with its proposed terms of reference.

The following subjects, amongst others, have so far been tackled by the Group:

- interface studies;

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(13) Available from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Boîte postale 1003, Luxembourg, as docs. EUR 5627 and EUR 5693 respectively.

- user support;
- marketing policy;
- opinion on the EURONET marketing study;
- promotional programme for EURONET.

The Group's future work is planned to cover the following areas:

- launching EURONET;
- marketing;
- development strategy;
- upgrading of the technical network;
- upgrading of operations and services;
- development of information technologies.

#### 3.1.4. Training of Specialists in IDST

As a result of reviewing the activities of the Working Group "Training of Specialists", the Committee decided, in February 1976, to give the Group new terms of reference. On the one hand, the Group was to examine the short-term requirements for training and educating the information specialists and users who would be involved in EURONET, and on the other hand it was to tackle the problem of specifying the elements of a long-term European training policy for information specialists.

The following activities were undertaken in support of the first objective:

- i) a 4-day workshop, held in December 1976, with the aim of specifying guidelines for the curricula, teaching methods, and materials to be used in a range of courses for training managers, specialists, and end users, resulted in a number of recommendations:
  - setting up of national focal points for coordinating EURONET training;
  - funding by the Commission of 4 pilot training courses during the run-up period to EURONET operation;
  - general investigation of existing packages for teaching "on-line" information retrieval;
  - exploration of the feasibility of computer-aided instruction "on-line" on EURONET with its multi-host, multilingual complexities;

- identification of a pool of expert teachers in Europe in the "on-line" information field;
- ii) a first pilot course was held at the University of Sheffield, England, in December 1977;
- iii) a study was also launched in 1977 to survey existing training packages with a view to producing packages well tailored to the training needs of EURONET users;
- iv) a feasibility study is planned to investigate the problems of training users by means of computer-aided instruction on EURONET.

In support of the second objective, the Group has had responsibility for the following activities:

- i) 4 advanced courses for information specialists were held during the latter half of 1975 in various Community countries and gave an opportunity to information experts from all of the Member States to study similarities and differences among the Member States in information course syllabuses and teaching methods and materials;
- ii) a study was carried out in order to forecast to 1985 the supply and demand of information workers at 4 different levels in each of the Member States;
- iii) another study aimed at predicting the qualitative changes in the roles and activities of information workers over the next 20 years resulting from technological advances and economic and social developments is being delineated with the help of experts;
- iv) a survey of high-level training programmes for information workers is being conducted;
- v) a study with the aim of relating training needs to job functions in information service organisations was started in August 1977.

Links were also established with sectoral working groups to help them organise special training activities in the fields of information on agriculture, environmental protection, patents, and information for industry.



### 3.1.5. Legal Aspects

Since beginning its activities in June 1976, the ad hoc group "Legal Aspects" has concerned itself principally with problems likely to arise in a legal context as a result of the implementation of EURONET. The main areas for attention, on a case by case basis, have been:

- connection of hosts and data bases to the network;
- the policy paper on the provision of information services via EURONET (e.g. rights and obligations of users and suppliers, unimpeded access, monopoly, subsidies, copyright, etc.);
- INIS/ENDS contract (cf. section 2.3.6.);
- user rights to the results of study or service contracts entirely financed by the Commission.

### 3.1.6. Agriculture

Since July 1975, the Agricultural Working Group (AWG) has revised and further evolved its programme of activities to take account both of EURONET and of the need for a future programme as expressed by the Standing Group at a joint meeting with the Group in October 1976.

The Group's activities have therefore been concentrated in the following areas:

#### 1. Creation, coordination, and improvement of bibliographical data bases

##### i) Contribution to international systems

The Member States and the Commission have continued to make their joint input to EUR-AGRIS, the Community's contribution to the world agricultural bibliography AGRIS published by FAO. 1977's input represented an increase of 18 % over that for 1976. Over 80,000 references have so far been processed under contract. Output both in printed form (AGRINDEX) and on magnetic tapes is published monthly. The AGRIS magnetic tapes may be consulted "on-line" at the Commission's offices in Brussels and Luxembourg.

Further EUR-AGRIS workshops were held in Luxembourg to discuss cataloguing and indexing problems. Participants at the last workshop were able to watch demonstrations of "on-line" access to the AGRIS system.

The Group recently gave its evaluation of EUR-AGRIS to the Committee. This was endorsed and the Commission was asked to forward it to FAO, together with proposals for upgrading AGRIS.

Following an investigative study, the Group recommended that, within the context of EUR-AGRIS, Member States should consider improving the recording of non-conventional literature in order to make the information more readily accessible through the maximum use of existing structures.

ii) Systems of special interest to the Community

The permanent inventory of agricultural research projects in the European Communities (AGREP), based on Council Regulation No. 1728/74, has over 15,000 titles of research projects available on magnetic tape. AGREP may also be consulted "on-line" at the Commission's offices in Brussels and Luxembourg. A printed version was published in 1977.

The comprehensive study of potential users of the Agricultural Management Information System (AMIS) has drawn particular attention to the need for documentation on agricultural law and for statistical and other practical information, especially in the fields of input and output, industries and international trade.

iii) Towards participation in EURONET

a) Evaluation of data bases of agricultural interest

The assessment study completed in 1976 of data bases in the field of veterinary science was carried out in order to determine the value of existing data bases in satisfying the need for veterinary information, in view of their use within EURONET, and to inform the veterinarian profession in Europe of modern methods of literature retrieval.

The final report on the results of the study is being published (14); articles, in 6 languages, have also appeared in the specialist press. It was also recommended that a simple handbook be compiled on the use of computerised data bases devoted to agriculture with specific relevance to veterinary science.

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(14) "Searching the Veterinary Literature Retrospectively: a Comparative Study of Results from 10 Data Bases." available from Oxford Microform Publications Ltd., Wheatshaf Yard, Blue Boar St., Oxford, England.

b) Terminology control

In order to improve the compatibility of agricultural data bases which might be made accessible via EURONET and to simplify the retrieval process, a small group of experts (AGRITERM) has finalised the compilation of multilingual controlled vocabularies in the following fields:

- veterinary science,
- food science and technology,
- agricultural policy, agricultural economy and rural sociology (AMIS).

These 3 thesauri will be published in 1978.

2. Planning and preparation of factual data banks

A 2-day symposium on factual data banks for agriculture was held in Luxembourg in July 1977 for the purpose of drawing up recommendations for the creation and improvement of data banks and their possible inclusion in EURONET such that users at various levels in the Community countries might have optimum access to factual data.

3. Information for agricultural advisory services

Experts from the Member States attended a 2-day symposium in Luxembourg in February 1977 on the transfer and interpretation of scientific and technical information in agriculture. As a result of the symposium, the Group felt that priority should be given to a survey and study of specific information systems used by agricultural advisory services.

The papers collected from the research project on preview articles on growing points in veterinary research are regularly published in "European Community Preview Articles", of the journal "Veterinary Science Communications" (Elsevier, Amsterdam).

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As for its future activities, the Group presented to the Committee in December 1977 a proposal for a medium-term working plan. This proposal is under consideration.

### 3.1.7. Biomedicine

In accordance with its terms of reference and as a result of recommendations given by the Standing Group in September 1976, the Working Group "Biomedical Information" has pursued the following activities:

- i) Project "Data banks on drugs";
  - the objective of the project was to create a coordinated system of data banks on drugs accessible via EURONET;
  - an analysis of the state of the art of such data banks in the Member States was carried out in 1976 in 3 stages: overall study of existing data banks; study of potential users; detailed study of all the major systems in the Member States;
  - during 1977, it was the project's aim to link some of the systems analysed by designing communication interfaces between the various data banks concerned and by studying the conditions for data transmission, in particular using EURONET;
  - the work has thus made it possible to lay down the basic principles for communication between the systems, i.e. criteria for interface definition and criteria for distinguishing the data for exchange;
  - the results of the study have now been made the subject of a final report, which has just been presented to the Group.
- ii) Project "Terminology and biomedical metalanguages";
  - the general aim of the project was to study the problems involved with multilingual terminology and biomedical metalanguages;
  - an analysis of various types of biomedical languages, carried out in 1976, revealed the need to study terminology problems for specific applications;
  - an initial study to apply terminology to data banks on drugs is being carried out in stages, the first of which is concerned with the nomenclature of active constituents in drugs and the compilation of a system of equivalents for the nomenclatures in use, the second concentrating on the terminology of the pharmacological and therapeutic characteristics of drugs;
  - the sub-groups set up for projects i) and ii) are currently devoting their combined efforts to the first stage;
  - consideration is also being given to a methodology which might be applied to subsequent stages, such as the study of therapeutic properties and side effects.

iii) Project "Minimum basic data set";

- an exploratory study made in 1976 led to an agreement on a limited number of medical data which are used in hospitals and which would appear to be the most important for any future cooperation;
- since it would not be possible to make progress whilst the minimum basic data sets collected in hospitals were not comparable, it was decided to make standardisation the main objective of the project;
- the project, which continued during 1977, has 2 aims: to compile a list of definitions for the information contained in the various minimum basic data sets and to draw up a list a data collection and processing methods used in the various minimum basic data set systems;
- contacts have been taken with CREST's "Epidemiology" group to determine the possibilities for cooperating together on the project.

iv) Project "Permanent inventory of biomedical research";

- the project's main aims are:
  - a) to keep researchers informed on research projects in the field, which would not only make for valuable contacts but would also perhaps give a better direction to their own projects, and
  - b) to provide organisations, which finance scientific research, with more accurate information on "trends" in research and the possible gaps to be filled;
- following approval of the project's technical content, work is planned to commence in 1978.

v) Project "Information on industrial medicine"

- a study on information and documentation on industrial medicine was originally started under the Community's social action programme and included an inventory on current work in the field;
- the Group has now been asked to take over the study and has therefore charged an ad hoc group with considering the advisability of doing so;
- the Group is also examining the possibilities of taking over the project "Inventory on industrial medicine".

vi) Information on veterinary medicine;

- cooperation in this field has been agreed between the Group and the ad hoc group VETEC, which is responsible to the Agricultural Working Group;
- 3 sectors are involved: drugs (used in veterinary medicine), pharmaceutical terminology, and the permanent inventory of research;
- joint meetings are planned for 1978.

3.1.8. Environment

During the period under review, the Committee's Working Group for Environmental Protection Information (EPIG) has concerned itself with the following main subjects:

- i) inventories of research projects (ENREP), information/documentation centres/services (ENDOC), and centres of expertise (ENEX) (15);
  - workshops covering the data collection procedures and indexing terminology were held in Luxembourg;
  - a contract was signed for the post pilot phase planning of the inventories;
  - a test of input procedures was run, the final results of which were received in mid-January 1977;
  - recommendations were made regarding the first printed output of the inventories;
- ii) information on environmental legislation (ENLEX);
  - following a pilot project on the computerisation of environmental legislation in the European Community, a feasibility study including a test programme was carried out on a European information system on environmental legislation;
  - after discussion on the study, the Group were to examine a draft recommendation as to the ways in which ENLEX could be implemented and financed, bearing in mind cooperation with existing or proposed similar systems and with other international bodies;
- iii) pollution control technology;
  - a study was undertaken for a methodology for a proposed survey on information acquisition and use in pollution control decision;
  - a further study was carried out on the structures and functions of national focal points for environmental information;
  - another study was made in order to review the information sources which provide data to aid selection of equipment for pollution treatment, monitoring, and waste recycling;
  - the general coverage of the environment by a number of data bases in both machine-readable and printed form was also studied, the objective being to provide data on which to base a future guide to data bases for environmentalists;
- iv) information sources on conferences on the environment;
  - a study was carried out on this subject, the report of which was published by the Commission (16), and as a result of the study a workshop was held in York in June 1976 with the managers of the national centres for information on conferences.

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(15) Council decision 76/161/CEE - see Official Journal L 31/8/28 of 5 February 1976.

(16) "Conferences on the Environment - a Study on Information Sources" available as doc. EUR 5554 e/f from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Boîte postale 1003, Luxembourg.

With regard to its future work, the Group sees as its immediate priorities:

- i) the production of the inventories in machine-readable and printed form. Indeed, the inventories are part of the Action Programme on the Environment passed by the Council of Ministers, which is, in fact, part of the world-wide United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- ii) presenting proposals for the implementation of an information system on environmental legislation (ENLEX);
- iii) production of the guide to data bases for environmentalists;
- iv) development of proposals for information services on conferences.

### 3.1.9. Patents

The Working Group "Documentation on Patents" has given its attention to the following areas of activity:

- compilation in 1975 of an inventory of existing services in the field of patent information and documentation available to the public, an edited version of which was produced and published in 1976 (17);
- a methodology study carried out in 1975 on the exploitation of patent literature in existing information and documentation systems;
- an enquiry made in 1976 by the secretariat of the Group, assisted by correspondents in the Member States, in order to study an important category of users of patent literature, namely the users of public patent libraries; the results of the enquiry were published in a report (18);
- a study, completed at the end of 1977, to forecast the level of use of patent documentation until 1981.

As a result of these studies and discussions within the Group, the conclusion has been reached that there is at the moment no clearly expressed need for creating a Community patent information service or information centre. However, the level of exploitation of the technological information in patents is such as to cause concern and to emphasise the need both for improving access to existing services, especially in view of the needs of those who want to use patents as a source of technical information, and for ensuring that patent information is properly incorporated in the general structure of library and information activities.

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(17) "Patent Information and Documentation - An Inventory of Services available to the Public in the European Community" (EUR 5558 d,e,f)

(18) "Survey of Readership in Public Patent Libraries" (EUR 5831 d,e,f)

Both are available from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Boite postale 1003. Luxembourg.



The Group has terminated its work under the new terms of reference given to it in 1976, and presented to the Committee in December 1977 a final report with recommendations for possible further action, which are now being reviewed by the Committee and the Commission.

### 3.1.10. Industry

As a result of terms of reference given to it by the Committee in July 1975, the ad hoc group "Information for Industry" began its activities in the following September and, during the period in question, has been responsible for 5 studies:

- analysis of information marketing structures;
- study on the provision of Community-wide information services, in this case for the plastics and rubber industries;
- study for establishing a policy for the coordination of information services, in this case for the food processing industries in the Community;
- study of information services for production engineering within the machine building sector;
- elaboration of proposals for guidelines for information for industry.

A further activity, with which the group was concerned, was the organisation in September 1977 of a 3-day workshop to examine the needs, mechanisms, and policies within the Community for the effective transfer to industry, particularly to small- and medium-sized enterprises, of information for industry. Participants included representatives from industry, information marketing services, and official bodies which give support to information services.

Several recommendations resulted from the workshop and these are now being studied by both the Committee and the Commission.

Although the group's terms of reference came to an end on 31 December 1977, consideration will be given to providing continuing support for this important information sector.

3.1.11. Energy

The ad hoc group on Energy Information has developed the following actions:

- i) inventory of periodical literature dealing with energy (19);
  - collection and screening of data were made in each Member State by the members of an "Inventory" sub-group, compilation of the data being carried out by the Commission;
  - a procedure was set up by the sub-group for the annual updating of the inventory;
- ii) directory of energy information sources available in the Community countries (20);
  - the initial collection of data was undertaken by several institutions in the Member States;
  - a methodology for updating the directory was adopted by the sub-group;
  - the data is available in both printed form and on tape;
- iii) pilot project for setting up a cooperative information system on the economics of energy;
  - based on a national network, the project will prove whether it is feasible to convert a national system into a cooperative one;
  - the national institute concerned will be responsible for the implementation of a trilingual terminology and for the processing of the cooperative input;
  - development of the project has involved definition of a scope, setting up of a common input sheet, definition of the output products, study of users' needs.

In the light of the results of this work, the group will consider whether proposals should be made for :

- setting up of the cooperative system on a permanent basis;
- broadening of the energy scope beyond the economics of energy;
- developing a factual information system on energy by collecting data produced by information analysis centres.

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(19) "A Selected Bibliography of World Periodicals of Energy Interest" (EUR 5469 e)

(20) "Permanent Directory of Energy Information Sources in the European Community" (EUR 5425 e)

3.2. Existing systems

3.2.1. Nuclear documentation (see also 2.3.6.)

It had become clear that the day-to-day running of the ENDS/INIS systems, hitherto operated by the Commission, should be decentralised. Following negotiations with various national centres, a contract was signed in December 1975 between the Commission and the Belgian authorities for the transfer of ENDS/INIS operations to the centre in Mol.

3.2.2. Metallurgy

The activities of the System for Documentation and Information on Metallurgy (SDIM) have continued on the basis of a second Provisional Technical Agreement (PTA II), which expired on 31 December 1977. The SDIM Management Committee and its two technical working parties have, during the period in question, concerned themselves principally with evaluating and improving the system.

At the technical level, the following projects were, in particular, chosen and carried out or commenced:

- organisation of training seminars in Luxembourg for indexing and retrieval;
- complete revision of the SDIM thesaurus under the responsibility of the first technical working party; this work was mainly carried out under contract and is now almost complete;
- revision of the SDIM cataloguing and indexing rules; the new version of the indexing rules is being based on the revised thesaurus and past experiences, whilst the cataloguing rules are being revised with regard to the use of a standard input sheet for all types of literature and their compatibility with other systems; both these projects are being carried out by consultants;
- increasing the input with articles from fringe journals, reports, books, theses, and patents.

As a result of the last action, the input for 1977 has been increased to nearly 35,000 articles. The situation at the end of 1977 concerning the number of documents contributed to the system by the various SDIM members is as follows:

Belgium	7,073
Denmark	156
Federal Republic of Germany	50,448
France	23,964
Ireland	764
Luxembourg	183
Netherlands	8,314
United Kingdom	22,284
Commission	11,215
Total	124,401

Following the results of a SDIM review study carried out in 1976, an ad hoc group was set up with the task of preparing proposals for giving SDIM a completely new direction. These proposals were submitted to the Management Committee in May 1977. Whilst the technical aspects of the proposals were unanimously approved, the Management Committee was unable to agree on the organisational structure of a new SDIM and informed the Committee accordingly.

Subsequently, the French and German delegations informed the SDIM Management Committee and CIDST of their joint plan to set up and operate an information system for metallurgy through bilateral cooperation. It is intended to build this system on existing tools and to associate other interested centres in the Member States in due course. At the same time, the Commission was requested to support the new system in appropriate ways. The other SDIM partners concluded that, in view of the Franco-German plan, the system could no longer be operated in the present way. Transitional measures and other appropriate steps have now to be taken with a view to ensuring a smooth transfer and to maintaining the Community's interests in the system.

4. Making EURONET a reality and turning it into a public network

4.1. Second three-year plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation (1978 - 1980)

4.1.1. It was widely recognised that the first action plan had provided a solid base for further action in the field of scientific and technical information within the Community. However, the entry into service of EURONET, whilst the major aim of the first plan, should not be seen as a goal in itself, but rather a point of departure for a wider, long-term effort to provide the cooperation and sharing of resources set out by the Council of Ministers in its resolution of 24 June 1971.

4.1.2. As a first step towards undertaking this further action, the Commission submitted to the Committee for its initial consideration, at a special meeting in November 1976, proposed general guidelines for a second action plan.

In March 1977, the Committee further examined the Commission's proposals, which had been modified somewhat following the advice given by CIDST at the special meeting.

The plan as later presented concentrates on three main areas of activity:

- i) to turn EURONET into a public operational on-line information network;
- ii) to develop a market for scientific and technical information within the Community;
- iii) to promote technology and methodology for improving information services, with special emphasis on those of EURONET.

In April 1977, the Committee gave its opinion both to the Commission and to CREST, recommending at the same time that the Commission should propose the plan immediately to the Council of Ministers.

The Committee had, at the same time, submitted a separate resolution on the methods of financing the Luxembourg dedicated host computer for EURONET.

4.1.3. In May 1977, CREST made an initial examination of the actions proposed by the Commission and the Committee's opinion. Whilst CREST agreed in principle with the necessity, technical content, priorities and overall budgetary proposals contained in the plan, several of its delegations recommended that the Commission should make certain modifications and present them adding some points of clarification.

Following this modification, a second discussion of the plan therefore took place in June, and CREST was then able to formulate a draft opinion, which was later finalized in November and forwarded to the Council.

4.1.4. As a result of CREST's initial agreement in principle, the Commission submitted, in June, its proposal to the Council for a decision adopting the second three-year plan of action.

However, before adopting a final decision on the plan, the Council sought the opinions of the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament. On 26 October 1977, the Economic and Social Committee unanimously endorsed the Commission's proposal subject to a few comments, amongst which was its reiteration of the need to incorporate economic, financial and social data in the network.

As of 31 December 1977, the European Parliament has not been able to endorse the plan, although the indications are that this is imminent since two of its committee have already given favourable opinions.

Once, therefore, the European Parliament has given its opinion (21), the Council should then be in position to pronounce on the plan.

4.1.5. During the discussions on the second action plan, there arose within the Committee a general feeling that, in order to assist the Commission in the management of the plan, consideration would need to be given to entrusting the Committee with additional duties. Ideas on the type of new management structure came in fact from both the Commission and the CREST. Indeed, it was CREST's wish that the Commission should make proposals, as quickly as possible and after consultation with the Committee, on an appropriate management machinery. These proposals were later incorporated in CREST's opinion on the plan. The management machinery will now be proposed to the Council as an integral part of its decision (see section 5).

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(21) The European Parliament subsequently made this opinion on 17 March 1978.

4.1.6. With regard more specifically to the management of EURONET, the Committee set up an ad hoc group of its members in July 1977 to study and subsequently to submit proposals to the Committee for solving this problem.

The group has met twice so far and has reported to the Committee on its work to date. Final proposals for EURONET management are expected in early 1978.

4.1.7. It was suggested within the Committee that problems of both policy and organisational matters might be discussed in a broad policy framework, and that this might best be done at an informal residential meeting without records which would encourage full and open discussion.

A hotel in Kinsale, Ireland, was the venue chosen for the meeting which lasted the weekend of 14-16 October 1977. The various Committee members assembled there centred their discussion on four main areas:

- i) management of the second action plan and management of EURONET;
- ii) development of European information services and relations with third countries;
- iii) reorganisation of CIDST activities;
- iv) other forms of cooperation and priorities.

## 5. New role for the Committee

It had become clear on various occasions during the discussion stage of the second plan that the Committee would have to assume further duties in order to fulfil the requirements of carrying out the plan. As a result of discussions between the Committee and the Commission throughout most of 1977 and particularly during the October meeting in Ireland, the Commission has proposed that the Committee's tasks should be similar to those of an Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM). These tasks would be additional to those already laid down in the Council resolution of 24 June 1971.



APPENDIX I

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NATIONAL ACTIVITIES  
IN  
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL  
INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION  
(IDST)

Belgium

The national IDST programme approved by the Council of Ministers on 2 August 1974 was continued, and further initiatives were taken by bodies in both the public and private sectors. Some of the most significant aspects of the period under review are described below.

In the area of documentary data bases, various services are available (INIS, ISMEC/CETIM, connection with DIMDI and ESA, etc.). A campaign has been launched to promote the use of these services and an experiment is in progress to compare the respective advantages and disadvantages of access to DIMDI by leased line and via the public switched network. The EPIC data bank (chemical thermodynamics) has been installed in the Data Processing Centre of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Work has gone ahead on the drawing up of a national system of cooperative cataloguing. National cataloguing rules, adapted to the bilingual situation in Belgium, have virtually been completed. The evaluation studies undertaken will shortly allow selection of the hardware and software required for a pilot project.

In the area of training, a study has been made of the training of IDST specialists in the non-university context. This has resulted in various recommendations, in particular on the contents of existing courses and recognition of the diploma awarded in the public sector. The Free University of Brussels is introducing a post-graduate degree in information sciences as from the 1977-1978 academic year, thus filling an important gap in the Belgium training system with regard to IDST specialists.

## Denmark

### 1. Summary

It has been a major development in the period 1975-1977 that the operations of STID services have seen a marked increase in the use of computerized service due to improved access facilities. In policy-making for STID, DANDOK, which is the national focal point on STID, the Danish Council of Research libraries and the non-permanent Commission on Libraries have influenced the developments in the period covered. The main results of the policy-making activities in these bodies are brought together in the publications mentioned in section 6. As far as financing and management is concerned, the field of scientific and technical information and documentation (STID) in Denmark is decentralized.

### 2. Policy-making bodies

The policy-making bodies for the differentiated structure are numerous. As mentioned, DANDOK is the national focal point for STID, and the achievements of this committee and two other central bodies are briefly described below. Further information on the reports and documents is given in sections 6 and 7.

2.1. DANDOK, the Danish Committee for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation, is an advisory and policy-making body set up by the Ministry of Education.

Its members are appointed by the Minister of Education on proposals made by the Danish Council of Research Libraries and the Council for Scientific Policy and Planning. In 1976 DANDOK produced a report on information and documentation for research, development and technology, and in 1977 the committee made recommendations on the future development of computer-based documentation services in Denmark. Also in 1977 DANDOK issued a report on scientific information in agricultural and veterinary science. In this report arrangements for future Danish participation in AGRIS and AGREP are proposed.

2.2. The Danish Council of Research Libraries represents the research and special libraries comprising both those with direct reference to ministries (e.g. The Royal Library) and the libraries at universities and other institutions. A major achievement of the council has been the publication in 1977 of a report on the future development of the structure and policies of research libraries in Denmark. An English summary is reproduced as section 7 of this report.

2.3. A Commission on Libraries was set up in 1976 by the Minister of Cultural Affairs with the duty to propose changes in the policies and structure of the Danish library system. One of the eight sub-committees under the Commission is of special interest. It deals with the structure and the management of the research libraries. The Commission on Libraries is of a non-permanent nature, and its proposals will be forwarded before 1979.

### 3. Financial basis of services

Most of the funds allocated to the many services and institutions with STID functions are derived from ministerial budgets. A few ministries account for the largest number of service institutions and for the largest individual service institutions. These are: the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Agriculture. But also most of the other ministries allocate funds to institutions and services of this kind. In addition there are a number of smaller institutions affiliated with semi-private organizations, which receive a major part of their finance from public funds.

### 4. Management structure

The management structure of the general and specialized centres for scientific and technical information and documentation varies, but generally the services are listed under the ministry from which the finance is derived. It is a common feature for libraries and documentation centres serving higher education, research and development to have a degree of users' influence on the management structure. At most libraries in universities, library committees include representation from the users in the teaching and research staff at the university. According to the statutes of the universities concerned, their library committees prepare the budget and decide upon the acquisition of material and its distribution between main and local libraries.

### 5. Operation

Many services have primary user groups in the private sector. It is common practice for these services to charge fees covering the direct cost involved. In this way the users contribute to the financing of information services, and by doing so they add to their aggregate influence on operations and the further development thereof.



The scientific and technical information services provided for in this way to the private sector are often integrated in other forms of technological service. Within the agricultural sector the extension service is a major vehicle for technical information. It is characterized by being closely integrated with the various co-operative associations which have been set up during the last century for furthering the economic and productive progress of agriculture in Denmark.

In the period 1975-1977 the use of on-line information services appears to have tripled primarily due to the opening of an ESA/RECON dial-up node in 1976 and the growing awareness of US information services. Also the opening of SCANNET in 1976 has led to improved access to services.

## 6. Publications

- (1) "Redegørelse fra kortlægningsgruppen vedrørende forskningsbibliotekernes administrative forhold m.v.", København 1975.  
(Report on the administrative aspects of Danish research libraries).
- (2) "Forskningsbibliotekernes målsætning", bind 1 og 2, Forskningsbibliotekernes Fællesråd, København 1977.  
(Proposal from the Joint Council of Research Libraries on the future policy of Danish research libraries).
- (3) "Informationsformidling for forskning, udvikling og teknologi m.v.", DANDOK, København 1976.  
(Policy paper on scientific and technical information and documentation in Denmark).
- (4) "Indstilling vedrørende danske forskningsbibliotekers og dokumentationscentres edb-baserede informationsformidling - et led i udbygningen af videnskabelig og teknisk informationsformidling", DANDOK, København 1977.  
(Proposal from DANDOK for a development plan for computerized documentation services at Danish research libraries and documentation centres).
- (5) "Landbrugsområdets informationsformidling", DANDOK, København 1977.  
(Policy paper and proposal for establishing a documentation centre for scientific and technical information in agriculture and veterinary science).
- (6) "Notat til DANDOK om anvendelse af edb-dokumentation i Danmark"  
The Danish Research Administration, August 1977.  
(Note to DANDOK on the use of computerized documentation in Denmark).

7. Summary of policy report on the research libraries

(Excerpts from English summary of the report from "Målsætningsudvalget under the Danish Council for Research Libraries").

The Danish Council for Research Libraries (Forskningsbibliotekernes Fællesråd) decided in 1971 to set up a policy committee (Målsætningsudvalget) which started its work in December 1972. The committee established a number of sub-committees some of which delivered reports which are printed in the annex (volume 2) to the final report from Malsætningsudvalget.

The report does not present a long-term action plan, but tries to describe the development envisaged for the next 10 years. The main background for new policies is the expected new superstructure for research libraries, a common directorate under one of the ministries which should act as a steering instrument in order to achieve a co-ordinated development and rational utilization of resources. The directorate should be assisted by a consultative council representing users in the broadest sense, the libraries and the staff. The directorate should, moreover, establish an advisory service in various sectors such as automation, documentation, etc.

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Research libraries traditionally have strong international relations, and to-day's network systems for scientific and technological information transfer are a new challenge which Danish research libraries have met by developing a considerable expertise in this field. It is recommended to strengthen this expertise in order to have a voice in future international negotiations.

The acquisition policy of the research library should be specifically aimed at the needs of local research and higher education. Acquisition policy must include not only traditional material but also audio-visual material. The acquisition policy should be co-ordinated on a national level, where the existing system of main subject field libraries should be maintained, with some modifications.

Where documentation and bibliographical services are concerned, it is a tradition that these activities are performed by research libraries. Modern on-line services are a new challenge, and research libraries should have the possibility of joining network systems and deliver Danish input to international systems. Målsætningsudvalget differs in opinion as to pricing policy. Although some think these systems should be made available free of charge and others do not, it is recognised that users in our country should be on equal footing with users in neighbouring countries where payment is concerned. As a consequence of new technology, education of intermediaries, documentalists and librarians has a high priority.

End-users of on-line systems as well as of manual bibliographical systems should be taught the use of the library. Målsætningsudvalget considers it of especial importance that literature searching is recognised as a discipline for students in institutes of higher learning.

As to user studies Denmark has not many to present. It is recommended that such studies are promoted, e.g. in connection with library automation, which will facilitate the collecting of statistics. But library research in other fields too is somewhat neglected and should be carried on under more favourable conditions.

One chapter of this report is concerned with cost-analysis and with an effort to find criteria for priorities among library activities. Cost-analysis is, however, extremely difficult on account of the many differences among libraries, both as regards materials, users, administration and subject field. A general cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis of the activities in research libraries is considered unrealistic, but through analysis and close examination of various elements of library activities some criteria could be established which might be helpful in an overall distribution of resources.

As to technical aspects and automation Målsætningsudvalget strongly recommends the introduction of library automation systems both where cataloguing and literature searches are concerned and in the lending department. Again the need for staff with special expertise is stressed, expertise in system planning, information theory, search strategy, etc.

#### Federal Republic of Germany

The promotion programme in the field of information and documentation (IuD-Programm), adopted by the Federal Government on 17 December 1974, is being carried out progressively. The period initially envisaged for the implementation of the programme (1974 to 1977) will now have to be extended, partly owing to the slow-down in the rate of economic growth in recent years and hence the need for savings in the Federal budget.

The objectives of the programme have already been presented in the second report on the activities of the Committee (doc. EUR 5597, section 4.3.).

During the period covered by this third report, the following progress was made in the information and documentation infrastructure:

- the "Fachinformationszentrum Chemie" (FIZ 3) and the "Fachinformationszentrum Energie - Physik - Mathematik" (FIZ 4) were set up in 1977 and are now in operation;
- planning has been completed for special branch information systems 5 (metallurgy, materials, metal working and processing), 6 (mining and geosciences), 8 (regional planning, construction industry, and urban development), 9 (consumer goods), 10 (economics), 13 (social sciences), and 14 (humanities);
- planning for the other special branch information systems and problem-oriented information agencies (patents, research information, the environment, and technical standards), which were provided for in the IuD Programm, is well advanced and will be completed in the near future;

- the "Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation mbH" (GID) was established in 1977 and from 1978 will combine the following institutions to form one central research and infrastructure institution: the "Institut für Dokumentationswesen" (IDW) of the "Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V.," the "Zentralstelle für Maschinelle Dokumentation" (ZMD) of the "Minerva Gesellschaft für Forschung mbH.," the "Forschungsbereich Information und Dokumentation" of the "Studiengruppe für Systemforschung e.V." (SfS), the non-numeric division of the "Gesellschaft für Mathematik und Datenverarbeitung mbH." (GMD), and two institutions from the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumentation e.V." (DGD), viz. the "Lehrinstitut für Dokumentation" (LID) and the "Dokumentationszentrum für Informationswissenschaften" (ZDOK).

First and foremost, GID will carry out the following tasks:

- lay down the scientific, methodological, and management basis for the information tools;
- provide technical aids (data processing and reprography);
- advise the information institutions;
- provide the secretariat of the Committee of special branch information centres in the Federal Republic ("Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Fachinformationszentren", AG-FIZ);
- operate a central information service on information and documentation;
- provide specialist back-up both on a supraregional scale and for the Länder in their activities in the field of information and documentation, and take over the implementation of their development plans in this field;
- operate the training centre "Lehrinstitut für Dokumentation" (LID);
- cooperate on an international level in information and documentation work.

In addition to technical and methodological development projects, research emphasis is also placed on economic, legal, organisational, and sociological questions in the field of specialist communication. Further, work was started on the planning of a national scientific and technical information network for direct access to data bases - as back-up for and linked to EURONET - which will also include a supraregional referral and ordering system.

## France

The new Steering Committee of the Bureau National de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (BNIST) met on 22 January 1976. Mr. CITTI, Director of the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, has been its chairman since 24 December 1975. Created in February 1973, BNIST is an interministerial organisation, whose parent body is the Directorate of Mines at the Ministère de l'Industrie (currently the Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat).

In order to finance its activities, BNIST has a budget (9,5 MF in 1976 and 11,5 MF in 1977), which allows it to award contracts to public or private organisations for specific and short-term (2 to 3 years) actions. In 1976, 41 contracts were financed by BNIST.

### 1. Scientific and Technical Information for Industry and Research

#### i) Accumulation and Utilisation of Information

Activities supported by BNIST were developed during 1976 in the field of agriculture: increase by the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) of its documentation potential (zoology, phytopharmacy, bioclimatology, physiology of digestive systems), continued participation by France in the AGRIS I system, continuation of syntheses in the food industries.

In information processing, the Institut de Recherche Informatique et Automatique (IRIA) set up a referral service, a processing centre for non conventional literature, and a file on scientific events.

In electricity, the ELDOC network, after a conclusive pilot experiment, got off to an important start with the participation of the Centre National d'Etudes des Télécommunications (CNET), the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), which carries out the information processing under contract, the Electricité de France (EDF), and the various companies belonging to the Fédération des Industries Electriques et Electroniques.

Activities continued in chemistry and metallurgy, as well as in the biomedical and nuclear fields.

ii) Repackaging of Information

The regional information agencies (ARIST) provide users at the regional level, particularly small- and medium-sized enterprises, with the information they need. The three agencies set up in the Loire (Nantes), Midi-Pyrénées (Toulouse), and Rhône-Alpes (Lyon) made satisfactory progress in 1976. In 1977, two new agencies were created in Languedoc-Roussillon and Provence-Côte d'Azur. Two further agencies are also planned for Eastern (Alsace-Lorraine) and Central (Massif Central) France.

Implementing syntheses has continued, with BNIST financing, in the food industries, water processing, and energy conservation.

iii) Referral Services

The SOS-DOC service is provided free of charge to its users. It processes approximately 350 to 400 queries a month. In 1976, 41% of its customers were first-time users.

iv) Libraries

With the financial support of BNIST, the libraries set up the Libraries' Information Processing Network (RIB), which allows them to have a cataloguing system divided into books (CAPAL system) and serials (AGAP system).

Libraries are turning more and more towards documentation work, i.e. identifying documents in response to users' requests. A test has made it possible to generalise the problems created by this work (interrogation of ESA in Frascati and Thermodata via Cyclades). Several libraries are now carrying out this documentation work (Orsay, Nice, Strasbourg, Clermont-Ferrand, Nantes, Grenoble, Rennes, Jussieu).

v) Training

BNIST organised, in conjunction with UNESCO, a one-year post-university course (1976-1977). A second is being run for 1977-1978.

In 1976, a summer course was also organised with UNISIST for professionals and heads of documentation centres.

vi) Research

Some 12 contracts, which had been awarded following the 1975 call for tenders, were completed in 1976. They are announced, as are all final reports on contracts, in the quarterly review published by BNIST.

In 1977, BNIST financed an up-dating of the inventory of current research in information sciences. This inventory will be subsequently published.

vii) Automation

Activities here have been concentrated on two main areas:

- for the exploitation of documentary files on Cyclades, development of a conversational software for retrospective searches on MISTRAL, version 3, specifications for which are comparable with the performances of other software currently available on the market for networks. BNIST has also financed the development of 2 types of software on mini computers (MILORD and MILODIS), one for conversational and multi-lingual searches and the other for selective dissemination of information.
- on the Cyclades network, start of exploitation of ESA's files in 1976, and connection of French data bases, which will be available on EURONET (Textile, Cancer, Data bank on drugs, etc.) in 1977.

viii) International Relations

BNIST consolidated in 1976 and 1977 its cooperation with the major international organisations, taking part especially in the work of the EEC (CIDST) for the implementation of EURONET; UNESCO; FAO; ICSU/AB; and OECD, etc.

It also developed a policy of bilateral relations, particularly with Arab countries (introduction of Arabic into TITUS) and with the countries of West Africa and Maghreb.

2. Scientific and Technical Information for the General Public

In order to define a general policy, 2 working groups studied in 1976 ways of taking action with regard to scientific and technical periodicals and works.



Another working group also identified various components for a policy in the field of scientific and technical extension services: action aimed at the scientific community (conferences, discussions around the country, preparation of colloquia); action in conjunction with the media (training of new scientific editors, film programmes, producing scientific and technical books for the general public); action with regard to scientific and technical museums (inventory of collections, increasing their value); closer support for associations (in particular scientific clubs for the young).

### Ireland

There have been several significant policy developments which could have a marked long-term effect on the area of scientific and technical information.

The National Board for Science and Technology Bill, 1976 (published in August 1976) defined the general and specific functions of the proposed Board which will replace the existing National Science Council (established in 1967). The Bill is expected to become law in late 1977. The general functions of the Board include:

- responsibility for furthering science and technology;
- advice to the Government or the Minister (for Economic Planning and Development) on policy for science and technology and related matters;
- promoting coordination of public investment in science and technology;
- providing grants for activities related to science and technology;
- promoting appreciation of the value of science and technology.

The particular function of the Board in relation to scientific and technical information is defined as follows:

- to disseminate and promote the dissemination of literature and information related to science and technology.

Other particular functions, while not specifically mentioning 'scientific and technical information', may be construed as including these activities:

- to coordinate activities related to science and technology;
- to promote participation in activities related to science and technology (including international activities);
- to engage in activities related to science and technology.

One particular function of the Board which could have a marked effect on scientific and technical information is the provision in the Bill requiring it to produce every financial year (or other period specified by the Minister) a statement setting out the requirements and proposals of every institution receiving moneys from the State and giving the Board's observations and recommendations in the light of national policy for science and technology. Details of the financial allocations finally approved and an accompanying commentary by the Board shall constitute the 'Science Budget', and the Minister shall lay a copy of each Science Budget before both Houses of the Oireachtas (Parliament).

In mid-1977 there was a Government decision that responsibility for the National Board for Science and Technology should be assumed by the Minister for Economic Planning and Development, whose Department is charged with the formulation and preparation of plans for economic and social development of the economy as a whole and for individual regions and sectors.

Another development was the establishment, in mid-1977, of the National Agricultural Authority (NAA) which brought together into one organisation An Foras Taluntais (Agricultural Institute, the largest research body in the State), the Veterinary Research section of the Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Advisory Service (Department of Agriculture, and County Committees of Agriculture), and certain training functions of the Department. It is hoped that the new arrangement will accelerate the dissemination of research results to farmers, horticulturalists and other interested people and organisations.

#### Other developments

The Documentation Coordinating Committee of the National Science Council which was charged with the task of extending and formalising the existing embryonic library network has undertaken a number of surveys and studies,

the main purpose being to provide the necessary basic information on which to begin to plan the proposed network. The studies include:

- Manpower development in scientific and technical information and documentation services (a comparison of the situation in 1970 and 1975);
- Financial resources devoted to scientific and technical information and documentation, 1975 (study completed in late 1977);
- Use survey, i.e. study of the main sources and types of documents used by scientists and technologists in the course of their work (study completed in late 1977);
- Use of facsimile transmission facilities as a means of transmitting scientific and technical documents between research institutes, libraries and similar organisations (study completed in mid-1977).

In late 1976 agreement was reached with the Space Documentation Service of the ESA to install in Ireland a four part concentrator to their on-line information service. The equipment has been installed in the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards and became operational in September 1977. This facility will provide important initial training and market preparation for EURONET.

A Chair of Library and Information Sciences in the School of Library Training, University College, Dublin, was established in 1976.

The Higher Education Authority which is responsible for assisting in the coordination of State investment in higher education has begun a 5-year programme for improving the computer network in the university system. It is also undertaking action to improve the funding of university libraries. It is hoped that both these actions will improve the supply and flow of scientific and technical information in the sector and enable a higher degree of specialisation among libraries.

## Italy

No clear national policy exists yet in Italy in the field of scientific and technical information, but it is true to say that such a policy - for which an ever increasing need is being felt - is taking shape both domestically on an information level (due to the joint activities of a number of public bodies and private individuals) and externally (requests from international organisations, primarily the EEC).

The departments of the Ministry for the Coordination of Scientific Research can be described as the focal point for resolving the problems of information policy; various bodies such as the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (National Research Council (CNR)) (and in particular three departments: the Istituto di Studi sulla Ricerca e Documentazione Scientifica (Institute for Studies on Research and Scientific Documentation); the Centro Nazionale Universitario Calcolo Elettronico (the National University Computing Centre (CNUCE); the Istituto per l'elaborazione dell'informazione (the Information Processing Institute)), the Comitato Nazionale Energia Nucleare (the National Committee for Nuclear Energy)(CNEN), the Supreme Court of Cassation, etc., have each taken initiatives, some of which were pursued unilaterally, while others developed into joint projects of various types.

Task sharing, particularly at international level, was agreed on the basis of a gentlemen's agreement with the approval of the MRST.

The following initiatives should be mentioned in particular: the on-line dissemination of INIS information which the CNEN is operating for the time being exclusively for its own departments; the collective catalogue of scientific and technical journals which is computer-processed by the CNR's Istituto di Studi sulla Ricerca e Documentazione Scientifica; the ITALGIURE system operated by the Supreme Court of Cassation.

## Luxembourg

Luxembourg does not have an automated system for scientific and technical information and documentation at the national level. The activities of the Centre Informatique de l'Etat (National Information Processing Centre) are devoted exclusively to administration management.

### Netherlands

On 26 April 1977, a meeting devoted entirely to EURONET was held in The Hague. This meeting was organised by the Coördinatie Commissie voor Internationale Informatie Betrekkingen, an advisory committee of NOBIN.

The theme of the meeting was "EURONET in operation". The speakers were Mr. GILES, Chairman of CIDST, and Mr. HÖLT from the Netherlands PTT. The European Commission was represented by Mr. GURA, Mr. VAN HEGELSOM, and Mr. VAN VELZE.

Interest in this meeting was considerable and it was attended by approximately 250 people. The meeting proved to be useful and has contributed to a better understanding of EURONET.

In 1977, NOBIN made a start on its new task of preparing a four-year plan on information supply in the Netherlands for the period 1978-1982, which is to be submitted to the government at the beginning of 1978.

Finally, an organisation of on-line users has been set up in the Netherlands. Apart from providing the members with information, the purpose of this organisation is a better promotion of common interests.

### United Kingdom

The main developments in the United Kingdom during the period under review have been as follows:

1. BLAISE (British Library Automated Information Service) has been created as an on-line facility for both information retrieval and to library cataloguing. Operational since April 1977, it provides services at present on the MEDLARS and the US/UK MARC data bases. A special editing facility permits local input and editing of records and will be used for 'shared' cataloguing by cooperative libraries. The host computer in Harlow (Essex) will be accessible through a network with nodes in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Boston Spa (the British Library's Lending Division).

2. A new company, Info-Line, has been formed to provide on-line retrieval services to science and industry. It has five members: British Library, Chemical Society, Department of Industry, Derwent Publications Limited, and the Institution of Electrical Engineers. It will commence operations towards the end of 1978 and its early data bases will be Chemical Abstracts, INSPEC, and the Derwent patents data bases. It will later add others, placing special emphasis on British data bases serving industry. The host computer will be accessible through the CRC network.
3. A successful series of experiments has been run on the use of on-line techniques in the formal education of librarians and information workers. Two-thirds of teaching institutions in the United Kingdom took part in the project and both staff and students gained much from the experience. A second series of experiments is planned - with the use of intelligent terminals and with emphasis on on-line input to catalogues.
4. The British Library has supported two pilot road/rail schemes for the transport of inter-library loans, in North-West England and the London area, to gain experience of the operation, costs and management of alternatives to the postal service. Loans and photocopies are carried from the British Library Lending Division to participating libraries, together with loans between libraries within the areas. The pilot studies have confirmed the practicality of such transport schemes, that they are much appreciated by users and that they can provide worthwhile savings to both users and the British Library. A study group has been set up to examine the results of the pilot schemes, and to consider the organisation, finance, and administration of transport schemes for inter-library loans. The study group is preparing a report, with recommendations, which can be used as a basis for wide consultation as to whether permanent, coordinated schemes should be introduced in the United Kingdom.
5. An experimental programme by the Department of Industry to develop on-line information services for industry has included:
  - the introduction of Dialtech, providing telephone dial-up access

to the data bases on the ESA Space Documentation Service through the Technology Reports Centre, Orpington. This complements an existing TRC Techsearch service. Supporting both these services is a facility for the rapid printing of search results within the United Kingdom.

- a programme for supporting the conversion to computer-readable form of specialised abstracting and indexing services of value to industry.
6. The Institution of Chemical Engineers has launched, with Department of Industry support, a Physical Property Data Service in the field of chemical engineering. This data base is being progressively developed and has now been interfaced with a variety of computer-based process-plant design programs.





European Communities — Commission

**EUR 6158 — Third report on the activities of the committee for information and documentation on science and technology of the European Communities (August 1975 — December 1977)**

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The end of 1977 saw the successful completion of the first three-year Community plan of action for scientific and technical information and documentation (STID), which, *inter alia*, aimed at creating a European network for STID (EURONET).

Even before the end of 1977, however, the first plan was recognized as providing a solid base for further action in the field of STID within the Community. Thus, in November 1976, the first seeds were sown for a second three-year plan, one of its main aims being to turn EURONET into a public operational on-line information network.

The report is in five sections, starting with general information and leading on to Committee activities, working group activities, and the second plan of action. The fifth and final section briefly looks forward to the extra duties the Committee is likely to assume as an advisory committee on programme management (ACPM).



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