



European Forum of Psychomotricity

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION POLICY, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES TO  
EUROPEAN RESEARCH**

**AND**

**PROJECT TO ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING FOR  
THE SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COMMISSION OF THE EFP**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Science and Research Commission of the European Forum of Psychomotricity has been designed to identify, build, increase, strengthen, and sustain the psychomotor research development of institutions and organizations in Europe. It is part of an integrated approach developed by the EFP to conduct the search of identity and proximity between the agents that are concerned with the scientific and professional development of psychomotricity in Europe. This document intends to be a proposition to build a research infrastructure and a capacity program to organize the development of European research in the psychomotor domain. This document was designed having in consideration a synthesis from different propositions of other research entities, and also the main goals proposed by the Executive Committee of the EFP, to this domain of activity.

In the first part of this document, the Commission of Science and Research of the EFP, will present some guidelines and principles of development to European research, elaborated by the European Research Commission, of the European Community, and in the second part, it will present the specific project of this EFP commission to the organization and development planning, of European research in the psychomotor scientific domain.



### **2. EUROPEAN COMMISSION POLICY, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES TO EUROPEAN RESEARCH**

#### **2.1. Why European Research?**

European Research, and more specifically the creation of a European Research Area, is now high on the policy agenda in Europe. What are the roots of this debate?

Conducting European research policies and implementing European research programmes is in the first instance a legal and political obligation resulting from the Amsterdam Treaty. The Treaty does in fact include a whole chapter on research and technological development (RTD), so as to underline that RTD is an essential element in the functioning of industrialised countries, such as EU Member States: the competitiveness of companies and the employment they can provide depend to a great extent on RTD; and RTD is also essential for the support of other policies such as consumer protection or the protection of the environment. In short: the individual and collective wellbeing of citizens depends on the quality and relevance of RTD. But Europe must also play an active role in RTD because of a number of developments inherent to the RTD sector itself:

- High-level research is increasingly complex and interdisciplinary;
- High-level research is increasingly costly;
- High-level research requests a constantly increasing "critical mass".

Hardly any research team or research laboratory, hardly any company can reasonably claim to be able to respond to these challenges. Even entire Member States find it increasingly difficult to be active and play a leading role in the many important areas of scientific and technological advance.

Organising co-operation at different levels, co-ordinating national or European policies, networking teams and increasing the mobility of individuals and ideas is therefore a requirement resulting from the development of modern research in a global environment. Without determined actions at European level the present fragmentation of Europe's efforts cannot be overcome.



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Taking up this challenge the European Commission, Member States and the European Parliament, the scientific community and industry are now committed to work jointly towards the creation of a "European Research Area" (ERA).

A series of initiatives aimed at making the ERA become a reality have already been launched - including the proposal for a new "framework programme for Research and Technological Development 2002-2006" which the European Commission has tabled in February 2001. The new framework programme will be an important tool in support of the ERA, alongside national efforts and other European co-operative research activities. The framework programme will support co-operative research, promote mobility and co-ordination and invest into mobilising research in support of other EU policies.

### **2.2.The future of research in Europe: the commission submits its guidelines for community research for the period 2002-2006**

The EU's framework programme for Research and Technological Development is a major tool to support the creation of the European Research Area (ERA).

The European Commission has just put forward its proposal for the framework programme (FP) to cover the period 2002 - 2006. The FP proposal is a deliberate break with past Fps with regard to ambition, scope and instruments to be used in its implementation. The aim is to achieve greater focus on questions of European importance and a better integration of research efforts on the basis of an improved partnership between the various actors in the European research area. It reflects the result of intense preparatory consultation with the scientific and industrial communities and with public authorities at different levels.

On a proposal from [Philippe Busquin](#), the Commission has adopted an important Communication for the future of research in Europe. It sets out guidelines for implementing the "[European Research Area](#)" initiative, and more particularly the Research Framework Programme. "This Communication is a further step on the path to creating a genuine European Research Area. The next Research Framework Programme will need to be thoroughly revamped in order to make a major contribution towards achieving it," said Philippe Busquin, adding, "in Lisbon the Heads of Government affirmed the leading role of



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research in the knowledge-based society and for the competitiveness of industry in Europe. With this proposal, the Commission has started the process of making a reality of this Area.

The Commission is proposing a radical change of approach for the next Framework Programme, based on the following principles:

- Focusing on areas where Community action can provide the greatest possible "European added value" compared with national action
- Closer partnership with the Member States, research institutes and companies in Europe by networking the main stakeholders
- Greater efficiency by channelling resources to bigger projects of longer duration.

The Commission's proposals take account of the results of the evaluation of the previous Framework Programmes carried out by an Independent Expert Panel. In concrete terms, arrangements of the following types are proposed:

- Networking of national research programs through support for the mutual opening-up of programs and EU participation in programs carried out in a coordinated fashion;
- Creation of European networks of excellence by networking existing capacities in the Member States around "joint programs of activities";
- Carrying out large targeted research programs conducted by consort of companies, universities and research centers on the basis of overall financing plans;
- Greater backing for regional and national efforts in support of innovation and research conducted by SMEs;
- More diversified action in support of research infrastructures of European interest;
- Increase in and diversification of mobility grants not only for EU researchers but also for researchers from third countries. Measures in respect of human resources in research are proposed, including the "Women and Science" Action Plan;



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- Action to strengthen the social dimension of science, in particular in matters concerning ethics, public awareness of science and giving young people a taste for science.

These new types of intervention entail new management methods to increase the size of projects and simplify procedures. The Commission is not at this stage proposing priorities for research in Europe. These will be set on the basis of criteria proposed in the guidelines paper after wide-ranging consultation with research stakeholders in Europe.

On the basis of the various consultations that will be held, the Commission has submitted in Brussels, 21 February 2001, formal proposals to the Council and Parliament concerning the framework programme.

### **2.3. New framework program for research and innovation in Europe**

Proposals for a new research and innovation framework programme for the European Union have been presented by the European Commission, on the initiative of Research Commissioner [Philippe Busquin](#). The research and innovation programme is part of a wider political initiative aiming at creating a [European Research Area](#), as endorsed by the Lisbon Summit in March 2000. The new programme is one of the major actions in the strategy paper the Commission has put forward for the Stockholm Summit on 23-24 March.

As outlined in the European Research Area initiative, research in Europe's universities and businesses is currently hampered by a number of constraints: projects often do not have enough critical mass to compete on a world-wide scale; research efforts are fragmented; and Europe is still not attracting excellent scientists back to work here. The new programme would address these problems by:

- Concentrating funding on a limited number of key priorities for Europe;
- Helping research teams work more closely together in networks;
- Improving the mobility of researchers and the attractiveness of Europe as a home for world-class research.



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Special emphasis is given to initiatives helping to open up European research to the rest of the world. Seven key emerging technologies and research priorities are proposed:

- Genomics and biotechnology for health;
- Information society technologies;
- Nanotechnologies, intelligent materials, new production methods;
- Aeronautics and space;
- Food safety and health risks;
- Sustainable development and global change;
- Citizens and governance in European society;

In addition to these priorities, special measures are proposed for, innovation, mobility of researchers and the networking of national initiatives. On innovation, the whole thrust of the new programme is designed to help businesses and researchers exploit the results of research and help translate these into new investment and jobs. Special measures include help in fields such as intellectual property rights, access to risk capital and finding partners in other Member States.

The highly successful mobility programme will be doubled in size. The objective is to improve mobility of researchers within Europe as well as to make Europe more attractive for world-class researchers.

In order to strengthen the base of the European Research Area, new measures are proposed to help national authorities open up their own programmes to researchers from other countries, as well as to pool their own programmes together with those of other Member States to achieve a greater impact. The Commission will also seek to work more closely with a range of international research centres and organisations.

The priorities proposed for support have been chosen following a wide public consultation (see the Europe web-site at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/area.html>). The final decision on the new programme lies jointly with the Council and the European Parliament.





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The Commission is proposing to streamline the administration and management of the programme by proposing new methods of funding such as integrated projects, and networks of excellence. The Commission is also proposing to encourage for the first time the use of an instrument (under Article 169 of the Treaty), which would allow participation of the Union in national programmes of Member States carried out jointly. In the new integrated projects and networks, Framework Programme participants will be encouraged to propose longer-term programmes of activities. These can be tailor-made to cover a range of individual projects of variable size as required. They can also be adjusted during implementation to meet new research opportunities and needs.

### **2.4. Open debate on information and knowledge society**

The Council had an open debate on the information and knowledge society. This debate was transmitted to the public at large by a video link. The debate was held in the light of two Communications by the Commission, « Towards a European Research Area » and « E-Europe-an information society for all. In order to structure the debate, the Presidency had prepared a questionnaire for the Ministers to discuss which focused on:

- The targets set by the Commission in its eEurope communication in the field of RTD, and in particular on,
- The role of information and communication technologies for the realisation of the European Research Area,
- The priorities for action in the short to medium-term in order to achieve the objectives set out in the two Commission communications,
- The interrelation between national and Community efforts in this area
- The ways in which the eEurope and ERA initiatives could best be exploited to ensure effective networking of European researchers;
- The creation, by the end of 2001, of a high-speed transeuropean network linking research institutions, universities, libraries, scientific centres and, progressively, schools;



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- To what extent electronic networks can be used to achieve the goals of making science more attractive to young people, bridging the "skills gap" and creating an information and knowledge society for all, thus preventing exclusion;
- The Commission's proposed eEurope action plan aimed at ensuring the achievement of the targets set by the Lisbon Summit by defining the actions and measures to be taken.

### **2.5. Resolution "future of European research" adopted at the 2272nd council meeting research - Luxembourg, 15 June 2000**

The Council proceeded to an in-depth debate on the European Research Area (ERA). This debate was held in the light of the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council of 23/24 March 2000, the Commission Communication on ERA as well as of a Commission document entitled "First steps towards a European Research Area". The Ministers warmly welcomed the Commission's initiatives in this respect and the plans, which were outlined by Commissioner BUSQUIN on how the Commission intends to bring the work forward, with particular regard to the preliminary work on the 6th RTD Framework Programme.

Following the debate, the Council adopted the following Resolution: "The Council of the European Union:

- EMPHASISES the significant role played by research and development in generating economic growth, employment and social cohesion,
- RECALLS the objectives set out in the Commission's communication "Towards a European Research Area" and the implementation measures outlined in "First Steps towards a European Research Area",

### **2.6. Research infrastructures in the life sciences**

The Council was informed by the Presidency of problems facing certain research infrastructures in the life sciences field. In the course of the ensuing debate, attention was drawn to the fast development of life sciences and the important role of



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genomics and bioinformatics for the understanding of life systems and the contribution to human welfare, through the applications of scientific progress to medicine and the pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries, as well as to the central role that large infrastructural facilities play in the scientific and technological progress in this area.

In the light of discussions, the Presidency concluded by: underlining the importance of genomic research infrastructures which generate European added value in research and are dedicated structures to serve research at large in the European Union; emphasising the desirability of improving the European-wide consistency and complementarity of these infrastructures and their competitiveness at world level; noting that the financial difficulties currently being faced by these infrastructures illustrate how important it is, in the framework of the European Research Area, that the Member States and the Commission, possibly involving the European Investment Bank, seek jointly to develop a long-term strategy for coordinating support for key research infrastructures at the European level; and invited the Commission in the short term to explore possible solutions to the current problems, consistent with the decisions taken on the Fifth Framework Programme and on the "Quality of Life" Specific Programme, so as to enable the Council to re-examine this question in greater depth at its next meeting.



## **3. PROJECT TO ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING FOR THE SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COMMISSION OF THE EFP**

### **3.1. Overview**

The research planning should benefit from thoughtful management practices specifically tailored to enhance relevance, importance, scientific quality, coordination, participation, flexibility, productivity, and communication.

This Plan already has addressed such elements of management improvement as using appropriate modes of participatory research, expanding dissemination and utilization of research, and enhancing capacity building. This section of the Plan focuses on several additional management strategies.

### **3.2. Management Strategies**

The Commission will employ a number of management strategies in support of its agenda. Among these are:

- Emphasis on Centers of Excellence;
- Enhanced coordination of European research;
- Improved program evaluation and performance review;
- Enhanced peer review process;
- Increased collaboration, including interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research; creative funding mechanisms;
- Innovative strategies to manage intellectual property; expanded use of information technology;
- The reallocation of resources;
- Continuous participatory planning.

### **3.3. Centers of Excellence**

The Commission is committed to regenerating a network of Centers of Excellence, in the prophylactic, reeducative, therapeutic and rehabilitation Psychomotricity research domains. The term "Center of Excellence" is used widely in research and may indicate either a judgment or an aspiration.



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The Commission believes that psychomotor scientific domain deserves centers of Excellence and should apply standards and procedures to ensure that all research, dissemination, technical assistance, and model service centers will develop and adhere to standards for centers of Excellence. These standards should include items of research administration, balance of activities, synergy, accountability, coordinated programs, and capacity to improve rehabilitation.

The concept of Center of Excellence must be related with a Program Review process, responsible for the identification and development of the criteria needed to set up and operate Centers of Excellence. Essential criteria for excellence are described below.

### **3.4. Excellence in Administration**

- Support from an appropriate host institution.
- Appropriate process for research management and quality control.
- Ability to leverage resources and attract funding from other sources.
- Involvement of multiple disciplines.
- Outcomes-oriented evaluation.
- Protection of human subjects.

### **3.5. Excellence in Scientific Research**

- Expertise in and contribution to state-of-the-art research.
- Application of appropriate and rigorous scientific methods, whether quantitative or qualitative.
- Advancement of theory and knowledge base in the field.
- Expansion of research tools and methods.
- Professional recognition and publication.
- Outstanding investigators.

### **3.6. Excellence in Relevance and Productivity**

- Responsiveness to priority.



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- Utility to consumers.
- Development of knowledge to improve rehabilitation.
- Systematic dissemination of knowledge in relevant and accessible formats.
- Involvement of individuals with disabilities in all phases of the research process.

### **3.7. Excellence in Capacity-Building**

- Provision of advanced research training for staff.
- Provision of training to service providers on using results of research efforts.
- Provision of training to consumers in the uses of research.
- Infusion of Psychomotor scientific knowledge into other research areas.

### **3.8. Enhancing Coordination of European Research**

The Commission recognized the importance of coordination among the range of Centers or Academic Institutions in the area of psychomotor research. To identify and seek to coordinate all European plans and research projects, the Commission proposes a set of objectives and some specific operating procedures, with the following objectives:

- To avoid duplication of efforts in psychomotor research;
- To identify gaps in research;
- To identify opportunities for research collaboration;
- To develop mechanisms for and facilitation of disability research collaboration;
- To promote synergy through combined resources;
- To share information and research findings in order to build a more systematic and cohesive European effort;
- To comprise an identifiable entity that can disperse information to consumers, the private sector, policymakers, and the public about decisions taken by the European Community.
- To assist in developing a responsive and relevant European infrastructure for psychomotor research.

Coordination of related activities and programs is an on-going challenge. The scope of psychomotricity suggests that many diverse agents will be involved in providing services and



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conducting research on issues of relevance. This is both inevitable and desirable. Potential benefits of effective coordination of these diverse entities include opportunities to:

- Address a common problem with a critical mass of resources;
- Avoid unintended and wasteful duplication;
- Exchange information in a system that increases all parties' awareness of issues; support complementary and synergistic research;
- Leverage resources or provide joint funding of research;
- Develop a level of informed policymaking and leadership for the field.

The European Forum of Psychomotricity (EFP) and his Science and Research Commission can play several roles in its work of coordinating activities in psychomotor research:

- Take the lead in modelling accessibility;
- Advance important concepts such as universal design or the new paradigm of psychomotor field;
- Promote achievement of the goals of the EFP, focusing efforts on gathering information about psychomotor research and making it available to a wide range of interested agents

The Commission will focus on issues that concern the missions of many research agents in building collaborations in their planning, policymaking, resource allocation, and progress evaluations. Similarly, each agency that supports psychomotor research has a stake in ensuring the existence of a cadre of highly qualified researchers to investigate issues related with fundamental or applied research, related with different concepts, problems and methodological contexts of intervention.

The Commission can leverage the investment of the related European Institutions in training through cooperative strategic planning and coordinated program implementation, such as shared funding support of various project components, and by adopted strategies that will support individual agents in achieving their goals, increasing the flow of information to all participating agents, and developing collaborative research and training agendas.



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The EFP and the Science and Research Commission should assure the planning and development of an informational database of European research in the pertinent area, taking the form of an informatics database that could be updated and accessed on the World Wide Web.

Participation of members in critical activities of other agencies is a major step toward increasing awareness and collaboration in the field, and should include the invitation of many representatives of the other institutions to participate in peer review panels, long-range planning and priority development, collaborating in developing priorities and sharing funding of projects have resulted from these processes.

In summary, the commission proposes to carry out its international influence through a variety of activities including:

- Research projects;
- Exchanges and training of scientists, and other appropriate personnel;
- Exchanges of scientific and technological information;
- Conferences;
- Support of databases.

In fact, effective exchange of information and expertise is one of the greatest benefits of an international effort. The European Forum should undertake an integrated spectrum of activities to promote the new paradigm in concept and in methodology. International conferences, exchange scholars, and capacity building will emphasize personal contact, hands-on participation in data and research methodology, and practical applications of research results.

The Database Expansion and the contemporary technology permit more effective use of the many databases in the international arena that can provide help and resources to both researchers and psychomotor re-educators or therapists. This has been till now the main concern of the commission, in order to identify the actual state of art, in European Research.

### **3.9. Program Evaluation and Performance Review**





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In the Future the Commission could develop a set of review taking the form of reverse site visits in which the researchers present their studies and training outcomes in sessions with other researchers, services consumers, service providers, private sector representatives such as employers or manufacturers. These sessions could allow for intensive examination, discussion, feedback, and assessment of each entity using the Center of Excellence framework.

There will be a Formative Review, to examine methodology, create linkages to other entities, and develop specific performance measures and outcomes data requirements. A Summative Review session will be completed near the end of the grant cycle to assess outcomes and implications for future research.

Program Review reports will provide input into assessing how well the EPF is meeting the objectives plan, by measure research performance and outcomes. That includes both metric measures of productivity (e.g., number of refereed publications, citations in the literature, persons trained) and qualitative narratives that evaluate the scientific excellence, relevance, and dissemination of project or Center activities. Research is a lengthy and sometimes serendipitous process; it is impossible to predict what even the most productive research will achieve by any given time. Furthermore, a failed hypothesis can be a project success.

### **3.10. Enhancing Peer Review**

The Commission proposes a project to redesign and improve important features of its peer review to provide more continuity of evaluation and improved feedback to applicants. These improvements will include more useful feedback to applicants, more training for members of peer review panels, a process to identify and handle repeat applications and clarifications of funding criteria.

To accomplish these goals it will be important the clear design of a program research plan that should provide sufficient information to allow the peer reviewers to assess it in terms of previous accorded Review Criteria. The application should include:

- (a) Specific aims, including a description of the long-range institutional research development goals to be achieved and suggested plans for achieving them (including



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those which extend beyond the duration of the proposed set of activities and projects);

- (b) Information about the institution's current involvement in and capacity for the conduct of health services research;
- (c) Evidence of the institution's commitment to achievement of the program goals in the form of a letter of support from a senior institutional official (e.g., President or Dean) outlining the commitment for resources and facilities to sustain and support the project;
- (d) One-page description of a specific research project being proposed;
- (e) Biographical data for participating scientists and chief administrative personnel and a detailed budget explaining and justifying the support requested.

The institutional research development plan section of the application is limited to 25 pages. Requests for support for one research project must be described in sufficient detail to permit evaluation of the scientific merit of the project.

The description should address:

- Linkage to the overall infrastructure and capacity building plan;
- Specific aims;
- Background and significance;
- Progress report/preliminary studies;
- Literature review;
- Research plan, including design and methods;
- Protection of human subjects, where applicable;
- Consultants and collaborators;
- Consortium/contractual agreements;
- Detailed budget for the research project

### **3.11. Creative Funding Mechanisms**

Four goals of the Commission are:

- To stimulate more collaborative research;



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- To support some significant longitudinal research without diminishing competition in the program;
- To increase the frequency of multidisciplinary research;
- To provide grantees with the flexibility to make rapid responses to new scientific and technological developments while maintaining program accountability.

The Commission should develop marketing strategies and capacity building that will expand collaborative research implemented in the form of shared protocols and common databases, or in the more diffuse form of subcontracting for discrete parts of a whole.

The Psychomotricity interventions are usually a complex, dynamic, and long-term phenomenon that frequently requires collection of data over extended time periods, so the Commission should search for ways to support longitudinal studies

While single discipline research is important, implementing the new paradigm of Psychomotricity scientific field in research will demand the simultaneous and synergistic attention of many disciplines. In most fields, there is little academic or practical incentive for interdisciplinary research. Indeed, interdisciplinary research tends to become "non-disciplinary" (i.e., non-scientific) research if the underlying theories, assumptions, techniques, and analytical methods are not clearly specified and if the relation to the theoretical and methodological base of each involved discipline is not clearly stated.

This means that the commission should promote interdisciplinary research, if appropriate, through program requirements, selection criteria, and new training approaches.

### **3.12. Enhanced Use of Information Technology**

The Commission plans to continue to search use of information technology to facilitate many aspects of its future activities, including increased sharing of research results and data, and encouraging more collaborative projects, greater use of common protocols and databases, and more efficient use of research resources.



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To increase communication the Commission will use a variety of communications strategies, including Web site information on the Forum Internet page, and accessible hypertext links to grantee Web sites; In addition, the Commission is developing a program database that will provide up-to-date information about research findings. This program database will allow analyses of program characteristics and more efficient management and evaluation of individual projects. The Commission intends to create linkages for sharing information among Centers and projects.

The Commission also recommends some special requirements related with the confidentiality of the information. Particularly, in human science subjects, research applicants must describe procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of such identifying information. The description of the procedures should include a discussion of who will be permitted access to the information, both raw data and machine readable files, and how personal identifiers and other identifying or identifiable data will be restricted and safeguarded. The grantee should ensure that computer systems containing confidential data have a level and scope of security. Also, the application of these confidentiality and security standards should be addressed as necessary, in order to ensure as appropriate, the copyright or seek patents for final products and materials including, but not limited to, methodological tools, measures, software with documentation, literature searches, and analyses.

### **3.13. Allocation of Resources**

It is recommended that, in order to achieve maximum impact of the available funds, applicants propose innovative research activities that will stimulate sustainable improvements in the capacities of institutions and organizations in eligible countries to compete successfully for European funds and to enhance their research competitiveness in future years.

In fact, effective allocation of resources is required to realize the Commission goals in all areas. In particular, the commission intends to allocate increased resources in four areas, including:

1. Promotion of Centers of Excellence concentrating on large-scale problems;



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2. Promotion of investigator-initiated research projects that use the best ideas emerging from the field;
3. Expansion of capacity-building activities, including intercommunication and training of researchers;
4. Development of funding opportunities for collaborative projects.

To continue the implementation of the initiated project program of activities, the commission should have the essential financial resources continue to pursue his main objectives.

### **3.14. Continuous Participatory Planning**

The Commission will formalize an on-going process for reviewing and revising the Long-Range Plan on a periodic basis, and for ensuring that meaningful annual priorities are crafted based on the Plan. This process will involve:

- Establishing agenda-setting work groups in each of the outcome research areas designated in the Plan. These work groups will meet periodically and will be responsible for substantive recommendations, in their respective areas, for both annual priorities;
- Holding at least one public hearing each two year. This hearing will focus on one substantive area and will evaluate current work and identify future needs in that area. These hearings will be held in different countries of Europe, and will take advantage, where possible, of video conferencing or satellite broadcasting techniques to allow the hearings to be more geographically inclusive. The Commission will seek cosponsors for these hearings.
- Convening focus groups in subject areas that need further exploration prior to their adoption in annual priorities.