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1. Introduction

The Cooperation Platform for Research and Standards (COPRAS) is an FP6 Specific Support Action (SSA) project focusing on projects in calls 1, 2 and 3. It addresses Thematic Priority Area number 2: 'Information Society Technologies' and aims to serve as a platform for IST research projects seeking to upgrade their results through interfacing with standards bodies.

The project started 1st February 2004 and will run until 31st January 2007. It will bring together the research and standardization aspects of the eEurope activity and optimise the interface between FP6 IST projects and standardization. In doing so, it will speed up adoption of research results and generate feedback on their acceptance and usage.

For the purpose of identifying and selecting those projects that may benefit from cooperating through the COPRAS platform and from developing 'Standardization Action Plans', several methodological steps have been defined and bundled together in Work Packages (WPs). The first set of these methodological steps established WP2 and encompassed the information gathering process, or the surveying of projects for standards related output. The second set encompasses WP3 and covers the analysis of the information gathering report, the definition and application of project selection criteria and the organization of a kick off meeting.

The present document establishes the report of the project selection processes addressing IST research projects in call 1, subsequent to the conclusion of the Information analysis process and report. It describes the objectives of the selection process, the methodological steps adopted, and presents the list of projects that were selected to participate in the COPRAS Programme.

The list of selected projects reflects the results of the Information analysis report and describes the process of project clustering and project selection for the COPRAS Programme (i.e. a group of selected projects that will define Standardization Action Plans, together with a consortium partners), applying a set of transparent criteria approved by the COPRAS Steering Group. This list of projects establishes the basis for implementing the next methodological steps that are encompassed by WP4: development of appropriate standardization paths and the installation of a COPRAS Community (i.e. a group of research projects that has standards related output and would benefit from exchanging information with the standards world in a more regular and structured way). The report also incorporates a list of SSA, CA and PLAM projects that have been invited for closer cooperation with COPRAS. Finally, the report defines clusters of projects with a similar focus with respect to standardization. Based on this clustering, it proposes five thematic break-out sessions for the kick-off meeting marking the end of the WP3 activities for call 1.

2. Objectives

As previous experiences have shown, the interface between standardization and research can be crucial to the success of both activities. Moreover, specifically where ICT development is concerned it is important to ensure standardization and research proceeding in parallel, enabling cross-fertilization and allowing standards bodies to receive contributions from the research community rapidly while at the same time updating research projects on those developments in standardization that could be relevant to their projects.

In view of the hundreds of organizations and industry groups active in ICT standardization worldwide, COPRAS' objective is to act as a platform for FP6 IST projects that wish to upgrade their deliverables or otherwise touch upon standardization issues during the course of their research by providing a catalytic focal point for standardization activities. Consequently, it intends to provide research projects with a cost-effective way of meeting their contractual obligation of setting up an interface with the standards world while giving them a high control over the output of these processes as well as a means to validate their work with a wider audience.

For this purpose, the project will build a 'COPRAS' Community (encompassing those FP6 IST projects in calls 1, 2 & 3 with whom COPRAS is expecting to build up an informal network enabling a flow of information and communication between research projects, relevant standardization working groups other stakeholders that have an interested in interfacing between research projects and standardization), as well as a 'COPRAS' Programme (encompassing those projects within the

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COPRAS Community that seek to cooperate with standards bodies and will benefit from a 'Standardization Action Plan' tailored to the needs of their project).

The objective of the project selection process is to discuss and define criteria that can be applied with respect to the information analysis report in order to define a list of research projects in call 1 that are most likely to benefit from participating in the COPRAS Community and Programme and that should be invited to the kick-off meeting. The report aims to describe the methods and principles applied and to provide a summary of the results achieved during the process, ultimately focusing on organizing a kick-off meeting, aiming to jump-start cooperation between (groups of) research projects and standardization working groups. The report, together with the actual information gathered during the process, aims to serve as a basis for further activity in COPRAS, i.e. the development of appropriate standardization paths for projects in call 1, starting end of October 2004.

3. Process description

The project selection process targeting FP6 IST projects in call 1 took place between mid August and mid September 2004 and followed the steps as indicated below:

- 1) Following the approval of the preliminary version of the Information analysis report, as a second step a set of criteria were developed to short list those projects that will be invited to contribute standardization related output to COPRAS and develop Standardization Action Plans. These criteria could not be predefined as they may vary from call to call, or even between Strategic Objective areas (i.e. criteria applied to select projects in the 'Broadband for all' - area may differ from criteria applied to select projects in the 'Mobile and wireless systems beyond 3G' - area). However, they can be grouped into 3 categories:
 - i) Criteria that are related to (ongoing) standardization activity (e.g. is there a clear relationship between the expected output of a research project and standardization work already in process in one of the standardization bodies?)
 - ii) Criteria that are related to the processes adopted by research projects (e.g. will output be available on time for it to be considered by the COPRAS project; is the output in the public domain; are resources available to work on standardization issues, do projects actually 'need' COPRAS' support or are they capable to arrange interfacing with standardization by themselves, etc.);
 - iii) Criteria that are related to the substance of research projects' output (e.g. how essential are certain expected results likely to be to standardization and/or how essential can standardization be to the project's results or even beyond). During the process of selecting projects for participation in the COPRAS Programme, the Project Manager and the project team will specifically involve and consult the relevant Commission Project Officers.
- 2) Based on the selection criteria, the project team proposed a short list of projects to the CSG, thus establishing the 'COPRAS Programme'. Target was to include at least 8% of the number of projects originally contacted in the information gathering process.

The following sections will describe in more detail the considerations taken into account during the project selection process and, in sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4, will list the results achieved. Also, in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7, assessments of these results as well as of the processes applied are contained.

3.1 Methodology and process steps

During the information analysis and project selection processes, the methodological steps described in the COPRAS Quality Plan were followed, although at some points these had to be adjusted according to circumstances (e.g. holiday periods). A chronological-methodological description of the process is provided in the next section.

3.1.1 Definition of selection criteria

The selection criteria that are being developed as a second methodological step in the WP3 process, primarily aim to serve as an instrument for defining which research projects in call 1 would qualify

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for participating in the COPRAS Programme, which projects would benefit from being included in the COPRAS Community, and which projects do not need any support from COPRAS at all (e.g. because they are not concerned with standardization issues). An additional purpose of the criteria is to enable COPRAS carrying out a second step, selecting those projects within the group of qualifying projects for the COPRAS Programme, that would benefit most from participating in the platform and will be invited to contribute standardization related output through COPRAS and develop Standardization Action Plans.

As mentioned earlier, criteria were not predefined as they could possibly vary from call to call, or even between Strategic Objective areas (also because they obviously relate to the specifics of the questionnaire used during the preceding information gathering process). However, prior to the start of the information analysis and project selection process it was recognized that COPRAS, as well as research projects and other relevant stakeholders would benefit from a higher level of transparency in the selection process, as the fact that criteria are not defined in advance might cause situations where projects that do seek interfacing with standards bodies do not know how to position themselves in order to be taken on board by the COPRAS Programme.

An effort was therefore made by the consortium partners to define a comprehensive, limited and transparent set of criteria already at an early stage during the information analysis process. Also it was decided primarily to aim for the target set in the project's Quality Plan (i.e. a minimum of 14 and a maximum of 18 selected projects) and to use a qualitative rather than a quantitative approach when applying the selection criteria. For this purpose, an additional milestone (M3.2), encompassing the definition of selection criteria for call 1 was inserted into the project plan.

Although the insertion of the additional milestone addresses the transparency of the selection process itself, an equally important issue was the policy for applying these criteria (i.e. how to prioritize one criterion over another) and consequently how to decide to select certain projects for the COPRAS Community and invite others for the COPRAS Programme. Therefore, when preparing a list of criteria it was taken into account these should not come with a lot of ambiguities as far as their application was concerned. Moreover, a consistent overall policy, a clear perspective on primary and secondary criteria, and an equally consistent and clear methodology for involving relevant standardization working groups (either or not outside the consortium partners) in the process was recognized as a prerequisite for the project selection process as well.

When defining criteria and policy, it was decided to focus primarily on those criteria that had a clear link to the questionnaire (see also the Information gathering report for call1 – Deliverable D05). Therefore, when discussing selection criteria to be applied, the following issues were considered:

- 1) Projects' availability of resources to work on standardization issues (e.g. either established by dedicated Work Packages or contained in 'dissemination and exploitation' Work Packages;
- 2) The actual or perceived need for support from COPRAS do assist the project in defining their interfacing with standardization, as well as their willingness to participate in the platform;
- 3) The question whether projects in a specific Strategic Objective address standardization issues in those areas that clearly emerged from the collective response to the questionnaire as the most important and hence the possibilities to clustering them with other projects;
- 4) Will projects actually be able to define Standardization Action Plans within the timeframe set in the COPRAS Quality Plan;
- 5) Have projects already identified standards bodies or standardization working groups they intend to cooperate with;
- 6) Success potential, relevance and importance of projects' contributions to standardization;
- 7) Do projects have a clear perspective on their contribution to standardization and is it possibility to integrate this contributions into an existing infrastructure of standards;

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- 8) Are consortium partners able to see and/or follow the (standardization) path(s) identified by the project and are they sufficiently experienced to support research projects in their efforts.

In addition to these issues, several considerations for the application of criteria were identified as well:

- 1) Although the availability of resources is a criterion, the non-availability of resources may indicate a project would benefit even more from cooperating through COPRAS. Moreover, projects may have misunderstood standardization processes, may have misinterpreted criteria applied in the COPRAS questionnaire or may not oversee the impact of the activities they indicate in the questionnaire they will deploy;
- 2) Some projects indicate they have already defined their interfacing with standards bodies while others indicate the contrary. Although it would seem the latter group would benefit more from interfacing through COPRAS, experience teaches many projects in the first group may only have a rough idea which bodies to talk to, rather than the detailed plan COPRAS could provide them with;
- 3) COPRAS should monitor all projects that envisage interfacing with standards bodies and try to include them into the COPRAS Community or COPRAS Programme;
- 4) Projects addressing new areas of standardization should not be locked out of the process because they do not fit into one of the ongoing groups or processes among the consortium partners; Moreover, COPRAS should consider how to deal with projects that seek to interface with COPRAS but cannot be accommodated;
- 5) COPRAS should not only look at projects that aim to interface with consortium members but also those that aim to interface with ICTSB members and/or standards bodies outside that realm;
- 6) Timing may not be that important, as for many projects the planning of standards related output (which concerns COPRAS, rather than the actual delivery of that output) can take place at a relatively early stage.

When reviewing all issues and considerations, it was decided the following primary and secondary criteria should be applied when analyzing the results of the information gathering process and making the initial selection of projects for the COPRAS Community and Programme:

1) Primary criteria:

- i) Is the issue addressed by a project relevant to the activities of one of the consortium partners or one of the ICTSB members;
- ii) Is the issue addressed by a project relevant to the activities of a standards body outside the ICTSB;
- iii) Has the project a clear view of the standardization activities they seek to deploy;
- iv) Is the standards body a project would interface with sufficiently experienced in the particular domain and are they capable of seeing the standardization paths projects have identified for themselves.

2) Secondary criteria:

- i) Does a project have resources available for standardization activities;
- ii) Is a project's timing (in terms of its capabilities of defining a Standardization Action Plan) in line with COPRAS' timing;
- iii) Are standards bodies, a project seeks to interface with, already pre-identified or not.

These criteria have consequently been applied by COPRAS analyzing projects responding to the questionnaire, that could be candidates for the COPRAS Programme, either in tier 1 (those benefiting most from participation) or in tier 2, projects that could be included into the COPRAS Community and those projects that do not seem to have any need for interfacing with standards bodies. The complete results of this analysis are attached to this report as Annex A.

3.1.2 Process steps

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The results of the information analysis process were discussed during a conference call held 26th July 2004. During this meeting, so-called ‘tier 1’ projects (i.e. those projects that had obvious interfaces and overlap with standards bodies and ongoing standardization processes) and so-called ‘tier 2’ projects (i.e. those projects that were likely to benefit from being included in the COPRAS Community although more investigation into COPRAS’ possibilities for supporting these projects appeared to be necessary) were proposed by the different COPRAS consortium members responsible for surveying the respective Strategic Objectives (as described in section 6.1.4 of the Implementation plan. During the first part of the project selection phase, in total 24 projects were selected as ‘tier 1’ and 11 projects as ‘tier 2’. It was however decided to continue the selection process during the second half of August and give all consortium partners the opportunity to review the analysis done in those Strategic Objectives not addressed by them, in order to adjust the allocation of projects or (if necessary) widen the selection. This resulted in a slightly large set of tier 1 and tier 2 projects (as listed in section 4.1.2) that was discussed at a project team meeting 26th August and presented to and approved by the COPRAS Steering Group 7th September

3.1.3 Project selection

Having analyzed the information gathering report in order to identify communalities, trends, key issues and inter-project relationships from a standardization perspective and having defined a set of criteria to short list those projects that will be invited to contribute standardization related output to COPRAS and develop Standardization Action Plans, the project team addressed Strategic Objectives 2.3.1.3 – 2.3.1.12. and allocated projects as indicated below.

In Strategic Objective 2.3.1.3 many projects address standardization issues relevant to organizations within as well as outside the ICTSB. Selected for tier 1 were the CAPANINA, GANDALF and OPERA projects and for tier 2 the BROADWAN and U-BROAD projects. All other projects were selected for the COPRAS Community.

In Strategic Objective 2.3.1.4 the 4MORE, B-BONE and MAESTRO projects were selected for tier 1 as these may benefit from COPRAS’ support in defining standardization paths or specifying contributions and address a coherent set of issues. For tier 2 PHOENIX and SIMPLICITY were selected while the PULSERS and WINNER projects were selected for the COPRAS Community.

In Strategic Objective 2.3.1.5 response was relatively low, but BioSEC and Digital Passport were selected for tier 1 while SecurE-Justice and SECOQC were selected for tier 2. FIDIS, as an NoE project and POSITIF were selected for the COPRAS Community.

In the Strategic Objective 2.3.1.6, five projects (AMI, CHIL, MWeb, SIMILAR and TALK) answered the questionnaire, nine did not. Two of the responding projects were selected as tier 1 projects: SIMILAR and TALK.

In Strategic Objective 2.3.1.7 the REVERSE and AgentLink III projects were selected for tier 1 (despite the fact that only the first one actually responded to the questionnaire) while the ALVIS, AceMedia and DIP projects could be of interest as tier 2 projects.

In Strategic Objective 2.3.1.8 response was considerable but most projects either plan to interface with standards bodies outside the ICTSB or have their interfacing already worked out in detail. Therefore the EPERSPACE, MEDIANET and TEAHA projects were selected that all address intelligent home aspects and may interface with the SmartHouse initiative. As tier 2 projects the EN-THRONE and UNI-VERSE projects were selected while all other ones may benefit from participating in the COPRAS Community.

In Strategic Objective 2.3.1.9 7 projects were selected for tier 1 that can all be addressed by CEN working groups: EMAYOR, GUIDE, ONTOGOV, SATINE, USE-ME.GOV, DBE and SPIDER-WIN, with DBE, SATINE and possibly EMAYOR being the most promising ones. Cooperation with ATHENA and INTEROP may have to be defined in more detail later on during the processes in WP3 and WP4.

In Strategic Objective 2.3.1.10 only SAFETEL could be identified as a possible tier 1 candidate while the HIGHWAY and SAFE-AIRPORT projects could be included as tier 2 projects. This will have to be checked with the relevant consortium partners. ISMAEL, GST and AIRNET may bene-

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fit from inclusion in the COPRAS Community. Unfortunately few of the projects responding actually address eSafety issues.

In Strategic Objective 2.3.1.11 only an initial analysis could be made pending some additional input that is expected from the eHealth Focus Group meeting on 26th July. Pending this input it seems only the ARTEMIS project would qualify as a tier 1 project while the ALLADIN and DICOEMS projects could possibly be included in tier 2.

In Strategic Objective 2.3.1.12, the ELEGI, ICLASS, TELCERT and UNFOLD projects qualify for tier 1, with the two remaining responding projects (BRICKS and AGAMEMNON) qualifying for tier 2.

3.2 COPRAS Programme selected projects

Based on the analysis of information gathered, the following projects establish the COPRAS Programme **Tier 1 projects** for call 1:

| Strategic Objective | | Projects selected |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 2.3.1.3 | Broadband for all | CAPANINA, GANDALF, OPERA |
| 2.3.1.4 | Mobile and wireless systems beyond 3G | 4MORE, B-BONE, MAESTRO |
| 2.3.1.5 | Towards a global dependability and security framework | BioSEC, Digital Passport |
| 2.3.1.6 | Multimodal interfaces | SIMILAR, TALK |
| 2.3.1.7 | Semantic-based knowledge systems | REVERSE, aceMedia |
| 2.3.1.8 | Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms | EPERSPACE, MEDIANET, TEAHA |
| 2.3.1.9 | Networked businesses and governments | EMAYOR, DBE, SATINE |
| 2.3.1.10 | eSafety of road and air transport | SAFETEL |
| 2.3.1.11 | eHealth | ARTEMIS, AMICA |
| 2.3.1.12 | Technology-enhanced learning and access to cultural heritage | E-LEGI, ICLASS, TELCERT, UNFOLD |
| Total | | 25 |

The following projects establish the COPRAS Programme **Tier 2 projects** for call 1:

| Strategic Objective | | Projects selected |
|---------------------|--|--|
| 2.3.1.3 | Broadband for all | BROADWAN, U-BROAD |
| 2.3.1.4 | Mobile and wireless systems beyond 3G | PHOENIX, SIMPLICITY |
| 2.3.1.5 | Towards a global dependability and security framework | SecurE-JUSTICE, SECOQC |
| 2.3.1.6 | Multimodal interfaces | |
| 2.3.1.7 | Semantic-based knowledge systems | |
| 2.3.1.8 | Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms | ENTHRONE, UNI-VERSE |
| 2.3.1.9 | Networked businesses and governments | GUIDE, ONTOGOV, SPIDER-WIN, USE-ME.GOV |
| 2.3.1.10 | eSafety of road and air transport | HIGHWAY, SAFE-AIRPORT |
| 2.3.1.11 | eHealth | DICOEMS |
| 2.3.1.12 | Technology-enhanced learning and access to cultural heritage | |
| Total | | 15 |

3.3 CA, SSA and PLAM projects

Based on the analysis of information gathered and analyzed in the Deliverable D06, the following projects has been identified as appropriate for closer cooperation with COPRAS:

| Strategic Objective | | Projects selected |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| 2.3.1.3 | Broadband for all | BREAD |
| 2.3.1.4 | Mobile and wireless systems beyond 3G | SPECTRUM |
| 2.3.1.5 | Towards a global dependability and security framework | |
| 2.3.1.6 | Multimodal interfaces | MWEB |
| 2.3.1.7 | Semantic-based knowledge systems | AgentLink III |
| 2.3.1.8 | Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms | AVISTA |
| 2.3.1.9 | Networked businesses and governments | |
| 2.3.1.10 | eSafety of road and air transport | eSCOPE |
| 2.3.1.11 | eHealth | |
| 2.3.1.12 | Technology-enhanced learning and access to cultural heritage | UNFOLD |
| Total | | 7 |

3.4 COPRAS Community projects

The COPRAS Community establishes that group of FP6 research projects that will produce standards related output or would benefit from getting access to information on ongoing – or newly initiated – standardization processes relevant to their specific Strategic Objective. It therefore encompasses the projects that will participate in the COPRAS Programme as well as those that have indicated through their responses to the questionnaire, to touch upon standards related issues during the course of their projects lifetime.

The intention of the COPRAS Community is to build up an informal network enabling a flow of information and communication between research projects, relevant standardization working groups (i.e. consortium partners as well as other relevant organizations and industry groups) and other stakeholders that have an interested in interfacing between research projects and standardization.

Based on the analysis of information gathered and analyzed in the Deliverable D06, the following projects establish the COPRAS Community for call 1:

| Strategic Objective | | Projects selected |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 2.3.1.3 | Broadband for all | BREAD, DIADEM FIREWALL, E-PHOTON-ONE, SATNEX |
| 2.3.1.4 | Mobile and wireless systems beyond 3G | PULSERS, WINNER |
| 2.3.1.5 | Towards a global dependability and security framework | FIDIS, POSITIF, SEINIT |
| 2.3.1.6 | Multimodal interfaces | |
| 2.3.1.7 | Semantic-based knowledge systems | ALVIS, DIP |
| 2.3.1.8 | Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms | DANAE, WCAM, INSTINCT, MHP-CONFIDENCE, MCDN, META CAMERA, COHERENT, E-NEXT, MHP-KDB, OLGA, VISNET |
| 2.3.1.9 | Networked businesses and governments | ATHENA, INTEROP |
| 2.3.1.10 | eSafety of road and air transport | AIRNET, Euramp, GST, ISMAEL |

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| | | |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| 2.3.1.11 | eHealth | |
| 2.3.1.12 | Technology-enhanced learning and access to cultural heritage | AGAMEMNON |
| Total | | 29 |

3.5 Project clusters

In addition to selecting tier 1 and tier 2 projects it was decided to group them into clusters for the purpose of being able to better identify communalities as well as a potential for sharing of resources. Taking into consideration COPRAS' resources as well as the actual thematic orientation of the selected projects it was decided to aim for 4 to 5 large clusters rather than aiming for a multitude of smaller ones as has been done in several of the initial proposals for clustering of projects. Although this meant combining projects addressing different Strategic Objective areas (vertical approach), this seemed to be the most natural approach, even though the projects in different Strategic Objectives cover different research topics. Moreover, encouraging exchange between projects in different strategic objectives in many cases seemed to offer considerable additional possibilities in terms of cooperation between projects.

During a conference call held 30th September, COPRAS agreed to follow this approach and group the projects in break-out clusters or sessions. This generated the following thematic clusters for the kick-off meeting:

- A. Broadband access
- B. Security issues
- C. Semantic-based systems & languages
- D. Smart houses & home networking
- E. eLearning

Actual allocation of projects to clusters can be found in section 4.1 of the call 1 kick-off meeting report (deliverable D08).

3.6 Quality review project analysis and selection processes

During the process of selecting projects in call 1, the analysis of in total 92 projects was reviewed. Ultimately, 25 projects were selected for tier 1, 15 projects for tier 2 and 29 projects were proposed to be included into the COPRAS Community. When taking into account tier 1 projects only, this means 15% of the 164 projects in call 1 have actually been selected for the kick-off meeting, and 24% when taking into account tier 2 projects as well. According to the Quality Plan, the target is to define Standardization Action Plans with at least 8% of the number of projects originally contacted in the information gathering process. This target seems well in reach with the number of projects selected.

As far as concerns the quality of work it is necessary to state that during this phase of the project the input from all consortium partners as well as from other relevant industry groups into the process of analyzing the information and defining the selection criteria was sufficient and balanced. The potentially relevant standards bodies and industry groups have been identified and the responsibility for contacting these to the different members of the project team have been allocated. However, specifically with respect to tier 2 projects the process of verifying the interest from the concerning standardization bodies in projects' output continues. This is caused, among others, by to the holiday's period.

As the initial list of call 1 projects for the COPRAS Programme is quite long in view of the project's resources, further selection narrowing the list down may be necessary during, or prior to the call 1 kick-off meeting. In case the list cannot be shortened based on the results of the kick-off meeting, the following procedures (as already indicated in the Quality plan) will be applied:

- i) Evaluate whether re-allocation of resources or the improvement of the project's efficiency may allow COPRAS to address a larger-than-expected number of selected projects;
- ii) Evaluate whether certain projects could be included when COPRAS addresses other calls;

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- iii) Evaluate – if necessary – whether additional resources can be made available by the consortium partners or other relevant industry groups in view of the relevance of the standardization issues addressed by the research projects;
- iv) Scrutinize the analysis as well as the selection criteria for the purpose of drawing up a more suitable list of potential participants, whilst ensuring that non-selected projects are given advice on how to interface with standardization.

3.7 Lessons learnt from Call 1 project analysis and selection processes

With respect to project clustering a proposal was being put forward by the WP3 lead partner identifying 5 clusters (i.e. broadband access; security issues; semantic-based systems and languages; smart houses and homes networking and eLearning). This was based on a combined vertical (Strategic Objective oriented) and horizontal (standards issues oriented) approach, rather than a standards bodies oriented approach.

This generated relatively large clusters that have relatively few issues in common and – while in the same cluster – still address different standardization bodies or working groups. On the other hand, it was recognized COPRAS most likely does not have the resources to organize a series of separate kick off meetings accommodating a variety of relatively small but detailed clusters.

After some discussion it was decided pre-meetings between COPRAS and individual tier 1 projects may bring a better understanding what the exact contributions of these projects could be and whether there is sufficient level of communality between issues addressed by certain projects (e.g. so they could interface with the same standardization working group). These meetings could function as the first part of the planned kick-off meeting and serve for COPRAS to decide whether:

- i) individual projects could enter a process of developing a Standards Action Plan together with an already identified standardization working group, without the need of clustering into a specific group during a kick-off meeting;
- ii) projects would benefit from cooperating with other projects and from participating in a kick-off meeting together with projects addressing similar issues, aiming to define clusters focusing on identical standardization working group(s) to interface with;
- iii) projects would not benefit from cooperating with COPRAS although being selected as a tier 1 project.

As the main challenge for COPRAS will be to ensuring the cooperation from the research projects, these individual meetings may contribute considerably convincing projects for which this is relevant to come to the kick-off meeting.

When following this process the clustering of projects will be better in line with what is actually required from the COPRAS perspective (i.e. generating smaller, more focused clusters), and migration from WP3 to WP4 will be more gradually.

4. Conclusions & recommendations

In total, the project selection process for call 1 can be considered as fairly successful. From a quantitative perspective COPRAS has managed to achieve better results than it originally targeted. The initial list of projects selected to be included into the COPRAS Programme and COPRAS Community appears to be overall satisfactory and as a basis for subsequent methodological steps.

At this phase of the project, 15% of the 164 projects in call 1 establishing the ‘operational target’ for the information gathering process and receiving an information package and questionnaire from COPRAS have been selected for the kick-off meeting only as tier 1 projects and 24 % together as tier 1 and 2 projects. The intention is to focus on tier 1 projects first; if there is a problem either from a project side, or the COPRAS side (e.g., the standardization body identified for co-operating with a project will not confirm its interest), tier 2 project(s) will be taken into account as well.

When reviewing the steps in the process, the methods applied appear to have been adequate to achieve the intended results however, there may be room for improvement. In this respect, better communication and marketing of COPRAS’ benefits for research projects prior to or during the

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information gathering process (e.g. at concertation meetings) may increase response to the questionnaire.

As far as the quantity of the information gathered is concerned, it can be considered as sufficient from the WP3 tasks point of view. However, recommendations based on the observations during the WP3 work indicated in the previous section could improve the quality of the information gathered and make the process of selecting projects easier.

Additionally, the information analysis and project selection processes for call 1 show a majority of work will have to be done at a relatively early stage during the WP3 activities in order to prevent difficulties with contacting projects and relevant standards bodies. Also the process of establishing additional contacts with those projects that initially did not respond in a defined period should start substantially earlier, since the process of re-contacting the projects at a later stage did not bring expected results.

Nevertheless the WP3 results can be considered as a good basis for subsequent methodological steps building the COPRAS Programme and COPRAS Community.