

**INFORMATION · INFORMATORISCHE AUFZEICHNUNG · INFORMATION MEMO · NOTE D'INFORMATION  
ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΑΚΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΩΜΑ · NOTA D'INFORMAZIONE · TER DOCUMENTATIE**

Brussels, 10 May 1988

**DISSEMINATION AND UTILIZATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS:**

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY RESEARCH DEPENDS ON IT**

The effectiveness of the Community policy on research and technological development (RTD), as defined by the Single European Act and expressed in concrete form in the framework programme, depends to a great extent on the mechanisms by which these results are disseminated throughout the economy and the regions of the Community and subsequently exploited by industry.

This issue is crucial. Although the quality of Europe's contribution to science is universally acknowledged, Europe's ability to promote economic growth by converting the fruits of science and technology research into new or improved goods, processes and services is giving cause for concern.

Community RTD programmes concentrate on the precompetitive phase of the innovation cycle, while at the same time aiming to improve the competitiveness of European industry. It is industry's task to convert the results from the programmes into products and processes for the market. The aim of the specific programme for the dissemination and utilization of results from research and technological development, which has just been approved by the Commission for transmission to the Council, is to facilitate that conversion process.

This programme is consistent with the objective of completing the large internal market by 1992 in that its purpose is to exploit the innovatory potential in Europe and increase cohesion, by doing more to ensure the dissemination of results in those Member States with less well-developed research and innovation infrastructures.

As the Commission Vice-President, Mr Karl-Heinz Narjes, explained when presenting the programme, this is a horizontal action aimed at the dissemination and utilization of all RTD results from Community programmes. It is an essential additional element if our programmes are to produce practical benefits.

This is to be done, first, by optimizing the dissemination and utilization of the results of Community RTD activities through the implementation of a wide-ranging set of general measures applicable to the results from the framework programme and, secondly, by making provision for close collaboration between teams and individuals throughout the Community via efficient computer-communications networks which will transmit the information they require and give access to their results, thus stimulating the processes of innovation and the industrial exploitation of research results.

COM(88)260

The Commission's proposals in the first of these areas cover both the results which belong to the Community and those which do not, i.e. those arising in the main from shared-cost contracts; they also cover results which can be rapidly exploited and those which appear unlikely to be exploited commercially or otherwise in the short to medium term.

The general measures proposed for the dissemination of results fall into four main categories:

- the making available to the specialized public, Community institutions and national administrations of information on Community RTD programmes and projects by both traditional and electronic means;
- the identification, screening and protection of results coming from Community programmes;
- the dissemination through the Community by traditional and electronic means of those results judged not to be exploitable in the short to medium term, but which can make a substantial contribution to scientific advances;
- support for the active exploitation of results through a wide-ranging set of measures designed to produce a substantial improvement in quantitative and qualitative terms in the process whereby these results are transformed into new economic activities.

This programme will consolidate the Commission's current activities in this field, which it presented to the press at a meeting held in Luxembourg on 28 and 29 April 1988.

As for communication networks, the services provided over such networks are typically messaging, data-base access, file transfer and access to specialized programmes on remote machines. The main objective of the proposed measures is to contribute to the creation of a common integrated communications infrastructure and associated services, accessible to the various public and private research centres in Europe. These measures will improve synergy between researchers and lessen the negative effects of distance, particularly in the peripheral regions.

In concrete terms, the proposed specific programme will enable the Commission's services to continue and reinforce their technical cooperation with and financial support for - the RARE (Réseaux Associés pour la Recherche Européenne) association and the EUREKA COSINE project (Cooperation for Open Systems Internetworking in Europe), both of which promote OSI (Open Systems Interconnection) standards with the aim of creating a common OSI-based computer communications infrastructure.

The cost of the Commission's proposals will be 38 million ECU. The remainder of the 55 million ECU earmarked in the framework programme for implementing these actions is set aside for financing linguistic actions both present (i.e. the EUROTRA programme) and future. The Commission is proposing that the programme should cover an initial period of four years up to 30 June 1992.