



Newsletter



Issue 12 – December 2013

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Editorial: news from Brussels



The huge, overwhelming EU event for the ESTEP community has been the final preparation and the launch on 11/12/13 of HORIZON 2020, the new European Research & Innovation framework program. We will live with H2020 for the next 7 years until 2020. H2020's budget is 79.4 G€, to be compared to 58 G€ for FP7 between 2007 and 2013 (current €).

The new program is better funded, but also more ambitious in terms of final innovation, more exhaustive, more coherent, easier to read and to understand. Most importantly, it reflects the needs of stakeholders better. This has been accomplished by the creation of new entities in the Commission's Galaxy: PPPs (Public Private Partnerships), which collect the views of industry, like SPIRE, E2B, EGVI, etc.; EIPs (European Innovation Partnerships), which describe the societal challenges that Europe is facing and needs to address boldly (like the Raw Materials and Water EIPs) and the H2020 ETPs (European Technology Platforms), a new status to which ESTEP was promoted in July. The ESTEP community has been part of these various initiatives and this is why we recognize our own vision in the H2020 program.

ESTEP and its community have continued running their core activities, i.e. WGs have met in the Fall, worked on RFCS priorities - which were later settled with the RFCS management team on 13/12/13 for the 2014 Call -, proposed a new salvo of RFCS projects on 15/09/13; members took part in many EU events (EIP water and EIP raw materials annual meetings, various H2020 brokerage events, H2020 launch events, etc.) and prepared for new ones, like seminars, roadmaps and vision papers. A seminar on the "Economics of CO₂" was thus organized in Brussels on 17/09/13 and one on "Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services" will take place in Dalmine on 6/02/2014.

H2020 will remain, however, the major focus of our activities in the near future, as it gives us an opportunity to access research program at a level that is roughly double of what was possible until recently. The immediate challenge is to identify 2014 calls of H2020, in SPIRE but also beyond, which are relevant for us, and to get organized to answer many of them, taking the lead of consortia or participating in projects proposed by others. We have also to prepare for the 2015 calls and to make sure that the next series of calls, 2016-2017, reflect our vision even better than the previous ones.

The Secretary General has given lectures on focused issues and presentations of ESTEP on 11 occasions. He has taken part in high levels meetings of SPIRE (IRIAG, AIAG, GA, BoD), EMIRI (BoD), A4M (BoD), the High Level group on Steel (Sherpa and general meeting), Metallurgy4 Europe, etc. Some were written as formal papers that can be found on the web site.

I would like also to bid farewell to Alan Haigh and Franco Cozzani, who are leaving RFCS after several years of excellent work and very smooth cooperation with us. All the best in their new functions and welcome to the new Head of Unit and deputy HoU.

Herbert von Bose, the Director of the Industrial Technologies Directorate and the major architect of the Horizon 2020 program is also leaving for retirement. We are thankful for the support he gave ESTEP and also wish him the best.

To all of you, I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, 2014, the year of economic recovery in Europe!

JP. Birat

WG1 PROFIT

With the objective of remaining well aligned with the various R&D initiatives launched at European level that show high interest and direct concern for process technologies applicable to the Steel sector, meetings continued to be regularly organized either as face-to-face or by web and telephone conferences in order to allow a large attendance of the members. During the period under review, two meetings were held in September and November.



The first one was mainly dedicated to preparing the 1st brokerage event of SPIRE organized on 21 & 22 October, 2013 in Brussels, by sharing information on the potential proposals prepared by the ESTEP members and linked to the priorities selected for the first calls (2014 & 2015). A similar action was undertaken by the ad-hoc working group "Integrated Intelligent Manufacturing" for what specifically concerns the activities of the PPP "Factories of the Future".

The second meeting dealt with two aspects:
- a synthesis of the SPIRE brokerage event and a debate on the future steps and the best ways to prepare concrete

proposals involving steel sector partners. The willingness was also confirmed to continue and promote the exchange of project ideas inside the group in line with the future H2020 calls,

- the suggestion of annual priorities for the 2014 RFCS call having a direct relevance for this working group 1.

C. Marique

WG2 TRANSPORT



Three regular meetings of WG 2 and one focus team meeting were held in 2013 to finish the presentation of our mission statement, to start the work on strengthening the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) topic in Europe including the exploration of new concepts and approaches for cross sectorial applications and to prepare for future SPIRE activities.

In addition to SPIRE there are some more interesting topics for the transport sector in the work program of Horizon 2020: "Mobility for growth" (MG), "Green vehicles" (GV) as well as "Small business and fast track innovation for transport" (IT) offer great possibilities to take part in future transport related research activities. Steel expertise is also needed in these projects.

To underline the contribution of steel to some of the best Life Cycle Assessment results, WG 2 is working on new approaches. The global warming potential is well known in the meantime, but what about e.g. acidification and/or eutrophication potential? There are some more benefits for steel looking on these and other parameters. In the US a consortium around University of Waterloo is working on "Product category rules" (PCR) for the automotive industry (<http://www.environdec.com/>). The related document will be published at the end of the year 2013. This could also have impact on the European steel industry and their sustainability ranking.

Our next meeting is scheduled on 31 January 2014 in Brussels. You are again invited to send us your ideas and comments to let us know your priorities of future transport related steel research.

O. Hoffman

WG3 CONSTRUCTION



Activity in WG3 has been limited in the second half of this year due to the summer break. In addition to new initiatives, ongoing activities from the first half of the year continued during the latter half including:

- Initiative to set a new direction for WG3 and to develop WG3 roadmap;
- Participation in the FrameUp project demonstration;
- Participation on Steel_Be workshop in July; and
- Participation in Metallurgy Roadmap Made in and 4Europe in October.

Regarding the roadmap, two steps have been defined. Step one would define the landscape by analyzing and categorizing work done to date, especially in the last 5-10 years with a view to disseminating the achievements through organized workshops. Step two would focus on developing a clear research strategy for identified work streams or categories.

FrameUp demonstrates a rational and economical way to build steel structures, especially apartment buildings, Steel_Be workshop was focused on sustainable design of steel structures with decision-making software support while the Metallurgy Roadmap attempted to show possible future metallurgical needs of the construction sector.

WP3 is looking forward to 2014 to consolidating changes in the workgroup as well as the other ongoing activities and to build on and create news connections and networks with other initiatives and projects.

S. Boudjabeur

WG4 PLANET



The Planet working group Fall meeting was devoted to defining the next WG4 actions to support ESTEP community getting deeply involved in the new H2020 infrastructure.

The next main challenges are:

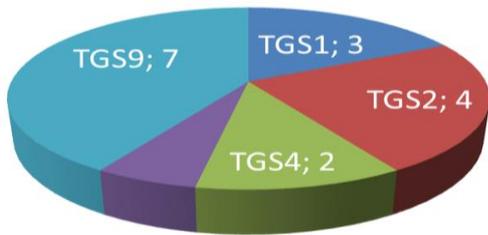
- extend the interaction with other platforms and develop common road maps & approaches (e.g. energy storage);
 - build up contacts with other EII and identify areas of common interest with particular regard to sustainability assessment;
 - promote/support idea to respond to the H2020 calls working as a lobbying group beyond WGs meetings;
 - maintain and flesh out the interdisciplinary nature of the group (academy, RTOs, producers, equipment suppliers).
- WG4 members agree to focus the activity of road mapping for the next year on the "How can steel industry address sustainable production".

The most important technical items debated by the working group were related to the Horizon 2020 and in particular the topics of the SPIRE calls, since most are closely related to WG4 issues. It was agreed that, for each call topic which is considered to be in line with WG4 objectives, one member of group would collect ideas and potential interest of WG4 for future proposals in order to support ESTEP in the SPIRE events, such as brokerage, infodays, etc. WG4 group was very productive, collecting idea and strong interest around the following topics:

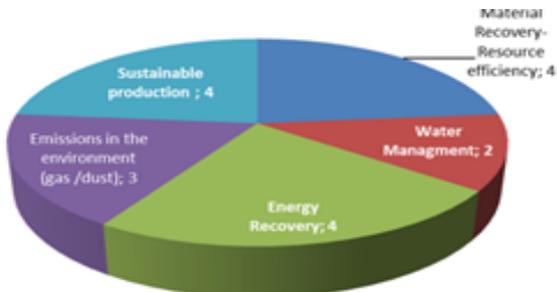
- biomass and biomass residuals utilization as alternative source of C (SPIRE 2)
- cross-sectorial sustainability assessment of energy and resource efficient solutions in the process industry (SPIRE 4);
- energy and resource management systems in the process industry (SPIRE6)
- recovery technologies for metals and other minerals (SPIRE7)

In the last six months WG4 members involved in the EIPs have continued monitoring work and participating to the EIP Water Conference which was held on 21 November 2013 in Brussels (V.Colla) and to the 1st Annual Conference of the EIP Raw Material on 5 December in Brussels (E.Malfa)

The second important item dealt with RFCS proposals. Generally, Planet-related issues are represented in ongoing RFCS projects in different TGs. This has been confirmed also by proposals of September 18 related to WG4 (cf. pies), confirming the transversal nature of sustainability issues and the connection with the theme of other WGs. WG4 suggested also some update to the RFCS priorities, which are related to its themes. This will feed into the negotiation towards a new set of priorities for next year.



TGS8: 1



The next meeting will be held in Italy at CSM Dalmine on 5 February 2014. The issue of biodiversity, as a possible topic for a future ESTEP roadmap, will also be discussed and analyzed and a special seminar will be organized the next day.

E. Malfa

WG 5 PEOPLE



Vocational Education and Training:

The project GT-VET (Greening Technical Vocational Education and Training) was concluded by a high level final conference in Brussels, with the participation of Enrico Gibellieri (Member of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change – CCM), Cristina

Martinez (OECD), Alison Crabb (DG EAC VET, Leonardo Da Vinci Programme), Peter Kerckhofs (European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working conditions), Fernando Vasquez (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion), Bart Samyn (European Trade Union - industriAll), Bertrand de Lamberterie (ESTEP) and Jean Lambert (MEP, Greens/European Free Alliance).

Final Statement of the Panel Discussion (Final Conference GT VET): Even though GT VET was a small project covering only a small domain to green the industry, it is a starting point to go further in the greening of technical VET in all professions and industries - implementing the GT VET concept in a broader context of initial and continuous VET, in different manufacturing industries, in different regions and member states, in different VET systems. Because technology and materials are changing rapidly, the capacities of the workforce have to be adjusted in real time, certified and acknowledged (ECVET). This could be a good basis for workplace innovations, process innovation and social innovation processes in VET as well.

The European Training Module GT VET will be further developed within the roadmap of ESTEP WG 5 (see www.gt-vet.com). Furthermore, on the basis of the results of GT VET, a new Transfer of Innovation project funded by the EU "Lifelong Learning Programme-Leonardo da Vinci" starts in December 2013: "GREEN STAR: GREEN skills for enterprises - Sustainable Training for Automotive suppliers cluster". This project is coordinated by CONFINDUSTRIA VENETO SIAV SpA, Venice, Italy and deals with the transfer opportunities of the GT VET module to the automotive sector.

Innovation: From the human resources perspective of innovation, WG 5 is discussing management of innovation within the concept of social innovation. Antonius Schröder (University of Dortmund – sfs) is coordinating a world-wide large scale project SI-DRIVE (Social Innovation as a Driver of Social Change) with 25 partners from all over the world; which offers an opportunity to develop the concept of Social Innovation in relation with technological innovation. Because every technological innovation is a social innovation and has to be developed within a social innovation process, there will be synergies for the development of technological innovation in the Steel Industry as well. Also within this Social Innovation concept, workplace innovation is a primary topic for WG 5. Veit Echterhoff and Antonius Schröder are members of the European Workplace Innovation Network euwin (http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/workplace-innovation/activities/index_en.htm), funded by DG Enterprise.

Talent Management: WG 5 is conducting an online survey on retaining talents and talent management within the European steel industry, planned for January 2014. The objective is to much better understand the needs and expectations of talents within the European Steel Industry. How could (workplace) environment be arranged to attract and keep talents? Talents are formally defined employees which ought to move on to the next step in hierarchy in the next two or three years.

Acquisition: The new calls of HORIZON 2020, SPIRE, COST and Erasmus+ programmes will be checked for potential proposals. For SPIRE and RFCS the Working Group Members stated, that these programme calls should be more open to "people" and human resources topics, even from a management and training perspective but also from a (social) innovation one.

Knowledge Transfer: 4.-9.November 2013, the 2nd part of the Italian Steelmaster course took place in San Gemini, Italy. Veit Echterhoff gave a presentation about people-related challenges in the European steel industry and approaches of ESTEP WG "People".

V. Echterhoff

WG 6 ENERGY



During the year 2013, the working group continued to strongly support the European Commission (EC) public private partnerships (PPP) initiatives, dealing with the group thematic topics such as the Sustainable Process Industry Resource Efficiency (SPIRE - Applications) and the Energy Materials Industrial Research Initiative (EMIRI).

Various initiatives on renewables were also carried out. On 8 April for instance, the group supported the EC workshop of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) "Future trends in finishing and coating for the European Steel Sector" focused on automotive and energy applications.

Concerning funding, 3 additional projects in the FP7 frame started, 2 on CO₂ quality and 1 on materials for the nuclear sector.

The CO₂ projects aim to address the influence of CO₂ quality on transport, while developing knowledge and unified rules for design, fracture control and overall fitness-for-service of pipelines for safe transport during the entire life-span.



The other project on Nuclear focused on steel material for this specific application in line with some of the expectation of the SET-PLAN roadmap.

Concerning both proposals and projects presented and approved in the RFCS frame, the very strong increase in those numbers has to be highlighted. The interest in energy steel products and applications is continuously growing.

In the second part of the year various initiatives and actions on Horizon 2020, the upcoming R&I Programme of the European Commission that will last from 2014 to 2020, took place. Among them, representatives of the WG participated to two Brokerage Events regarding SPIRE (Applications), on 22 October and EMIRI on 19 November, which took place in Brussels.

Moreover, on 5 December, the Commission organized the "Energy Information Day - 2014 and 2015 calls" that outlined a wide scenario on themes and issues related to the Energy field, concerning H2020 and beyond.

On 11 December, the Horizon 2020 work programme was adopted and the first calls for proposals published.

All these initiatives on energy themes once more put the activities of the WG on the wave top of the EU research and innovation activities!

Date and location of next meeting: -13 March 2014 - Brussels.

P. Gimondo

Forthcoming events

Meeting WG chairmen: 17/01/2014 - Brussels

Meeting WG1/M2I: 29/01/2014 – Brussels

Meeting WG4: 5-6/2/2014 Dalmine (Italy)

Meeting WG2: 31/01/2014 – Brussels

Meeting WG6: 13/03/2014 - Brussels

Meeting Support Group: 4/02/2014 –Brussels

ESTEP Steering Committee: 1/04/2013 - Brussels

Meeting SAG: 16/01/2014 - Brussels

EMIRI General Assembly: 30/01/2014 Brussels

European Steel Day: 15/05/2014 – Brussels

SAM-8: 20-21/05/2014 - Liege

ESTEP's Newsletter is issued on a regular basis by the ESTEP Secretariat to the ESTEP members. The editorial panel consists of JP Birat, Rosellina Di Santo and WHL. Moonen. Contributions for the newsletter can be sent to the ESTEP secretariat.

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