

PROJECT NO. - CA 016228

PROJECT ACRONYM - SKEP

PROJECT TITLE –

‘Scientific Knowledge for Environmental Protection – Network of funding Agencies’

INSTRUMENT: ERA-NET (CA)

THEMATIC PRIORITY: Environment

INTERIM ACTIVITY REPORT

PERIOD COVERED: From 01 December 2007 to 01 June 2008

DATE OF PREPARATION: 15 July 2008

START DATE OF PROJECT: 01 June 2005

DURATION: 4 Years

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR NAME: Dr Simon Gardner

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR ORGANISATION NAME: Environment Agency for
England and Wales

SECTION 1 – PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

The SKEP network brings together the key funders of national research programmes to facilitate the improvement of science-into-policy processes and support evidence-led modern regulation. A key element of this is to create structures which allow network members to generate knowledge in collaboration and improve links with high-level policy-makers. It also aims to enhance the value of research in meeting the needs of policy makers, and those who implement regulation, by sharing good practice in research management and dissemination.

At the 36 month stage, network activities are advancing according to the outline schedule set out in the Description of Work (DoW). Significant progress has been made in all four ongoing Work Packages, and value-added activities are being undertaken in the remaining Work Packages.

Two project Deliverables are presented in conjunction with this interim progress report:

- **Deliverable 4.2 – ‘Guidelines on better dissemination and implementation of research results’**

These guidelines represent a distillation of communications lessons learnt from SKEP Deliverable 4.1, ‘Current activities in the implementation of research’. The guidelines are presented in a slim-line document readily available for uptake by stakeholder organisations.

- **Deliverable 6.4 – ‘Report for the Paris workshop explaining the decisions and recommendations for future research’**

On the 28th - 29th February 2008, an international workshop was hosted by MEEDDAT and ADEME on the environmental opportunities and risks of converging technologies. This workshop followed on from the online questionnaire about environmental opportunities and risks of Nano-Bio-Info-Cogno (NBIC) convergence sent in late 2007 to a large panel of European experts, operational staff and stakeholders. This report on the workshop presents a series of research topic areas for future SKEP joint calls.

Some formal changes to the Description of Work are required at the 36 month stage of the ERA-NET (December 2007) in order to reflect the evolution of the project, and applications for the addition of new participants.

Successful project meetings have taken place for Work Package 1 (‘Management and Co-ordination’), and Work Package 5 (‘Plan and develop collaborative work areas’). These included the following:

Network Steering Committee (4th - 5th June, Warsaw, Poland))

Work Package Leaders meeting (30th April 2008, Stansted, UK)

Work Package 5 workshop, SKEP main joint call (29th - 30th April, Stansted, UK)

Call Steering Committee (CSC) meetings:

Joint Call 1 (JC1)

- 10th January 2008 (telecon), 19th February 2008 (telecon)

Joint Call 2 (JC2)

- 15th February 2008 (telecon)

Main Joint Call (JC3)

- 19th February 2008 (telecon), 21st February 2008 (telecon), 25th February 2008 (telecon), 26th March 2008 (telecon), 20th May 2008 (telecon)

SECTION 2 – WORK PACKAGE PROGRESS OF THE PERIOD

Work Package 1 – ‘ERA-NET management and co-ordination’

Start date: 0m; End date: 48m

Milestones and expected result	Status
M1.0 (0 month) Inception meeting	Completed (20 th -21 st June 2005) ✓

Progress report: *The management and co-ordination of the SKEP ERA-NET led by the Environment Agency (England and Wales) is progressing according to the Description of Work (Annex I).*

Main activities initiated by the co-ordination team (Environment Agency - England and Wales) months 30 – 36 included:

- A series of new communications products were created for the ‘Bridging the Gap’ conference including a set of four Work Package posters
- Please refer to Section 3, ‘Consortium Management’, for further details of co-ordination team activities

Work Package 2 – ‘Exchange of research programme information’

Start date: 0m; End date: 24m

Milestones and expected result	Status
M.2.1 (6m) – Workshop to review existing systems and finalise specifications for information tool and analysis.	Completed (5 th -6 th December 2005) ✓
M.2.2 (12m) – Information available on live web site.	Completed (30 th June 2006) ✓
M.2.3 (24m) – Portfolio analysis including the identification of areas for information sharing and collaboration to feed into other work packages.	Completed (30 th June 2006) ✓

Deliverables	Status
D.2.1 (12m) – Web-based information tool (linked to other EC tools)	Completed (30 th June 2006) ✓
D.2.2 (24m) – Portfolio analysis of research programmes.	Completed (30 th June 2007) ✓

Progress Report: *Work Package 2, being led by the Environment Agency (England and Wales) is progressing according to the Description of Work (Annex I).*

Core activities of Work Package 2 concluded in month 24 of the project. However, some additional value-added work is still being conducted where appropriate. Activities undertaken by the *Environment Agency for England and Wales* during months 30 - 36 have included:

- Input to a working group on. ‘User requirements for a central ERA-NET information system’ at the launch of the ERA-NET Learning Platform and NetWatch initiatives in Brussels on the 13th – 14th March 2008
- Acceptance of an article on the framework developed to classify, prioritise and analyse research for European environmental regulators to *European Environment: The Journal of European Environmental Policy*

Further information on the progress of SKEP Work Package 2 can be viewed at: <http://www.skep-era.net/site/81.asp>

Work Package 3 – ‘Best practise in research management’
Start date: 0m; End date: 24m

Milestones and expected result	Status
M.3.1 (5m) – A questionnaire is developed and tested.	Completed (August-November 2005) ✓
M.3.2 (12m) – End of analysis of good practice in programme management.	Completed (June 2006) ✓
M.3.3 (24m) – End of analyses of common evaluation procedures.	Completed (June 2007) ✓

Deliverables	Status
D.3.1 (12m) – A report on analysis of questionnaire results, interviews and workshop – Guidelines for good practice in programme management.	Completed (June 2006) ✓
D.3.2 (24m) – Guidelines on common evaluation procedures.	Completed (June 2007) ✓

Progress Report: *Work Package 3, being co-lead by the Finnish Ministry of Environment (FiMoE) and Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) is progressing according to the Description of Work (Annex I).*

Core activities of Work Package 3 concluded in month 24 of the project. However, some additional value-added work is still being conducted where appropriate. Activities undertaken by the *Finnish Ministry of Environment (FiMoE) and Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)* during months 30 - 36 have included:

- The publication of an own language version of SKEP Deliverable 3.2 in the Finnish journal *Tieteessä tapahtuu* ("Science now"), available online (<http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=84191&lan=en>). We plan to follow this up with publication in France, Germany and the UK later this year if possible.
- A poster and paper abstract was disseminated at the BtG event in May entitled ‘Evaluating supra-national research funding programmes to facilitate interfaces between science and policy’ by *E.Furman et al.*
- The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) are currently undertaking a study aimed at analysing the management challenges facing ERA-NETs in co-ordinating trans-national environmental research programmes. The aim is to build a mutual understanding on cost-effective, motivating and user-oriented management of ERA-NET joint calls.
- A SKEP network workshop will be held on the 8th - 9th October 2008 in Helsinki which will focus on an, ‘Analysis of management challenges for ERA-NETS’ Trans-National Research Programmes’.
- The Finnish Environment Insitute have conducted an evaluation of SKEP pilot joint call acitivities in order to derive ‘lessons learnt’ for our main joint call which will launch in January 2009.

Further information on the progress of Work Package 3 can be viewed at: <http://www.skep-era.net/site/79.asp>

Work Package 4 – ‘Dissemination and implementation of research’

Start date: 12m; End date: 36m

Milestones and expected result	Status
M.4.1 (18m) – A questionnaire is developed and tested.	Completed (01 June 2006) ✓
M.4.2 (36m) – The identification of topic of dissemination and implementation to feed into WP5	Completed (01 June 2008) ✓

Deliverables	Status
D.4.1 (24m) – A report on current activities in the dissemination, implementation and use of research is produced.	Completed (01 June 2007) ✓
D.4.2 (36m) – Guidelines for better dissemination and implementation of research for specific target groups.	Completed (01 June 2008) ✓

Progress report: *Work Package 4, being led by the Swedish Environment Protection Agency (SwEPA) is now working on Deliverable 4.2, the production of guidelines for better dissemination and implementation of research for specific target groups.*

Main activities initiated by the Swedish Environment Protection Agency (SwEPA) during months 30 - 36:

- The submission of SKEP Deliverable 4.2;
- The sponsorship of a café session entitled, ‘*What moves use to action?*’ at the May 2008 Bridging the Gap conference, ‘*Responding to environmental change – from words to deeds*’).
- Participated in the Public Communication of Science and Technology conference on the 26th of June (<http://www.vr.se/2.4b3ca0f810bf51c922780001904.html>) presenting both the report and guidelines for D4.1 and D4.2.

Further details of SKEP Work Package 4 can be accessed at: <http://www.skep-era.net/site/82.asp>

Work Package 5 – ‘Plan and develop collaborative work areas’

Start date: 18m; End date: 45m

Milestones and expected result	Status
M.5.1 (18m) – Workshop to identify participants and thematic issues for pilot joint call	Completed (12 th December 2006) ✓
M.5.2 (24m) – Launch a small-scale project or test joint call for proposals	Completed (21 st June 2007) ✓
M.5.3 (36m) – Identification of participants and thematic issues for main joint call	Completed (1 st June 2007) ✓
M.5.4 (45m) – Launch main joint call for proposals	On time

Deliverables	Status
D.5.1 (18m) – List of projects for small-scale pilot or test joint call for proposals	Completed (21 st December 2006) ✓
D.5.2 (30m) – Action plan for joint call including list of projects for main joint call for proposals	Completed (1 st December 2007) ✓
D.5.3 (48m) – Report reviewing experience of joint calls for proposals	On time

Progress report: *Work Package 5 is being lead by the Irish Environment Protection Agency (IEPA). On the 24th October 2006 Jon Greaves, from the Environment Agency for England and Wales was seconded to IEPA in order to assist with Work Package 5 activities.*

Main activities initiated by the *Irish Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)* during months 30 - 36:

1st Pilot Joint Call – ‘Sustainable Consumption and Production’

The first SKEP pilot call was launched on the 21st June 2007 using a virtual common pot approach. Nine SKEP participants contributed funds to this joint call, pooling funds in excess of €500k. The pilot call concentrated on two topic areas within the sphere of sustainable consumption and production:

- (i) ‘A review of environmental accounting approaches associated with the consumption of imported goods and services’
- (ii) ‘An assessment of the interplay between environmental regulation and market forces with respect to the building and construction industry’.

Three projects have been funded as a result through the SKEP network. These are:

1. *‘Developing a methodology for the assessment of global environmental impacts of traded goods and services’* - Topic (i)

Consortium leader: Stockholm Environment Insitute, UK

Consortium partners: Sustainable Europe Research Institute, Austria
Environmental Assessment Agency, Netherlands
Environmental Accounting Group, Statistics Sweden

Grant funding received: €196,166 (€205,062 with matched-funding)

2. *‘Environmental accounting of imported goods and services: towards an integrated approach. IMEA: ‘Imports Environmental Accounting’* - Topic (i)

Consortium leader: Ecole Nationale Superieure des Mines de Paris, France

Consortium partners: Institute for Social Ecology, Austria
Organisation for Applied Scientific Research, Netherlands
Thule Insitute, University of Oulu, Finland
Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek, Flanders

Grant funding received: €130,852 (€149,507 with matched-funding)

3. *‘Environmental regulation and market-forces providing incentives for resource-efficiency’*- Topic (ii)

Consortium leader: Centre for the Development of Product Sustainability, Italy

Consortium partners: Department of Science, Technology and Society,
Copernicus Insitute, Netherlands
Orgnaisation for Applied Scientific Research, Netherlands
Regional Animation Centre on Advanced Materials, France

Grant funding received: €149,507 (€199,180 with matched-funding)

The total grants awarded for the first pilot joint call equated to €553,749 with matched-funding. All of these projects have now completed the signing of contracts and consortium agreements, and kick-off meetings have been held. Regular updates of progress will be made via the SKEP network website.

2nd Pilot Joint Call – ‘Improving science into policy processes’

The second SKEP pilot call was launched in January 2008, using a **true common pot** approach. Six SKEP participants contributed funds to this joint call, pooling funds in excess of €300k. This second pilot call will concentrate on two topic areas within the area of science-into-policy processes:

- (i) 'An assessment of current approaches towards the evaluation of the uptake, and impact of , research projects and programmes by environmental policy makers'
- (ii) 'An assessment of lessons learnt in the communication and dissemination of emerging scientific issues to environmental policy makers'

The call was advertised through the OJEU and has now passed through the pre-qualification phase. The remaining candidates have now been asked to tender. A separate working group, chaired by SYKE, has been created which will evaluate these pilot joint call activities. Thus allowing lessons learnt to influence the planning and co-ordination of the main SKEP call.

Main SKEP Call – 'Opportunities and impacts of emerging technologies for environmental regulation'

The main SKEP joint call is planned for launch in January 2009. After an online debate concerning the structure of the main call, and a series of preparatory telecons, a workshop was held at Stansted airport on the 29th – 30th April 2008 to agree the fundamental nature of the call itself.

The outline structure of the main call will be reflected by the following:

I. Review of regulatory opportunities

A review of converging (NBIC) technology developments, identifying potential opportunities, risks and trade-offs for environmental regulators with reference to roadmaps and life-cycle analysis. The focus should be on 'green technologies', in terms of, 'green production', 'remediation', and 'ambient intelligence' (including environmental sensors)

II. Sustainability of legal frameworks

An assessment of the sustainability of the existing regulatory framework for the use and development of converging technologies. What are the challenges and problems, with reference to case studies, arising from the implementation of inter-linking pieces of European environmental legislation?

III. Response management

An assessment of new regulatory approaches which could be adopted by EU Member States to promote and manage emerging technologies in order to solve environmental problems. What would be the predicted outcomes when compared with interventions using existing technologies and low-technology solutions?

IV. Communication and public engagement

An evaluation of the effectiveness of different communication strategies for providing environmental information for public consumers of converging technologies. What lessons can be learnt from past experiences, with reference to societal impacts, consumer demand and public involvement?

This work will be focused on three themes:

- (i) Impacts on environmental limits
- (ii) Waste impacts
- (iii) Human health impacts

There are currently 11 funding partners for this joint call, and call funds are currently in excess of 2,000,000 Euros.

Further details of SKEP joint call activities are available on the network website at:
<http://www.skep-era.net/site/61.asp>

Work Package 6 – ‘Investigate emerging issues for future research planning’
Start date: 12m; End date: 36m

Milestones and expected result	Status
M.6.1 (24m) – Identification of current horizon scanning and identification of one emerging issue to be investigated	Completed (15 th July 2007) ✓

Deliverables	Status
D.6.1 (18m) – Report on current practices for research planning and ‘horizon scanning’ in Member States	Completed (20 th December 2006) ✓
D.6.2 (24m) – Completed literature review of one issue to be investigated	Completed (15 th July 2007) ✓
D.6.3 (30m) – Summary of perceptions and science needs of policy makers and operational staff based on questionnaire results for the selected issue	Completed (15 th February 2008)
D.6.4 (36m) – Report on the workshop explaining the decisions and recommendations for future research, and preparing ideas for future joint calls	Nearing completion (15 th July 2008)

Progress report: *Work Package 6 is being co-led by the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning (MEEDDAT) and the French Agency of the Environment and Energy Control (ADEME). This work package is progressing according to the Description of Work (Annex I).*

The main activities initiated by MEEDDAT and ADEME between months 30 – 36 have included the following:

MEEDDAT and ADEME completed Deliverable 6.3 (a summary of questionnaire for policy and operational staff to gauge their perceptions, information and science needs in relation to converging technologies) in February 2008. The questionnaire was sent to 748 experts and 157 responses were received.

This report formed the prelude and backdrop to an international workshop hosted by MEEDDAT and ADEME entitled, ‘*Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Information technology and Cognitive sciences: environmental opportunities and risks of converging technologies*’, which took place on the 28th – 29th February 2008 at the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris. A full report on this workshop, explaining decisions made and recommendations for future research, will be produced shortly as part of Deliverable 6.4.

SKEP Work Package 6 was well represented at the recent ‘Bridging the Gap’ conference. A poster was presented which outlined the environmental risks and opportunities of converging technologies. In addition, the SKEP network sponsored a café session on the first day of the conference which concentrated on research foresight. In particular, how uncertainties and possible surprises/tipping points influence long-term research needs for environmental protection and sustainable development.

Further information on the progress of SKEP Work Package 6 can be viewed at:
<http://www.skep-era.net/site/80.asp>

SECTION 3 – CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT

A. Consortium management tasks

There have been no substantive problems experienced in the management of the consortium over the first 36 months of the project. Issues arising can generally be partitioned into the following areas:

1. The termination of participant organisations

Two Polish participants will terminate their participation in the project subject to European Commission approval of contract change application this summer to be replaced by one new organisation:

- a. Polish Participant 11, *Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego*, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MSHE) will terminate its participation from 1st March 2008.
- b. Polish Participant 12, *Instytut Ochrony Środowiska*, the Institute of Environmental Protection (IEP) will terminate its participation from 1st July 2008.

2. The inclusion of new participating organisations

One new organisation, Polish *Narodowe Centrum Badan i Rozwoju*, the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR) will become a full participant (participant 18) in the network on the 1st of March 2008 replacing previous participants 11 (MSHE) from 1st March 2008 and 12 (IEP) from 1st July 2008, subject to European Commission approval of contract change application this summer.

3. Changes in the nature of consortium participants

One organisation, Participant 5 has undergone a change of name, over the last 6 months. Previously *Ministère de l'Ecologie, du Développement et de l'Aménagement Durables*, the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning (MEDAD) changed name to *Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement Durable et de l'Aménagement du Territoire*, the Ministry of ecology, energy, sustainable development and spatial planning (MEEDDAT) from 18th March 2008.

4. Contract/Description of Work changes

Having completed our first set of contract changes in April 2007 the Coordination team submitted a 2nd request for changes to the contract in October 2007 through a formal letter, forms A2 and B, updated Annex I, Description of Work and Contract Preparation Forms (CPFs). The changes included a name change for Participant 5 (MEDAD) and the inclusion of two new participants, Participants 16, the German Federal Environment Agency / *Umweltbundesamt* (UBA) and 17, the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research – National Authority for Scientific Research / *Ministerul Educatiei si Cercetarii – Autoritatea Nationala pentru Cercetare Stiintifica* (ANCS). Commission approval of this change was received on the 21st December 2007.

We plan to apply for a 3rd amendment to the contract/Description of Work in the next few months to include the various changes to participants in the past 6 months described above:

- a. Change in organisation name for Participant 5, previously, *Ministère de l'Ecologie, du Développement et de l'Aménagement Durables*, the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning (MEDAD) changed name to *Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement Durable et de l'Aménagement du Territoire*, the Ministry of ecology, energy, sustainable development and spatial planning (MEEDDAT) from 18th March 2008
- b. Termination of Polish Participant 11 in this contract. *Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego*, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MSHE) will terminate its participation from 1st March 2008. To be replaced by a new Polish participant, participant 18, NCBiR.
- c. Termination of Polish Participant 12 in this contract. *Instytut Ochrony Środowiska*, The Institute of Environmental Protection (IEP) will terminate its participation from 1st July 2008. .
- d. Inclusion of new Polish participant 18, *Narodowe Centrum Badan i Rozwoju*, the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR) established by legal act of 15 June 2007 to replace participant 11 (MSHE) from 1st March 2008

We plan to formally write to the Commission to request these changes in the next few months following formal participant approval of this and other changes currently being discussed. There is currently ongoing discussion within the network regarding whether the ERA-NET should make a formal application for a 12 month extension to its FP6 contract in order to risk manage the main call, which is due to launch in month 42 of the project.

5. The inclusion of 3rd Parties

No further 3rd party arrangements are foreseen at this time.

B. Sub-contractors

There have been no changes in sub-contracting since the previous (30m - 36m) report to the Commission.

D. Co-operation with other projects/programmes:

The SKEP project has co-operated in months 30 - 36 with the following initiatives:

- The UK Environmental Research Funders Forum (ERFF) and Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) – continuing progress meetings with this domestic analogue of the SKEP project.
- Other ERA-NETS - links have been made to share experience and expertise of the ERA-NET scheme and to discuss opportunities for co-operative working between ERA-NETS. This includes SUSPRISE (SuStrat) and IWRM (Water.net)

Section 4 – Other issues

No other issues are foreseen at this time.

ANNEX

Annex 1: Use and dissemination

A. Publications

Between month 30 and month 36 of the project, a number of publications and articles have been produced. A proportion of which have been additionally disseminated via our project website at <http://www.skep-era.net>

Date	Type	Type of audience	Countries addressed/size of audience	Partner involved/responsible	Venue	Description
April 2008	Brochure	RE	Environmental ERA-NETs, European Commission	SYKE	Helsinki	A brochure publicising the forthcoming SKEP workshop concerning an, ' <i>Analysis of management challenges for ERA-NET's trans-national research programmes</i> '
March 2008	Paper	PU	External stakeholders, wider scientific community	SYKE	Not applicable	The publication of an own language version of SKEP Deliverable 3.2 in the Finnish journal <i>Tieteessä tapahtuu</i> ("Science now"), available online (http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=84191&lan=en).
May 2008	Poster	PU	External Stakeholders, European Commission, EEA (300 people)	EA	'Bridging the Gap' 2008, Slovenia	An overview of SKEP Work Package 2 activities, entitled, ' <i>Building a common pan-European understanding of current and future research priorities and opportunities</i> '.
May 2008	Poster	PU	External Stakeholders, European Commission, EEA (300 people)	SYKE, EA	'Bridging the Gap' 2008, Slovenia	An overview of SKEP Work Package 3 activities, entitled, ' <i>Evaluating supra-national research funding programmes to facilitate interfaces between science and policy</i> '
May 2008	Poster	PU	External Stakeholders, European Commission, EEA (300 people)	IEPA, EA	'Bridging the Gap' 2008, Slovenia	An overview of SKEP Work Package 5 activities, entitled, ' <i>Developing a pan-European research programme to support modern regulation</i> '

May 2008	Poster	PU	External Stakeholders, European Commission, EEA (300 people)	MEEDDAT, ADEME, EA	'Bridging the Gap' 2008, Slovenia	An overview of SKEP Work Package 6 activities, entitled, 'Environmental opportunities and risks of converging technologies'
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In addition to the publications cited above, two SKEP work package deliverables were produced in the last 6 month period of the project. These reports have been disseminated on the SKEP ERA-NET website. These are:

- **Deliverable 5.2 – 'An action plan for the joint call, including a list of projects for main joint call for proposals'**

A report produced by Dr Shane Colgan of the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), outlining a timeline and action plan for the co-ordination of the main SKEP joint call in 2009, and a provisional list of topic areas for this research call.

- **Deliverable 6.3 – 'Summary of perceptions and science needs of policy makers and operational staff based on questionnaire results for the selected issue'**

A report produced by the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Land Use (MEDAD) and the Agency of the Environment and Energy Control (ADEME), which reviewed the questionnaire responses on the environmental opportunities and risks of NBIC convergence sent to a large panel of European experts, operational staff and stakeholders. The analysis of responses will be used during the forthcoming WP6 workshop in February 2009.

B. Presentations and meetings

Between month 30 and month 36 of the project, a number of representations at meetings, and presentations on the aims and objectives of SKEP were delivered:

Date	Type	Type of audience	Countries addressed/ size of audience	Partner involved/ responsible	Venue	Description
22 nd January 2008	Meeting	RE	Environment Agency Science Department (200 people)	EA	Birmingham, UK	Environment Agency 'Celebrate Science' meeting.
23 rd – 25 th January 2008	Presentation	RE	Environment ERA-NETs, European Commission (10 people)	EA	Brussels, Belgium	Presentation of SKEP science-policy work and data analysis.

6th – 7th February 2008	Presentation	RE	EU Member States, European Commission, UNESCO (300 people)	EA, IEPA	Dublin, Ireland	Presentation of the work of the SKEP network at the launch of the Irish EPA's STRIVE research programme
11th February 2008	Meeting	RE	US EPA (2 people)	EA	Oxford, UK	Discussions with the USEPA on interest in the SKEP main call.
13th February 2008	Meeting	RE	Politicians and scientific commentators (15 people)	EA	Oxford, UK	Workshop on 'A new look at the interaction of scientific models and policy-making', James Martin Institute, University of Oxford. Chaired by Sir Crispin Tickell.
19th February 2008	Presentation	RE	Modern Regulation Policy Managers	EA	Bristol, UK	Presentation of the work of the SKEP network.
25th February 2008	Presentation	RE	Water Quality Policy Managers	EA	Bristol, UK	Presentation of the work of the SKEP network.
4th-5th March 2008	Conference	RE	Science and Policy Managers, DEFRA, IGER (100 people)	EA	Bath, UK	SKEP representation at an 'Integrating Water and Agricultural Management' (IWAM) conference.
6th – 7th March 2008	Meeting	RE	BMBF, UBA, EA staff (8 people)	EA	Bonn, Germany	Discussions on ERA-NET roadmap
13th – 14th March 2008	Meeting	RE	European Commission, ERA-NETs (300 people)	EA	Brussels, Belgium	SKEP representation at the launch of the ERA-NET Learning Platform and NetWATCH initiatives.
17th March 2008	Presentation	RE	DEFRA policy managers	EA	London, UK	Presentation of the work of the SKEP network.
28th April 2008	Meeting	RE	JRC-IPTS, Seville	EA	Bristol, UK	Meeting with Susanna Elena-Perez to discuss architecture for the NetWATCH system.

14 th – 16 th May 2008	Confernece	PU	External Stakeholders , European Commission, EEA (300 people)	EA, SYKE, IEPA, Fg-ENED, RCN, BELSPO, SwEPA, FiMoE	'Bridging the Gap' 2008, Slovenia	SKEP participation at the 4 th 'Bridging the Gap' conference in Slovenia.
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C. SKEP ERA-NET Website

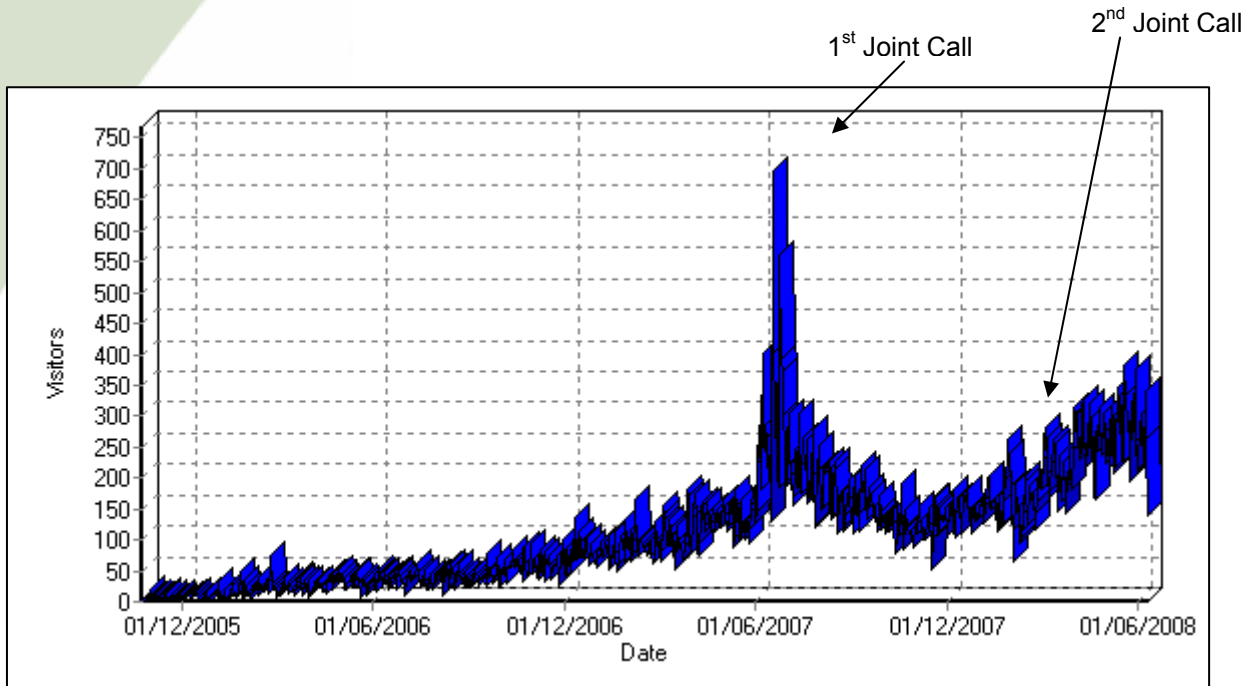
The project website (www.skep-era.net) launched in October 2005 has continued development during months 30-36 of the project to increase the amount of information included and therefore its role as a communication tool. This developmental work has focused in particular on the expansion of content for the planning of joint call activities.

The SKEP ERA-NET project website was launched on the 31st of October 2005. During this time, significant increases have been seen in the number of new visitors to the site (see summary table below). Between months 30 and 36 of the project, an increase of 22% in total visitors (compared to the previous reporting period), and of 17% in unique IPs was registered. These figures follow a large jump recorded in the previous reporting period (months 24-36).

Summary

Time range	1 st December 2007 to 1 st June 2008 (last 6 month reporting period)	31 st October 2005 to June 2008
Project duration	Month 30 to Month 36 (% change from the previous 6 month reporting period)	Website launch to present
Hits		
Total Hits	271,235 (-10.1%)	2,282,283
Average Hits per Day	1,405 (-14.3%)	2,374
Average Hits per Visitor	6.80 (-29.2%)	21.96
Page Views		
Total Page Views	98,130 (+15.9%)	346,083
Average Page Views per Day	508 (+8.3%)	360
Average Page Views per Visitor	2.46 (-5.0%)	3.33
Visitors		
Total Visitors	39,916 (+22.1%)	103,930
Average Visitors per Day	206 (+16.4%)	108
Total Unique IPs	9,620 (+17.2%)	21,994

Graph of the increase in project website usage from launch until the present, including the launch of the first SKEP joint call in June 2007, and the second SKEP joint call on February 2008.



ANNEX 2: MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES

Milestones list for the SKEP ERA-NET

Month	Milestone Delivery	Milestone No.	Status
0m	Inception meeting	M.1.0	Completed
5m	A questionnaire is developed and tested to analyse good practice in programme management	M.3.1	Completed
6m	Workshop is held to review existing systems and finalise specifications for information tool and analysis.	M.2.1	Completed
12m	Information tool available on live SKEP web site.	M.2.2	Completed
12m	Analysis of good practice in programme management is completed	M.3.2	Completed
18m	Analysis of common evaluation procedures is completed	M.4.1	Completed
18m	Workshop to identify participants and thematic issues for pilot joint call	M.5.1	Completed
24m	Portfolio analysis including the identification of areas for information sharing and collaboration is completed	M.2.3	Completed
24m	Analysis of common evaluation procedures is completed	M.3.3	Completed
24m	Identification of current horizon scanning and identification of one emerging issue is completed and feeds into WP5	M 6.1	Completed
24m	A small-scale pilot or test joint call for proposals is launched	M.5.2	Completed
36m	The topic of dissemination and implementation feeds into WP5	M.4.2	Completed
36m	Identification of participants and thematic issues for main joint call is completed	M.5.3	Completed
45m	Launch main joint call for proposals	M 5.4	

1.2 Deliverables list for the SKEP ERA-NET

Deliverable No. ¹	Deliverable Title	Nature ²	Dissemination Level ³	Actual Date Due ⁴	Date submitted/ comments
D2.1	Web-based information tool.	O	PU	12	Completed
D2.2	Portfolio analysis of research programmes	R	PU	24	Completed
D3.1	Guidelines for good practice in programme management	R	PU	12	Completed
D3.2	Guidelines for common evaluation procedures	R	PU	24	Completed
D4.1	A report on current activities in the implementation of research	R	PU	24	Completed
D4.2	Guidelines on better dissemination and implementation of research results	R	PU	36	Completed
D5.1	List of projects for small-scale joint call	R	PU	18	Completed
D5.2	Action plan for joint call including list of projects for main joint call calls	R	PU	30	Completed
D5.3	Report reviewing experience of joint calls	R	PU	48	
D6.1	Report on current practices for research planning and 'horizon-scanning' in member states	R	PU	18	Completed
D6.2	Completed literature review of one issue for investigation	R	PU	24	Completed
D6.3	Summary of questionnaire for policy and operational staff to gauge their perceptions, information and science needs	R	PU	30	Completed
D6.4	Report for the workshop explaining the decisions and recommendations for future research	R	RU	36	Nearing completion

Key

¹ Deliverable number in order of delivery dates: D1-Dn

² Nature of the deliverable indicated using one of the following codes:

R = Report; P = Prototype; D = Demonstrator; O = Other

³ Dissemination level indicated using one of the following codes:

PU = Public; PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services);

RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services);

CO = Confidential, only for participants of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

⁴ Month in which the deliverables will be available. Month 0 marking the start of the project, and all delivery dates being relative to this start date.