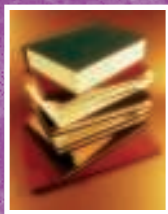# Information Society and Justice, Freedom & Security: Linking European Policies

Information Society and Media

European Commission

The Information Society brings important benefits for in the justice and security domain. To help ensure this promise is fulfilled, the Information Society Policy Link initiative is linking Information Society projects with relevant European policy-makers in areas as diverse as network and information security, smart identity cards and border controls, anti-counterfeiting measures, and judicial and police co-operation.

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Challenges for Justice, Freedom and Security

From its very beginning, European integration has been firmly rooted in a shared commitment to freedom based on human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law. These common values have proved necessary for securing peace and developing prosperity in the European Union. They provide the basis for continued stability in the enlarged Union.
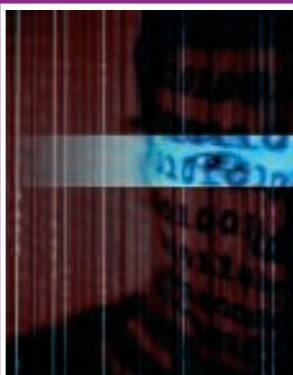
The European Union has already put in place for its citizens the major ingredients of a shared area of prosperity and peace: a single market, economic and monetary union, and the capacity to take on global political and economic challenges. The challenge now is to ensure that freedom, which includes the right to move freely throughout the Union, can be enjoyed in conditions of security and justice accessible to all. It is a project which responds to the frequently expressed concerns of citizens and has a direct bearing on their daily life.

The enjoyment of freedom requires a genuine area of justice, where people can approach courts and authorities in any Member State as easily as in their own. Criminals must find no way of exploiting differences in the national judicial systems. Judgments and decisions should be respected and enforced throughout the Union, while safeguarding the basic legal certainty of people and economic operators. Better compatibility and more convergence between the legal systems of Member States must be achieved.

Security and trust are key determinants for the effective functioning of the European economy and society, and rank high in citizens' concerns. Increasingly, however, the European social fabric is exposed to threats and risks from many directions: natural disasters, terrorist threats, urban vandalism and crime, and fears of political and criminal cyber-terrorism. Security - spanning both the physical and virtual worlds - has become a key social priority.

The area of freedom, security and justice should be based on the principles of transparency and democratic control. The EU must develop an open dialogue with civil society on the aims and principles of this area to strengthen citizens' acceptance and support.

These aspirations towards strengthening the European Union as an area of freedom, security and justice without internal borders form a cornerstone of the Constitutional Treaty which was signed in 2004 and is now undergoing a ratification process in the Member States.

Justice, Freedom & Security Policy

The progressive establishment of the area of freedom, security and justice was a new objective set for the European Union by the Treaty of Amsterdam. The Tampere European Council in October 1999 placed this objective at the head of the Union's political agenda and set a very ambitious programme, laying out policy guidelines and practical objectives with a timetable for their attainment. The Commission subsequently set up a scoreboard to monitor progress and encourage information exchange.

Progress since then has been rapid across a broad range of policy areas including: internal and external borders policy; immigration and asylum; judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters; police and customs cooperation; coordination on drugs policy and fighting organised crime. Further impetus has been provided by the EU Constitutional Treaty, which includes commitments to a European area of freedom, security and justice as the central element of the new heading "European Citizenship".

Enlargement has brought its own challenges in extending the area of freedom, security and justice. The adoption of high common standards is bound to help strengthen the general level of security throughout the territory. Enlargement also raises specific challenges for certain policies, such as the strengthening of external borders and extension of the Schengen area.

To define the way forward on the security agenda, in 2004 the Commission issued a Communication on security research. By co-operating and coordinating efforts on a Europe-wide scale, the EU can better understand and respond to risks in a constantly changing world. In addition to a programme of joint research (see below), the Communication proposes the creation of an effective institutional framework that takes into account the Union's relevant policies – namely the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP),- and the new European Defence Agency (EDA).

Where the Information Society meets Justice, Freedom & Security

The Information Society has many influences on policies for justice, security and freedom. Protection against and prevention of crime and terrorism, identity and privacy management, data protection, crisis management, and protection of physical infrastructure are all areas that can benefit from ICT solutions. The role of ICT for both the EU's internal and external security is of growing importance.

Under eEurope 2005, the Commission has recently set up the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA), which will assist the EU institutions, the Member States and the business community in meeting the requirements of network and information security, including those of present and future Community legislation. ENISA will ultimately serve as a centre of expertise for both Member States and EU Institutions on cybersecurity matters.

Following the recent Communication, the Commission has launched a three-year Preparatory Action for Security Research (PASR). Information Society & Media DG plays a prominent role here, reflecting the key contribution of ICTs to security issues. To date two calls for proposals have been made. These are intended to provide the foundations for a full European Security Research Programme as part of the Seventh Framework Programme.

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Information Society Activities

Fifth Framework Programme

In the Fifth Framework Programme, IST research relevant to justice, freedom and security has been approached from a number of perspectives.

Trust & security technologies and dependability for the Information Society constituted a major theme. Under the IST Programme around 75 projects were launched in this field, with overall funding of around €100 million. These focused on key security and dependability technologies for information and communication networks and infrastructures, such as cryptography, secure payments, digital rights management, electronic signatures, biometrics and interdependencies. The actions targeted industrial, commercial and governmental players for whom the security of ICT systems and networks is a strategic issue.

Relevant projects were also funded under action lines on eGovernment, communication networks, and software technologies and services

Sixth Framework Programme

This work has been continued and intensified under IST-FP6, reflecting the increasing priority being given to policies in this field. Relevant projects are found in particular under the Strategic Objectives: Towards a global dependability and security framework, and Networked businesses and governments. Research for Crisis and Risk Management, dependability and security in Software Systems and Embedded Systems, and involvement in GMES and space (in so far as it supports security) also contribute.

As noted above, Information & Media DG is an active player in the EU's Preparatory Action on Security Research.

Other Activities

The eTEN Programme is concerned with the large-scale roll-out of public interest services, primarily in support of the eEurope Action Plan. In this context, eTEN projects address the deployment of administrative applications and services – in areas such as judicial and police co-operation - as one of several areas of common interest for online public services. Access to eGovernment services is also addressed from the point of view of eInclusion.

eContent is a market-oriented programme that supports the production, use and distribution of European digital content, including their linguistic diversity. Certain activities are relevant to the justice & security domain, particularly access to and re-use of public sector information and promoting multi-linguality in eContent and eService markets.

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Next Steps

The research synopses and policy cases presented here represent only the first stage in linking Information Society activities to EU policies. Information Society & Media DG is now working with Justice, Freedom & Security DG to establish a policy interface to improve synergies.

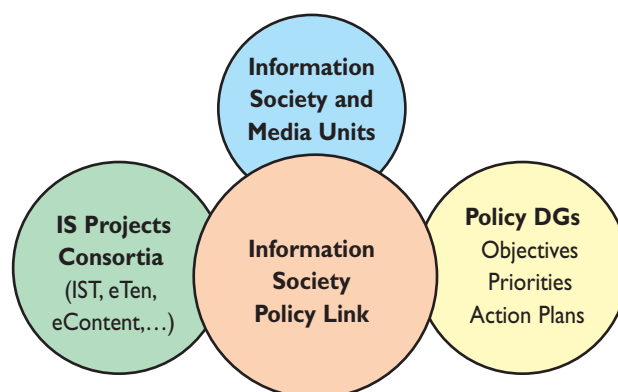A virtuous circle should develop, with improved communication between researchers and policymakers ensuring that:

- Information Society and Media programmes better reflect relevant EU policies;
- EU policies better account for Information Society technologies;
- ICTs are better applied to meeting Europe's challenges.

At a later stage, specific actions will be launched addressing policy-makers in national and regional administrations in Member States, European institutions and national parliaments.

Getting Involved

The *Information Society Policy Link* initiative links policy-makers and researchers in a number of ways, so as to leverage the benefits of Information Society & Media projects for European policies. A variety of activities are planned, including a series of Policy Workshops and events targeted at the European policy community.

Project Consortia play a crucial role in the development of this joint effort, providing a valuable source of information for European policy-makers on relevant technological developments, as well as improving the quality, impact and awareness of their own projects for the benefit of EU policies. Organisations involved in past or present Information Society projects with relevant activities or results are invited to contact the Initiative at the address shown.

Information Society and Media Units

IS Projects Consortia
(IST, eTen, eContent,…)

Information Society Policy Link

Policy DGs
Objectives
Priorities
Action Plans

KK-65-05-456-EN-D

Information Society Policy Link at a Glance

Information Society related actions constitute a considerable effort of the European Union. For instance, Information Society Technologies (IST) research has been the largest thematic priority in the EU's Fifth (1998-2002) and Sixth (2002-2006) Framework Research Programmes. Together they represent an investment of over €7bn in IST research, and are complemented by programmes such as eContent (€100m) and eTEN (€315m), which focus on digital content and eServices deployment respectively.

The projects funded by these programmes offer benefits to all areas of Europe's economy and society. To fully realise these benefits the technologies need to be linked closely to European policy-making in the relevant areas.

Information Society Policy Link is an initiative of DG Information Society & Media to identify and reinforce links between its projects and relevant EU policies. More than 3000 projects from Information Society programmes are being analysed, identifying a wealth of concrete results that support EU policies across all of the principal policy domains.

By exchanging information and experiences, the Information Society Policy Link initiative aims to ensure that results from European ICT research provide greater leverage, both in implementing current policies and shaping priorities for the future.

Further Information

Information Society Policy Link initiative

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http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/policy_link/index_en.htm

Justice, Freedom & Security DG

Willem Aldershoff, willem.aldershoff@cec.eu.int
http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/index_en.html

Europe's Information Society: Thematic Portal

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/