

STOA-NEWS

Technikfolgenabschätzung für das Europäische Parlament

Als federführende Institution einer Gruppe von fünf europäischen Einrichtungen berät ITAS das Europäische Parlament in Fragen der sozialen, ökonomischen und ökologischen Bedeutung neuer wissenschaftlich-technischer Entwicklungen. Der im Oktober 2005 unterzeichnete Vertrag hat eine Laufzeit von zunächst drei Jahren. Direkter Adressat der Arbeiten von ITAS ist das so genannte STOA-Panel (Scientific and Technological Options Assessment), ein aus Mitgliedern verschiedener ständiger Ausschüsse des Parlamentes zusammengesetztes parlamentarisches Gremium zur Technikfolgenabschätzung. ITAS (als federführende Einrichtung) kooperiert mit folgenden Partnern:

- Rathenau-Institut, Niederlande,
- Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), Großbritannien,
- Danish Board of Technology (Teknologiradet), Dänemark
- Flemish Institute for Science and Technology Assessment (viWTA), Belgien

Die Projektarbeit hat zum Jahresanfang 2006 begonnen. Das Arbeitsprogramm umfasst bisher zehn Projekte, die jeweils von Mitarbeitern der Partnerinstitute betreut werden (siehe unten). Über den Start weiterer Projekte wird noch im Laufe dieses Jahres entschieden.

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STOA Work-Programme 2006 / 2007

1 Technology Assessment on Converging Technologies (January 2006 – September 2006)

A literature study of relevant European level publications and a vision assessment on future societal needs and challenges will form the

basis for a discussion within a high level European expert workshop. Central question of this workshop will be: “What are the domains (combinations between the different science and technology areas) within converging technology that the European Commission should prioritize (in FP 7 and the different JRC’s) to meet future societal needs and challenges?”

Robby Deboelpaep, viWTA, Brussels;
robby.deboelpaep@vlaamsparlament.be

2 Antibiotic Resistance (January 2006 – October 2006)

An interdisciplinary working group of experts will convene in workshops and produce a plan of action suggesting a series of initiatives to counter the problem of antibiotic resistance.

Ulla Holm Vincentsen, Teknologiradet, Copenhagen; uv@tekno.dk

3 The Role of Nanotechnology in Chemical Substitution (January 2006 – October 2006)

On the basis of literature research interviews with experts are performed to identify the potential of nanotechnology to substitute chemical substances or processes which are hazardous for humans or the environment. The results will be validated within a workshop at the end of the project.

Ulrich Fiedeler, ITAS, Research Centre Karlsruhe; fiedeler@itas.fzk.de

4 Galileo-Applications (January 2006 – June 2006)

Based on an available STOA Working-Paper, expert opinions will be commissioned and a workshop on policy options with regard to the deployment phase of the European satellite programme, the GALILEO project, will be carried out.

Leonhard Hennen, ITAS, Research Centre Karlsruhe; hennen@tab.fzk.de

5 Intellectual Property Rights (January 2006 – June 2007)

A cross-disciplinary working group will examine potential changes to the patent system. Is-

sues studied would be about balancing society/inventor benefits; remuneration-based patenting; systems for protecting rights; transparency. At a workshop ideas will be collected. The working group will present and debate the political options at a dissemination workshop.

Bjørn Bedsted, Teknologiradet, Copenhagen;
bb@tekno.dk

6 RFID and Identity Management (March 2006 – March 2007)

A number of case studies on different settings in which RFID is implemented is carried out in order to explore the choices that are available to the users and owners of the RFID systems in managing personal information, the degree to which the purpose of the information collection is overt, how RFID is used in combination with other technologies, and whether or not legislation applies. The findings will be presented and discussed in a workshop.

Christian van't Hof, Rathenau Institute, The Hague;
c.vanhof@rathenau.nl

7 Overview of Sustainable Energy Sources (March 2006 – October 2006)

Preparation of an Energy Catalogue describing selected energy technologies based on renewable sources and suitable for European use. The catalogue will have its main purpose in communicating the state of the technologies to non-experts, giving an overview on e.i. state of development and time for competitive development level; the estimated investments and energy price; potential production etc.

Søren Gram, Teknologiradet, Copenhagen;
sg@tekno.dk

8 Global Human Health (March 2006 – May 2006)

The project comprises the organisation of a workshop to investigate how to provide incentives for developing new medicines to help tackle the global burden of disease.

Bernike Pasveer, Rathenau Institute, The Hague;
b.pasveer@rathenau.nl

9 Alternative Technology Options for Road and Air Transport (April 2006 – February 2007)

On the basis of available literature a catalogue of alternative fuel and propulsion options for road and air transport is developed. The assessment of technical options is discussed in a workshop. A final report will discuss possible source-fuel-drive-infrastructure combinations.

Torsten Fleischer, ITAS, Research Centre Karlsruhe;
fleischer@itas.fzk.de

10 Future Developments of Cancer Therapy (June 2006 – February 2007)

Based on available literature (especially from TA-studies covering aspects of the subject) and on an analysis of the status of cancer research in the European Framework Programmes 4 to 6 an overview on the state of research on cancer aetiology and therapy is given. This is meant to deliver a basis for decisions on more comprehensive and detailed analysis of the subject.

Arnold Sauter, ITAS, Research Centre Karlsruhe;
sauter@tab.fzk.de

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Kontakt

Dr. Leonhard Hennen
Neue Anschrift ab März 2006:
Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft
Ahrstr. 45, 53175 Bonn
Tel.: +49 (0) 228 / 308 18 - 34
Fax: +49 (0) 228 / 308 18 - 30
E-Mail: hennen@tab.fzk.de

Dr. Michael Rader
Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung und Systemanalyse (ITAS)
Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe
Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1
76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen
Tel.: +49 (0) 72 47 / 82 - 25 05
Fax: +49 (0) 72 47 / 82- 48 06
E-Mail: michael.rader@itas.fzk.de

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