



Acknowledgements

This booklet is a true, but humble, product of European cooperation, just like the inspiring examples it contains. All of the content was contributed by country delegations and collected to support the discussion at the Informal Meeting of Ministers for COMPET (Research) in Amsterdam during the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the EU. All contributions reflect inspiring examples of the excellence and impact of research and innovations projects.

We thank everyone for their contribution.

Foreword

An innovative society cannot thrive without the continued development of knowledge. To gain new, state-of-the-art knowledge, researchers and enterprises need to have access to the best knowledge, best facilities and best networks across borders and disciplines. Together, we enable this cross-border cooperation through excellent national and European (Framework) programmes. We strive for impact and success by securing funding, access and collaboration, and by putting in place the right framework conditions for an attractive research and innovation climate in Europe.

Ground breaking research and innovation are exciting and useful for creating jobs and stimulating growth. Compiled in this booklet, your contributions demonstrate the substantial impact of investments in research and innovation through the European Framework Programmes. Moreover, these EU projects show the added value of research and innovation projects for the economy and for national, regional and local communities.

With this booklet we show that investments in research and innovation, including short- and long-term investments, have a significant and real impact on Europe's economy and society. I hope it inspires all readers to vouch for a more innovative and competitive Europe. A Europe that aims to attract investors, innovative enterprises and the best researchers. A Europe that aims to foster sustainable economic growth and to solve the societal challenges we are all faced with.

Also on behalf of the Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr Henk Kamp,



Sander Dekker

State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science Chair of the informal meeting of Ministers for COMPET (Research)

Bulgaria

Name

AComIn: Advanced Computing for Innovation

Year/duration

Start 2012 (42 months)

Website

www.iict.bas.bg/acomin

Results

- Increased research productivity and the quality of the scientific publications more than 130%.
- Human Resources Enhancement recruitment of more than 20 foreign and Bulgarian post-doc researchers with long-term contracts, as well as supporting 24 PhDs.
- Strengthened partnership with the business with more than 13 projects funded via ESIF and 15 contracts for industrial research, funded directly by Bulgarian companies.
- Innovation impact through granted two certificates of industrial design; Three WIPO patent applications and three more to the Bulgarian Patent Office (BPO); Software developed within project - a Technology Computer Aided Design tool - TCAD); a language resource - core Bulgarian WordNet; an annotated multisignal corpus of Bulgarian speech, developed using AComIn Speech Lab.

Expected socio-economic impact

AComIn constituted the Bulgarian Institute of Information and Communication

Technologies (IICT) as a leading RTD Centre in Eastern Europe, providing facilities and working conditions comparable to the average standards of the EU-15 Centres of Excellence. IICT will be an attractive employer and partner due to the international recognition of its scientific quality and its unique infrastructure. Inside the country, IICT will become a dynamic innovation engine, supporting the sustainable regional and national growth and employment.

AComIn project turned to be an important tool also for scientific diplomacy in the region and helped to young researchers from Ukraine.

Description

AComIn created modern infrastructure and environment that increased the knowledge and the skills of IICT researchers in emerging areas in the area of parallel and distributed algorithms, linguistic and semantic technologies, pattern recognition, intelligent and hierarchical systems, and signal processing. During the project duration, its researchers participated in 33 international conferences and published their research results in more than 100 scientific papers. The IICT reinforced innovation capacity enabled technology transfer to the high-tech industry, thus increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy.

Cooperation countries

Bulgaria is a single beneficiary. In the Steering Board have been involved



partners from United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Greece, Sweden

FP7 Evaluation Achievements

- 1. Encouraged scientific excellence on individual and institutional level.
- 2. Engaged industry and SMEs strategically.
- Addressed certain societal challenges through research, technology and innovation.
- 7. Stimulated mobility of researchers across Europe.
- Reached a critical mass of research across the European landscape and worldwide.