



Document	Plan for using and disseminating knowledge & results				
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Introduction

Standards can not only be a good means for IST projects upgrading and disseminating their results, but also establish an important outcome of projects' activities, as their research is expected to contribute to furthering Europe's role as a leader in ICT standardization. These expectations are however not always easy to live up to for IST research projects, as effective interfacing with standards bodies sometimes requires specific knowledge or skills, and standards processes sometimes prove to be difficult to interface with.

The COPRAS project was set up by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), The Open Group and the World Wide Web consortium (W3C), to address issues involved with interfacing between research and standardization. It started its activities early February 2004 and, during its second reporting period, was capable of presenting its first tangible results. This report therefore provides a brief overview of these results and the way these were (and will be) shared with the relevant constituencies.

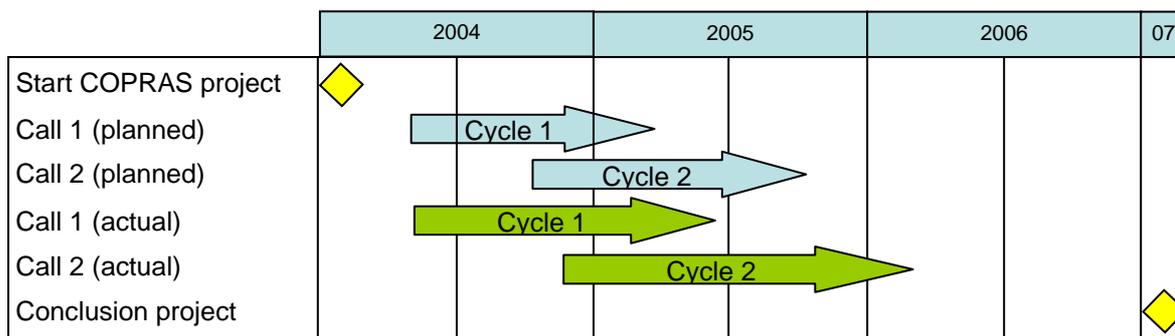
1. Exploitable results and their usage

COPRAS is a Specific Support Action (SSA) with a dual objective: it aims to facilitate cooperation between specific (selected) projects in FP6 Calls 1 & 2 and standards bodies, while – through this activity – also enabling it to produce guidelines on the overall aspects of the RTD/standards interfacing process, as well as other types of generic information.

During the second reporting period COPRAS managed to generate considerable knowledge in both categories mentioned above. The following sections will discuss this in more detail the nature of the results and knowledge produced in these two categories, as well as the way these were packaged into concrete deliverables.

1.1 Project specific results

The first part of COPRAS' activities was structured into Work Packages 2, 3 and 4, aiming to survey, analyze and support the standardization objectives of FP6 IST projects in Calls 1 and 2 in two consecutive cycles.¹ This led to a selection of projects showing a clear requirement for interfacing with standards bodies, that COPRAS developed closer cooperation with. As the figure hereunder shows, the process of developing this cooperation (and hence of generating knowledge and results) however took considerably longer than originally expected. This was caused, among others, by the size and lifespan of certain projects.²



During the second year of its activities, COPRAS focused on developing Standardization Action Plans with projects in Calls 1 & 2. These plans indicate projects' standardization targets in more detail and match these with ongoing activity in specific standards organizations' technical

¹ Originally COPRAS' intention had been to include FP6 Call 3 projects in its analysis as well, as indicated in the first Progress Report (deliverable D10). However, following discussions at the first project review, it was decided not to pursue this anymore.

² IP projects with 30-40 consortium partners require a longer period to agree amongst themselves on the definition of cooperation with other projects (e.g. COPRAS) and on the nature of that cooperation (e.g. a Standardization Action Plan); projects with a longer lifespan take more time in the beginning of their activities to define their standardization work.

committees and working groups. Moreover, they identify, at an early point in time, issues that may occur in the interfacing process, such as lack of resources, overlap, or conflicting approaches, and they establish cooperation between projects that are working towards similar standardization results.

Standardization Action Plans work towards determining a series of concrete action steps (e.g. defining technical work, creation of awareness, or constituency building) to be performed, either by the project itself or by COPRAS. However, in several cases, projects' – or their consortium partners' – standardization objectives are regarded confidential information, hence Standardization Action Plans produced by COPRAS have not been released in the public domain. This means that the decision whether and how to disseminate and use the information and results contained herein lies with the individual projects, and not with COPRAS.

1.2 Generic knowledge

Despite the fact that the dissemination and usage of detailed individual standards related information remains the prerogative of the projects themselves, the work on the Standardization Action Plans, as well their execution have also proven to generate a lot of valuable generic information that can and will be shared with the IST project community and other relevant stakeholders. This for example includes:

- More detailed insight into the qualitative and quantitative nature of standardization support requirements among the different instruments and Strategic Objectives in FP6, also showing that standardization support is an issue for more projects than originally anticipated;
- A better overall picture of the way standardization work is currently build into project's work plans and how this creates pitfalls when deploying the related activities, showing that poor preparations and bureaucratic situations often complicate RTD/standards interfacing;
- A better understanding why and how to match or synchronize (planned) standardization efforts in certain Strategic Objectives with ongoing standardization effort in specific ICT standardization domains at an early stage as industry circumstances may sometimes block the path through standardization as a dissemination tool;
- The need to narrow down projects' (usually broad) standardization goals and better map these with their available resources, with standards bodies' agendas, as well as with market needs, as market dynamics are essential when determining projects' output standardization potential.
- A better understanding of the overlap between the technical areas addressed by IST projects in a certain Strategic Objective, and the most relevant standardization topics among the main standards organizations overseeing that area.
- A better understanding where the gaps are between the current IST work program and the main standardization topics in Europe

The generic knowledge that was generated by COPRAS during second reporting period was compiled into two types of documents: a first release of a set of "Generic guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations" (primarily aimed at projects and project consortia in IST Calls 4 & 5) and a "Reverse mapping report" (primarily aimed at Commission Project Officers, e.g. to support them with the evaluation and negotiation of project proposals).

1.3 Knowledge & results produced during the second reporting period

During the second reporting period, COPRAS produce several interim results, both of generic and project specific nature, that can – and were – used to disseminate the knowledge and results the project build up throughout the first two reporting periods.

1.3.1 Standardization Action Plans

As a result of COPRAS' activities in WP2 and WP3 during the first 18 months of its lifespan, it managed to establish closer cooperation towards standardization with more than 25 projects across

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FP6 Calls 1 & 2. The specific details of this cooperation, aiming to assist projects in better defining – and achieving – their standardization goals, are contained in Standardization Action Plans concluded with each of the projects, either on an individual basis, or in a clustered approach (i.e. uniting several projects in a Strategic Objective around the same standardization goals). The projects that COPRAS has concluded these plans with are the following:

Standardization area	Project	Type of plan	Strategic Objective
Broadband access	GANDALF	Individual	2.3.1.3
	SIMPLICITY	Individual	2.3.1.4
	BROADWAN	Individual	2.3.1.3
Security issues	SECOQC	Individual	2.3.1.5
	ARTEMIS	Individual	2.3.1.6
Semantic based systems & languages	SATINE	Individual	2.3.1.9
Multimodal interfaces	SIMILAR	Individual	2.3.1.11
	TALK	Individual	2.3.1.6
Smart houses & home networking	ENTHRONE	Clustered	2.3.1.8
	ePerSpace	Clustered	2.3.1.8
	MediaNet	Clustered	2.3.1.8
	TEAHA	Clustered	2.3.1.8
eLearning	ELeGI	Clustered	2.3.1.12
	TELCERT	Clustered	2.3.1.12
	UNFOLD	Clustered	2.3.1.12
	ICLASS	Clustered	2.3.1.12
	HIJA	Clustered	2.3.2.5
Embedded systems	DECOS	Clustered	2.3.2.5
	ASSERT	Clustered	2.3.2.5
	ASSIST 2	Clustered	2.3.2.5
	wearIT@work	Individual	2.3.2.6
Wearable computing	IPerG	Individual	2.3.2.7
Cross-media content	EUROPCOM	Individual	2.3.2.9
Risk management	EUAIN	Individual	2.3.2.10
eInclusion	Support-EAM	Individual	2.3.2.10

Standardization Action Plans help projects define realistic objectives that are achievable within the limitations of their own timing and resources, and within the boundaries of the main focus areas of the relevant standardization landscape.

The plans encourage projects to start their interfacing with standards organizations at an earlier point in time, and provide projects with a series of logical sequential steps, based on experience build up by COPRAS and its consortium partners, helping them achieving their goals as much as possible before the end of their lifespan.

As the table above shows, Standardization Action Plans have been produced for a large variety of Strategic Objectives and hence spread these experiences over a wide area, in addition to helping projects, through the clustered Standardization Action Plans, benefit from each others knowledge and experience.

It should however be noted that, due to the – sometimes – confidential nature of project's or project consortium partners' standardization objectives, Standardization Action Plans were not released in the public domain by COPRAS (although in time projects may decide to do so themselves).

1.3.2 Generic guidelines for IST projects

The first version of the “Generic guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations” establish the main result generated by COPRAS during the second reporting period. The document aggregates the (generic) knowledge and experiences the activities of the project generated during the first 18 months of its lifespan and demonstrates the benefits, as well as the ins and outs and the pitfalls of standardization to IST projects and their consortium partners, helping them determining whether or not to interface with standardization.

The guidelines explain the different purposes of standards and standardization processes, while at the same time documenting how standardization can be help research projects achieving their overall objectives and support the dissemination of their results. Also they explain standardization

as a process that begins at the concept stage of a proposal, and involves a sequence of actions to achieve a specific result, thus indicating the most important milestones within a project lifespan where standardization should be considered. Moreover, as standardization processes may take up to 3 or 4 years, they specifically underline that it is recommended to plan interfacing with standards organizations at the start of a project's activities.

Other aspects highlighted in the Generic guidelines include the notion that standardization processes are not always identical and even following the same basic steps may still lead to different types of results. Furthermore, projects have varying preferences with respect to the envisaged standardization results, and therefore may have to base the choice of an organization on the deliverables it pursues. Finally, the Generic Guidelines point out that the criteria applied for choosing standards organizations to interface with, should take into account circumstances and background of a project as well as its partners.

As the number of ICT standards bodies is quite large, the Generic Guidelines are believed to establish an important tool enabling future IST research projects to find the right organization to pass their output through, even in circumstances when the proposed technology is too advanced to build a constituency of market players around it, in which situations a project may for example want to focus on standards bodies providing 'incubator' facilities, allowing contributors of advanced concepts to ramp up their work inside a standardization environment towards the level of maturity required for initiating a formal processes.

1.3.3 Reverse mapping report

This deliverable aims to provide a detailed analysis whether – and to which extent – Calls 1 & 2 of the IST programme cover the areas where standards organizations are currently most active. In this respect, the main standardization topics of 11 standards organizations, all members of the ICTSB, were held against the research areas addressed by over 400 projects, most of which in FP6 Calls 1 & 2, taking into account that pre-identified synergies between projects and standards bodies does not also guarantee the effectuation of these synergies once project activities are being deployed.

The information contained in the report includes a short overview of relevant topics addressed by standards organizations, against work underway in projects, that is addressing the areas where the standards organizations are active. Also included are the qualitative and quantitative conclusions from this analysis, demonstrating overlap when there is a significant correlation between general issues addressed by standards bodies and projects' research focuses, thus leaving aside the topics on the periphery of the standards arena.

The analysis shows that the standards areas most relevant to the ICTSB members analyzed match the topics addressed by research projects fairly reasonably, although one should take into account that the industry consortia included in the analysis, contrary to the formal standards bodies, are more focused on specific areas corresponding to the profile of their constituency. Also, the results of the analysis do not take standards organizations operating on a global level into account, whereas many projects in Calls 1 & 2 interface directly with organizations like the IETF, IEEE, or ISO-IEC.

1.4 Expected results for the final reporting period

In addition to the second reporting period, that already generated a number of tangible (interim) results, the third and final reporting period (01/02/2006 - 31/01/2007) will complete and update these results by including feedback from IST projects as well as other stakeholders on the usage of the Standardization Action Plans and the Generic guidelines. In terms of the dissemination of the knowledge generated, COPRAS will focus on 4 main deliverables during the last reporting period. These are briefly described in the following sections.

1.4.1 Execution of Standardization Action Plans & development of 'case study' brochures

At the early beginning of the third reporting period, the Standardization Action Plans for Call 2 will have been finalized, and – similar to Call 1 – the plans will enter the execution phase. The results

the projects achieve when executing these plans, and the experience they will build up while interfacing with standards organizations will be reported by COPRAS in “case study brochures”. Although experience teaches that there are considerable differences between projects in terms of the time and resources required for projects to generate tangible results, an effort will be made to document all projects’ paths through standardization; nevertheless, at the end, COPRAS may not be able to fully achieve this target, among others because several projects it has developed Standardization Action Plans with, will continue for a considerable period after COPRAS terminated its activities.

1.4.2 Generic Guidelines platform

With deliverable D22, the first version of the interactive platform version of the Generic guidelines will be launched at the start of the third reporting period. The purpose of this platform, that will be upgraded and improved throughout this last reporting period, is to provide projects, project consortium partners, as well as other stakeholders for whom this would be suitable (e.g. Commission Project Officers or project reviewers), with a single entry point to acquire information on, as well as to plan interfacing with standards bodies.

The process of upgrading the platform will be fed by the various types of feedback that will be retrieved by COPRAS during the third reporting period from all stakeholders such as IST projects, standards organizations, Commission Project Officers, etc. using the Generic guidelines, the Generic guidelines platform, or other relevant COPRAS deliverables.

1.4.3 Feedback gathering from projects in Calls 4 & 5

Between July and October 2005, the Generic guidelines, as well as the Generic guidelines brochure, have been distributed to the Heads of Unit of all Units within the Commission overseeing projects in the Call 4 and Call 5 Strategic Objectives, together with the invitation to distribute the material to the projects, as well as to Project Officers.

As section 2.2.1 will show, this invitation received a lot of positive response, and the Generic guidelines were made available using many different means, to projects or project consortia in Calls 4 and 5, in some cases possibly before they submitted their initial project proposals. Furthermore, the impressive number of direct hits (50.000) on the Generic guidelines and the Generic guidelines brochure on the COPRAS web site confirms the likeliness that many projects in these calls had accesses – and possibly reviewed or used – the Generic guidelines before the start of their activities.

Following up on these dissemination actions, COPRAS will retrieve feedback from projects in Calls 4 & 5 with respect to their evaluation and usage of the Generic guidelines. This feedback, that will be aggregated in deliverable D24, will serve as input for producing an upgraded version of the document version as well as of the platform version of the Generic guidelines.

1.4.4 Open Meeting

At the end of COPRAS’ lifespan, an Open meeting for stakeholders will be organized, focusing on the generic aspects of RTD/standards interfacing, as well as on the presentation and dissemination of COPRAS’ results and deliverables. The Open Meeting will target a wide variety of stakeholders, and plans to address aspects such as:

- The background against which COPRAS’ defined its objectives and goals when it set out in February 2004 and to which extend did it manage to achieve these goals;
- The tangible results achieved, in terms of successfully executed Standardization Action Plans and concrete standardization results;
- The most important long term deliverables and the way these are expected to improve interfacing between ICT research and standardization in the near future;
- Recommendations resulting from the project’s activities and possibilities to implement these.

- The role of RTD standards interfacing in the Commission's overall aim of furthering the Information Society in Europe and – in conjunction with that, Europe's leading position in ICT development;
- Issues encountered by IST projects when interfacing – or trying to interface – with ICT standards organizations;
- Issues encountered by ICT standards organizations when trying to incorporate research projects' results into their standardization processes;
- A global perspective on 'best practice' experience in other relevant regions such as the US, China or Japan;

2. Dissemination of knowledge and results during the second reporting period

During the second reporting period, COPRAS produces its first tangible results and disseminated these among its main constituencies. As a consequence, the promotional and dissemination activities have been more focused around these deliverables rather than on creating awareness with respect to the COPRAS objective, as was done during the first reporting period. The following sections will describe in more detail the promotional strategy and its results during the second reporting period.

2.1 Dissemination and promotion strategy

For the first reporting period, COPRAS has decided to aim at relatively small, but focused, events (e.g. workshops, concertation meetings, seminars) both for promoting its objectives as well as its interim results and knowledge it generated while carrying out its activity. Also it decided to target primarily the IST project community and Commission Project Officers during this reporting period, rather than standards bodies, in order to establish a more prominent target for the second and third reporting periods. The rationale behind this strategy was the fact that the broader dissemination of results and knowledge (also to the standards community and at the larger conferences) requires tangible results, while in order to generate these, cooperation from projects and Project Officers is a prerequisite. For this reason, COPRAS has also systematically tried to establish close cooperation with CA and SSA projects that operate within specific Strategic objectives, as several of these projects have focuses (partly) similar to COPRAS.³

2.2 Dissemination activities during the second reporting period

During the second reporting period, several of the main COPRAS deliverables have been produced, such as the Standardization Action Plans for projects in Call 1, and the interim Generic material. Dissemination activities during this period strongly relate to these deliverables and are described in the following sections.

2.2.1 Activities related to the Generic guidelines

During the second reporting period, 3 additional specific activities were deployed to support and encourage the dissemination, usage, impact and improvement of the Generic guidelines:

- A brochure was developed, providing a quick overview of the contents of the Generic guidelines, and highlighting the benefits of the document for IST projects;
- A first step was made to transform the guidelines document into an on line interactive tool on the COPRAS web site;

³ Many CA or SSA projects focus on joint promotion and dissemination of project's results (of which standards are an important part of) within a specific Strategic Objective and with a specific context; while support from COPRAS to individual projects may help these CA and SSA projects achieve their goals, coordinating efforts from these projects may also help to save resources on the side of COPRAS and help it to improve its results.

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- A worst case scenario was included in an updated version of the project's dissemination and exploitation plan, describing how the accessibility and maintenance of the generic guidelines can be ensured also beyond COPRAS' lifespan.

As far as the dissemination of the Generic guidelines was concerned, the first focus has been on projects and project consortia in Calls 4 & 5. Therefore, upon completion of the Generic guidelines and the accompanying brochure, the following 17 Units within DG INFSO were approached for support in disseminating the information to projects in Calls 4 & 5:

Unit	Overseeing Strategic Objective(s):	Call
D1	Broadband for all	4
D1	Mobile and wireless systems and platforms beyond 3G	4
D2	Networked audio-visual systems and home platforms	4
D3	Software and services	5
D4	Towards a global dependability and security framework	4
D5	ICT for networked businesses	5
E1	Multimodal interfaces	5
E2	Semantic-based knowledge and content systems	4
E3	Technology-enhanced learning	4
E3	Access to and preservation of cultural and scientific resources	5
E5	Cognitive systems	4
F2	Advanced Grid Technologies, Systems and Services	5
F3	Research networking testbeds	5
F4	Collaborative Working Environments	5
G3	Embedded systems	5
G4	eSafety - Co-operative Systems for Road Transport	4
G5	ICT for Environmental Risk Management	5
H1	Integrated biomedical information for better health	4
H3	eInclusion	5

Following COPRAS' request, more than 75% of the Units approached indicated the Generic guidelines would be distributed to projects in Calls 4 & 5, while almost 60% indicated the intention to include (or consider including) a link to the electronic version of the Generic Material on their respective CORDIS web pages, or to otherwise publish the web addresses for the Generic guidelines and/or the brochure. Only one Unit decided not to distribute the material due to the fact that the projects it is overseeing do not feel the need to interface with standards organizations.

In addition to the direct dissemination of the Generic guidelines, the material was also presented, together with other COPRAS deliverables, at several events, described in more detail in the following section.

2.2.2 General dissemination activities

The following table chronologically lists the project's general dissemination activities over the first reporting period. Short descriptions of the items are included in the subsequent sections.

Date	Type	Audience type	Countries	Audience size	Partners involved
04/03/05	EMayor workshop	eGovernment research community	EU	50 - 60	CEN
13/04/05	OMG Enterprise Interoperability Information Day	OMG membership and EC projects addressing interoperability	Global	60-70	The Open Group
25/05/05	D2 concertation meeting	2.3.1.8 project community	EU	50 - 60	CENELEC
22/06/05	ICTSB-DATSCG meeting	eInclusion standardization community	EU	15	CEN
22/06/05	ICTSB-SHSSG meeting	SmartHouse standardization community	EU	15	CENELEC
23/06/05	ICTSB plenary meeting	European standardization community	EU	15	CEN

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30/06/05	eBIF plenary meeting	eBusiness standardization community	EU	25	CEN
20/07/05	Interim Generic material (Generic guidelines for IST projects)	Commission Project Officers; Call 4 & 5 research community	EU	17 Units	All
26/08/05	Article on IST results web site	IST research community	EU	unknown	CEN
31/08/05	Generic guidelines brochure	Commission Project Officers; Call 4 & 5 research community, standardization community	EU	5000 copies	All
07/09/05	COPRAS presentation at PRIME project general meeting	ICT privacy & security research community	EU	20	W3C
23/09/05	MOSSA workshop	Satellite technology research community	EU	20	CENELEC
05/10/05	COPRAS presentation at W3C-Global GRID Forum high level meeting	Senior WEB & GRID standardization representatives	Global	10	W3C
09/11/05	Meeting with Japanese Telecommunications Technology Committee	Japanese telecommunications standardization community	Global	5	CEN
16/11/05	INTEREST Workshop	European research & standardization community	EU	20	CEN
28/11/05	TEAHA Open Forum	NAVSHP research community	EU	50 - 60	CENELEC
12/12/05	Panel session BBEurope 2005	Broadband for all research community	EU	30	ETSI
21/12/05	Informal i2010 concertation meeting for Collaborative working environments projects	2.5.9 project community	EU	35	The Open Group
23/01/06	IT architecture Practitioners Conference	IT architecture research & standardization community	Global	300	The Open Group
27/01/06	UDEF Forum	UDEF membership	Global	20	The Open Group

The following sections provide a short description of the activities as listed in the table below, per category, rather than per event or item.

- 1) Standardization meetings & conferences: as announced in the previous Plan for using and disseminating knowledge and results, COPRAS would focus more stronger on communicating knowledge and results, specifically related to the Standardization Action Plans, to the standards community during the second reporting period. Consequently it has addressed several meetings and events, both at the ICTSB and at member organization level, organized by COPRAS consortium members as well as organizations outside the consortium. The presentations aimed to document the results COPRAS had achieved, and to encourage cooperation between the standards world and research projects.
- 2) Concertation & cluster meetings: these type of events remain a good opportunity for COPRAS to disseminate its results as most projects in a certain Strategic Objective attend them. Nevertheless, concertation meetings are significantly less common for Call 2 Strategic Objectives than they are for Call 1, for which reason COPRAS could not use this type of dissemination tool as frequently as it did during the first reporting period.

- 3) Workshops: next to the previous two categories, workshops organized by other projects again established a useful dissemination platform for COPRAS as these events, similar to concertation meetings, attract a focused audience that is also concerned with the standardization issues in their specific area. During the second reporting period, COPRAS addressed the following workshops:
 - a. EMAYOR clustering event, 4 March 2005, on “Secure Information Processing in the Public Sector” organized in conjunction with the TCGOV 2005 conference in Bolzano; here COPRAS presented its activities with respect to projects in Strategic Objective 2.3.1.9 (Networked businesses and governments)
 - b. Together with MOSSA, COPRAS organized a workshop on standardization development in the satellite domain, addressing parts of the NAVSHP and Broadband research communities.
 - c. At the TEAHA workshop, organized in conjunction with the Net@Home conference, COPRAS presented its results from working with projects in the NAVSHP area.
 - d. INTEREST workshop on the improvement of interfacing between research and standardization; the INTEREST project approaches these issues from a more academic perspective and also addresses the complete scientific and standards landscape rather than just the ICT part.
- 4) Publications: similar to the first reporting period, one article was published on the IST results web site of the Commission, describing COPRAS’ objectives and achievements in general terms.⁴
- 5) Brochures: a new brochure was produced, summarizing and highlighting the main elements and issues from the Generic guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations. The brochure was developed to promote the material to all stakeholders, presenting a clear and easy to understand case why and how it will be valuable to IST projects and other stakeholders; the brochure was printed in 5000-fold and was distributed by the consortium partners to Project Officers, IST projects and the standards community through various means.

2.3 Results from the dissemination strategy

For the second reporting period, COPRAS’ dissemination strategy has been largely focused on the dissemination of the results it has achieved (in terms of concluding and executing Standardization Action Plans) with respect to improving interfacing and cooperation between selected projects in Call 1 and the standards community, as well as on the dissemination of the first release of the Generic guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations.

Where the latter is concerned, it is still too early to assess the impact of the dissemination activities, but the positive response and cooperation from the European Commission, as well as the fact that an encouraging 50.000 out (of the 150.000 hits on the COPRAS web pages) were generated by the Generic guidelines and the Generic guidelines brochure, underline that at least the initial goals of the intensive marketing campaign for the Generic material have been achieved.

Similarly, the impact of the strategy to use the Standardization Action Plans for creating more awareness of the issues involved in RTD/standards interfacing will have to be assessed at a later point in time during the projects lifespan; despite this, in some areas (e.g. eInclusion) some initiatives have in fact been deployed by the standards community as a result of COPRAS activities, to establish better interfacing and exchange between specific projects and standards organizations.

2.4 Planned activities for the final reporting period

As the overview shows, COPRAS dissemination strategy during the second reporting period has been much more focused when compared to the first reporting period where it was clearly more diversified across different areas and instruments. Reasons for this focusing obviously are the core

⁴ Also see: <http://istresults.cordis.lu/index.cfm/section/news/tpl/article/BrowsingType/Features/ID/78141>

deliverables of the project during this period, and the marketing requirement that came with it. In this respect, COPRAS managed to accomplish 4 out of the 5 specific dissemination goals it had set itself in the first Plan for using and disseminating knowledge and results, only missing the planned presence at the larger (thematic) conferences.

As discussed in section 1.4, during the third reporting period COPRAS plans to complete and update the tangible results it generated so far, among others by including feedback from IST projects as well as other stakeholders on the usage of the Standardization Action Plans and the Generic guidelines. Several promotional tools will be used for this, such as the development and distribution of 'case study' brochures for those IST projects that executed their Standardization Action Plans, and the organization of an Open Meeting on the RTD/standards interface.

Taking this into account, the main spearheads for the dissemination strategy in the third period will be:

- A stronger focus on the larger (thematic) conferences to disseminate the projects results to larger and broader audiences; possible targets are the annual EASST, I-ESA, eChallenges or IST2006 conferences & exhibitions.
- A Continuous focus on communicating the results from the Standardization Action Plans to the standards community. This will not only aim at the standards bodies identified in these plans, but also on the broader ICT standardization world.
- A continuous communication of COPRAS' knowledge and results to Commission Project Officers, also to gather feedback with respect to the interim Generic Material. This feedback gathering process will also involve the Call 4 & 5 projects communities.
- A permanent distribution of the Generic guidelines as well as the case study brochures, the latter promoting the initial results of the Standardization Actions Plans. Target audience for this will be the IST research community, standards bodies, Commission Project Officers and other relevant stakeholders.
- Continuous and regular presence at concertation meetings, workshops, cluster events, etc. keeping IST research communities informed on progress achieved in their Strategic Objective, and allowing projects that are about to launch their activities, to take notice of the recommendations, guidelines and other supportive tools COPRAS developed.

2.5 Recommendations for future calls and Framework Programmes

As a result of one of the recommendations from the first project review, COPRAS decided not to develop activities towards projects in FP6 Call 3 but instead to use the resources reserved for this, to improve the quality and dissemination of the Generic guidelines. This would also increase the sustainability of the project's results, and hence improve the chances that these could remain available – as a platform – to projects in future Framework Programmes.

In addition, the increased dissemination activity also created new possibilities for supporting projects in Calls 4 and 5, other than providing these projects similar levels of support from COPRAS as Calls 1 & 2 had received. This will be discussed a bit more in detail in the following sections.

Most FP6 projects in calls 4 & 5, will have received – or were encouraged to take notice of – the Generic guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations, as well as the accompanying brochure. Although this does not substitute the level of support and attention projects in Calls 1 & 2 received from COPRAS, it does provide them with the opportunity to evaluate whether the interface to standardization has been sufficiently build into their project proposals and work plans and, when applicable, it stimulates the projects to develop standards related activity at an early point in time during their projects' lifespan.

Call 4 as well as Call 5 projects will start their activities during the third and last COPRAS reporting period. COPRAS will therefore approach all projects it is able to contact in order to obtain feedback with respect to the usefulness of the Generic guidelines. Purpose of this exercise

will be to feed this information back into the Generic material deliverables and improve the material so that it will be able to better support the projects, even beyond the lifespan of COPRAS.

This continuous support will mainly be established by transforming the Generic Guidelines into an interactive platform version, creating a dynamic deliverable supporting the sustainability of the outcome and results of the COPRAS project. The platform will offer all stakeholders broader functionality in terms of supporting interfacing between research and standardization.

As this platform will however require continuous maintenance, an effort will be made during the last reporting period, to ensure the resources necessary for the sustainability of the platform. However, in case the necessary resources for maintaining the COPRAS platform in the way it was developed, cannot be found by the time the project terminates, the COPRAS partners will keep the platform operational for as long as practicable, but will only offer its core functionality, i.e. providing access to (updated versions of the) interactive Generic Guidelines, in addition to other types of functionality that the COPRAS consortium partners may decide upon at that moment.

During the second reporting period, the COPRAS consortium partners also addressed the issue – amongst themselves as well as in discussions with the European Commission – of how to best embed the interface between research and standardization into FP7. Main reason for this is that COPRAS' experience shows its results and platform will be able to provide some support to projects in this Framework Programme, but many issues still remain to be addressed.

With respect to addressing the (continued) improvement of the RTD/standards interface in FP7, the COPRAS consortium partners therefore evaluated several options such as:

- Additional coordinating effort, e.g. through a permanent policy group (also including European Commission representatives) under the ICTSB, specifically addressing RTD/standards interfacing;
- Continuation of the COPRAS work through a support project in FP7, possibly in conjunction with initiating COPRAS-like projects in relation to European Technology Platforms or other instruments, supporting research projects in the field in a way consistent with the COPRAS methodology and supervised by the ICTSB policy group should be pursued.

Also, an effort will be made to initiate a meeting between the ICTSB chair and members of the Chairman's Advisory Group with senior representatives off the European Commission to address the issues at a policy level. In view of the FP7 timelines, it was additionally decided by the COPRAS consortium members to make an effort providing input on RTD/standards interfacing in FP7, through several of the events organized for this purpose by the Commission in spring 2006.

3. Publishable results

When COPRAS set out early 2004, all its deliverables were designed to become public documents. Although this is still the case for virtually all results generated so far, an exception was made with respect to the Standardization Action Plans for Calls 1 and Call 2. Experience showed that these plans sometimes necessarily have to contain information that may be considered confidential by some of the consortium members of the projects involved. Therefore COPRAS decided not to release the Standardization Action Plans in the public domain itself, but to leave this up to the projects concerned.

All other deliverables can be from the public section of the COPRAS web site, together with – for the most relevant deliverables – the executive summaries. The main documents in which the knowledge and results generated throughout the second reporting period are published, are:

- Deliverable D09: Information gathering report for call 2 (published early March 2005)
- Deliverable D12: Information analysis report Call 2 (published end of July 2005)
- Deliverable D14: Kick-off meeting report for Call 2 (published end of July 2005)
- Deliverable D15: Generic guidelines for IST projects interfacing with ICT standards organizations (published mid June 2005)

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- Deliverable D17: Interim evaluation report (published early October 2005)
- Deliverable D18: Reverse mapping report (published early September 2005)

Similar to the first reporting period, the information and knowledge contained in these documents have also been presented at various workshops, conferences and concertation meetings. These presentations can also be downloaded from the COPRAS web site.

