



Science and Society 2002 - 2006

Overview of Contracts

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Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-003282 INES
Call : FP6-2003-Science and Society-4
Domain : Ethics
Type : CA
Title : The Institutionalisation of Ethics in Science Policy; practices and impact
Duration : 36
Start Date : 01/02/2004

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Abstract:

INES investigates the issue of the incorporation of ethics in S&T policy in terms of the methodologies used and their actual impact in decision making.

Debates on technological developments touch fundamental ethical considerations and uncover wide mistrust in public authorities and scientific establishments. Policy makers have reacted by incorporating ethics into the decision making processes of S&T policy. Different nations have different ways of doing this, ranging from advisory expert committees to open debates with relevant stakeholders. The form and method in which ethics is incorporated in S&T varies greatly throughout Europe and its actual impact in decision making is still unclear.

INES brings together a group of leading experts in the area of S&T ethics and the relevant policy making community, to analyse comparatively the manner by which ethics is incorporated into the official decision making structures.

The analysis is done in terms of representations of the 'ethical problem?; understanding of the concepts 'ethics vs morality?', 'ethics vs bioethics?; the notion of 'ethical expert?; and consideration of lay values in the decision making process.

Informed by public perceptions research on 'ethics? and paying particular attention to gender differences, the project will explore case studies presenting particular challenges for the incorporation of ethics in decision making (medical genetics, forensic genetics and food technologies). The differences in the understanding of the ethical issues and the incorporation approaches chosen will provide the basis for the creation of a 'European map' which will be critically examined in terms of impact assessment and best practices.

The ultimate goal of INES is to create a pan-European platform where ethics experts, policy makers and relevant stakeholders can debate, exchange information, identify 'best practices? and devise ways to improve the input and impact of ethics in the actual decision making process

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-003286 Reprogenetics
Call : FP6-2003-Science and Society-4
Domain : Ethics
Type : STREP
Title : Reprogenetics. The ethics of men making men
Duration : 36
Start Date : 01/04/2004

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Abstract:

During the last five years genetics and reproductive medicine have merged to form Reprogenetics and come to represent revolutionary possibilities for studying grave diseases and developing new therapies.

Specific scenarios are developed that may result in the technical possibility to change the genetic constitution of humans and their descendants. In fact, in a limited way, some technologies may already do this.

The overwhelming possibilities presented by such developments have been met with concern and reignited debate on question if men may be able to design and change the genetic structure of other men and if men may be able to create new human beings.

The values at stake in these issues are often felt as deeply human and there is a widespread conviction that several of the new technical possibilities should be banned or at least placed under a moratorium no matter how promising they may be.

The situation of a moratorium or ban might create a false impression of ethical clarity and yet, the content and strength of ethical arguments applied has not been analysed or made explicit.

When not accompanied by a consistent study of conditions under which it may be lifted, a moratorium would no longer be a sign of ethical strength but of indecisiveness and a lack of ethical decision making.

Still, in circles of private and academic research, science and technology continue to develop. This will result in gene therapy, cloning and stem cell research not guided by ethical and social reflection, but as an arbitrary result of unknown market forces and the private ambition of researchers and research institutes.

The project will make a comparative analysis of the ethical aspects of hot issues in gene therapy and cloning, study the ambiguities and inconsistencies of current law and theory, try to strengthen them and, when needed, distinguish contexts that share names, but may have completely different ethical implications.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-003583 BeSha

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1
Domain : Ethics
Type : SSA
Title : Genomics and Benefit Sharing with Developing Countries
Duration : 12
Start Date : 01/01/2004

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Abstract:

The Bonn Guidelines of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2002) and the Human Genome Project Ethics Committee's Statement on Benefit Sharing (2000) encourage the equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources with local communities. Genomics research undertaken in developing countries should benefit local communities and should be appropriate with regard to local health needs.

However, commentators have argued that the Bonn Guidelines are incomplete, ineffectual and premature, due to a missing consensus on essential basics, a criticism, which has also been raised in connection with the Human Genome Project Ethics Committee's Statement on Benefit Sharing. And in most developing countries, indigenous peoples strongly protest about the exploitation of their genetic materials by developing world peoples, despite the existence of these guidelines.

The appropriate response to these concerns is two-fold:

- 1) To establish a platform for international dialogue between significant stakeholders and analysts and thereby create the possibility for genuine consensus building.
- 2) To structure this dialogue by focusing on one of the main short-comings of current guidelines, namely the insufficient conceptualisation of both 'community' and 'benefits'.

To this end, a workshop will be organised by project members from the United Kingdom, South Africa, the Philippines, and Mexico, to bring together representatives from indigenous peoples, ethicists, social scientists, lawyers and geneticists for a cross-cultural reflection on benefit sharing in genomics research.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-510151 FASTER
Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1
Domain : Ethics
Type : SSA
Title : FEASIBILITY study for an ADVANCED SYSTEMATIC documentation, information and communication TOOL in the field of ETHICAL issues in science, RESEARCH and technology)
Duration : 9
Start Date : 01/01/2004

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Abstract:

An adequate culture for ethical and legal judgment formation in science, research, technologies and their applications can only be developed if those involved have access to reliable, comprehensive and up-to-date information and adequate communication.

Therefore there is a demand for an infrastructure to create a systematic documentation, information and communication tool in the field of ethical issues in science, research and technology (ASTER) including multilingual access to information e.g. on topical debates, legislation, codes of conduct and contested issues taking place in the different European countries.

The foundations for such a system have already been laid in a number of projects funded by the 5th FP EU (esp. EURETHNET).

The feasibility study which is the object of this proposal will have to evaluate a new type of infrastructure which covers not only the field of bioethics but the whole range of ethical issues in research and technology in Europe. More specifically, the feasibility study will analyse the various areas concerned and will identify the potential users and their specific needs including the NAS. It will scrutinise the existing networks and their information resources including their demands to be connected with other networks in a network of networks.

Therefore the feasibility study will investigate and evaluate the various methods and techniques which ensure the structure and management of the relevant knowledge and information content in relation to the thematic coverage, the development of adequate communication links as well as the support for an appropriate integration of networks and established institutional providers in the fields mentioned above.

The result envisioned will provide criteria and scenarios to establish and operate an ASTER serving the scientific community, politics and even the general public. This will provide a European added value and a benefit for the European research area

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-510235 ETHICALTRACEABILITY

Call : FP6-2003-Science and Society-4

Domain : Ethics

Type : STREP

Title : Ethical Traceability and Informed Choice in Food Ethical Issues

Duration : 30

Start Date : 01/05/2004

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Abstract:

The main objective of the project is to develop the concept of food ethical traceability as the basis for consumers informed choice.

This will be done by:

- Mapping relevant food ethical issues (philosophically and sociologically) for the consumers, producers and retailers
- Investigating how food ethical issues can be developed and used within food producing companies and retailers to assure effective communication strategies and the informed choice by consumers.

The project consists of four parts:

- A. Ethical Traceability: the Basic Frame of Food Ethics: mapping philosophical concepts relevant for the common food ethical concerns. Selected concepts and principles will be investigated within the context of food production.
- B. Sociological Investigation and Description of the Consumers' and Producers' Needs/Wishes for Information Concerning Food Ethical Issues: The design of the empirical study will reflect selected theoretical and philosophical perspectives from part A. This will be examined by case studies.
- C. Documentation on Food Ethical Principles and Concepts of Traceability in EU: documentation of existing ethical principles in the food area and scientific articles, legislation, ethical policies of companies and other materials on food ethical issues, traceability etc.
- D. Knowledge Management and Communication Strategies on Food Ethics: how should food ethical issues be communicated by producers and retailers in order to respect the informed choice of the consumers.'

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-510238 COB

Call : FP6-2003-Science and Society-4

Domain : Ethics

Type : STREP

Title : Challenges of Biomedicine - Socio-cultural contexts, European governance and Bioethics

Duration : 36

Start Date : 01/04/2004

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Abstract:

This project is to investigate the influence the European public and the biomedical science exert on each other.

This bio-political relationship will be examined by analysing the variety of important concepts such as 'identity', 'citizenship', and 'integrity of human body' and to what extent biomedical science interacts with them.

The significance of this interaction will be examined in two dimensions:

1. opportunities of participation and governance of medicine and
2. cultural plurality and diversity of public preferences towards biomedicine (esp. genetic testing & transplantation medicine).

The cross-cultural comparative investigations will be done in an interdisciplinary team from 8 different countries in Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern Europe. Empirical data of lay people and patients attitudes towards participation and cultural aspects of biomedicine will be recorded by focus group discussions, interviews and ethnographic studies.

The analysis is organised in three sub-projects:

- A) The forms of medicalisation and geneticisation and their interaction with concepts of 'body', 'health', and 'identity'
- B) Ethical reflection on cultural diversity, governance and participation.
- C) The interference between public understanding of science and participation/governance in cultural contexts.

The synopsis of these sub-projects will clarify:

1. How governance of science and medico-ethical standards in Europe can be harmonised with cultural variety and multitude of preferences.
2. How and to what extent lay people and patients should participate in decision processes in health care and medical institution.
3. The role the various actors, stake holders, lay people, scientists and policy makers could play in European governance of science and clinical research.

The results contain recommendations for policy makers and will be disseminated by public presentations, internet and publications.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-510239 PROPEUR

Call : FP6-2003-Science and Society-4
Domain : Ethics
Type : CA
Title : Property Regulation in European Science, Ethics and Law
Duration : 36
Start Date : 01/03/2004

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Abstract:

The overall project objective is to compile and analyse new approaches in ethics and law to tangible and intangible property in the human genome, plant genomes in relation to biodiversity and sustainable development, food technologies, and the information society.

Commodification and biotechnological advances in these areas of applied science are widely thought to be racing ahead of ethical understanding and legal regulation. However, there are also a number of innovative models in the research literature for rectifying this concern, although they are not always widely known.

The project aims to compile existing and proposed modes of regulating these cross-cutting instances of commodification, across five FP6 thematic priorities- analysing and critiquing them with academic and user audiences, and disseminating models of best practice.

The partnership comprises 10 members in a pyramidal structure.
 The lead partners (CSGE) will co-ordinate the network.
 The remaining institutions are divided into four sets of country pairs, so that
 pair 1 has primary responsibility for tangible and intangible property in genomics,
 pair 2 for copyright and the information society,
 pair 3 for plant/animal genome patents and biodiversity, and
 pair 4 for property in tissue.

Following an initial workshop at which the relevant new regulatory models for each subject pair will be decided, in a bottom-up fashion, the partner pairs will organise two international workshops for their topic area, to critique and further develop new models for property regulation in those areas.

A final large conference brings all this activity together. In addition to workshop reports, the project deliverables will also include a website, journal/book publications and guidelines for regulation of property in these rapidly developing areas. Dissemination of results and deliverables will be enhanced by partners' memberships of national, European and international regulatory and policy-making bodies'

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-510247 EU-RECA

Call : FP6-2003-Science and Society-4

Domain : Ethics

Type : STREP

Title : European Project on delimiting the research concept and research activities

Duration : 36

Start Date : 01/03/2004

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Abstract:

This project will investigate a still unresolved question that cuts across all areas of research involving human beings:

"When should an activity count as research?"

The answer to this question is important because classifying an activity as research will sometimes mean that stricter ethical and legal regulations apply but in other circumstances mean that it becomes exempt from certain rules and regulations.

It is therefore crucial that we are able to define criteria for classifying an activity as research. The question about the definition of research has so far mainly been discussed within biomedicine, but it occurs in a large number of research areas.

It will become increasingly important as research ethics regulations are expanded to cover other areas than biomedicine, and data protection legislation is enacted and enforced. In this project we will therefore analyse case-studies from five areas: biomedicine, IT, social sciences, databases and biobanks in order to achieve the following scientific objectives:

1. An exhaustive philosophical analysis of the research concept
2. An exhaustive legal analysis of the use of the research concept in European and national legislation and regulation
3. An exhaustive analysis of the philosophical and legal problems in defining an activity as "research" according to
 - a) its aims,
 - b) the intentions of those who plan and conduct it,
 - c) the products flowing from it,
 - d) the intended use of its results,
 - e) the context in which it is performed, or the institutions or persons performing it,
 - f) its impact on the persons participating, g) the views of the persons participating.
4. An account of the specific problems in applying a research / non-research distinction in the area of databases and biobanks.
5. An account of which criteria are most suitable as the basis for the research / non-research distinction in the regulation of different scientific areas.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2004-003578 EDCEP

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1
Domain : Ethics
Type : SSA
Title : European and Developing Countries Ethics Partnership
Duration : 24
Start Date : 01/05/2004

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Abstract:

The aim of this project is to develop capacity in research ethics review related to clinical research in developing countries.

The project will organize a series of training and capacity building workshops in several developing countries.

Through these workshops the necessary infrastructure and networks will be prepared which will have the needed ethics review capacity for the recently launched European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). Bioethicists from key European institutions will also be involved.

The final workshop will develop an agenda for a sustainable ethics partnership which can be utilized by the EDCTP.

The project is coordinated from the University of Bergen, Norway with the Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship in Rome, Italy as a partner. The partners have long experience as coordinators and participants in EU funded projects and the Bergen coordinator has long experience in conducting capacity building research ethics workshops in developing countries

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2004-003582 CEC-WYS

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1
Domain : Ethics
Type : SSA
Title : Central European Centre for Women and Youth in Science
Duration : 36
Start Date : 01/03/2004

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Abstract:

Building upon the policies and activities of the EC (establishment of the Helsinki Group in 1999, the ETAN report of 2000, the current ENWISE project monitoring the position of women in science in wider Europe - Action 27, and the planned establishment of the European Platform for Women Scientists - Action 24 of the Science and Society Action Plan), it is proposed to establish Central European Centre for Women and Youth in Science. The Centre will build upon and expand the experience of the National Contact Centre - Women in Science (NKC) established in 2001 by the Czech Ministry of Education at Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The two primary goals of the Centre are:

- 1) to promote, mobilise and network women in science in Central Europe and
- 2) to promote, mobilise and network young people in science in the region, and thus to contribute to increasing gender equality in R&D and to structuring the European Research Area.

The Centre will involve Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic and will draw on the experience of partners from Romania, France and Italy. Specific goals of the project are: - a database of women experts to mobilise and network women scientists - FP6-related activities (training on inclusion of gender dimension in FP6 proposals, mobilisation of women scientists to apply for the EC's expert evaluator database) - training on responsible scientific conduct - creation of a forum to facilitate networking, exchange of experience and mobility opportunities of young scientists, building upon the Young Scientists' workshop organised by the EC and NKC in April 2003 - co-ordination of policy monitoring and lobbying at national and international level - increasing gender awareness in scientific community in the region.

Project results will be made available to the public.

Training activities will be based on the 'train the trainers' approach, thus wide dissemination will be ensured

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-002422 WESPA

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2

Domain : Public understanding and confidence

Type : SSA

Title : A Web portal for Energy and Semiconductors Public Awareness

Duration : 14

Start Date : 01/01/2004

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ES	EDICIONES DEL LABERINTO S.L.	HES	Ortega del Blanco, Juan JosÈ
IT	INF MEDIA S.R.L.	IND	Roncaglia, Roberto
DE	GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG KUENSTLERISCHER INFORM	REC	Piesk, Jens
FR	EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY	OTH	Lee, David

Abstract:

Energy, semiconductor physics and microelectronics are subjects of everyday discussion at all levels: in the media, in political and economical debates.

These subjects should, therefore, be particularly effective in making people aware of the importance of science and technology and of their impact on society.

The project will provide European citizens with a deeper understanding of the nature of energy (its transformations, exploitation current problems and future scenarios) and of semiconductors and semiconductor technology together with an appreciation of their impact on modern society.

This will be achieved through the development of a web portal where everyone can find information about scientific and technological issues in multimedia format.

The portal will provide access to versions of the following multimedia: -La conquista dell'energia, produced by the INF M (currently in Italian, will be translated into French, English, Spanish and German); -L'energia e le sue trasformazioni, produced by the INF M, in English, Spanish and Italian; -Dal silicio al Computer, produced by the INF M, in English, Spanish and Italian;

Users will also have access to a network of scientific experts who have agreed to answer users' questions.

The objectives of the project are to explain the impact of scientific and technological advances and their applications, benefits and limits to the general public and to young students, in order to make scientific and technological knowledge more readily accessible to them, taking advantage of the effectiveness of a multimedia approach, and to stimulate young people's interest in scientific careers.

Throughout, due attention is paid to historical and multidisciplinary perspectives.

The portal will be launched at the European S.&T. Week 2004, at other public exhibitions, and used, as a didactic tool, in EU schools.

The partners will use their own diffusion networks and resources to publicise and disseminate the service as much as possible

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-002500 ESCIENTIAL

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2
Domain : Public understanding and confidence
Type : SSA
Title : European Science Festival
Duration : 12
Start Date : 01/06/2004

Contact:

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SI	TEHNISKI MUZEJ SLOVENIJE	OTH	Jarh, Orest
FR	CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE	REC	BOISSON, Jean-Paul
UK	TECHNIQUEST LTD	OTH	Johnson, Colin Howard
UK	THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH	HES	Waddell, Derek

Abstract:

The objective of the project is to enhance the European value of the Genova Science Festival, the second edition of which will be held from 28 October to 8 November 2004, in connection with the "European Week of Science and Technology, 2004" and "Genova 2004: European City of Culture".

The actions of this project will be mainly carried out in the following three directions:

1. Importing exhibits and contributions from European Science centres/museums/institutions that are traditionally active in science diffusion/popularisation towards society at large.
2. Organising an International Training Centre in Genova, where expert science communicators coming from different European Countries can share their expertise and experience and, at the same time, train new potential communicators on how to effectively communicate science.
3. Establishing a European collaboration network among different Science Centres and Museums to organise didactic laboratories and workshops where young visitors (pupils aged 10 to 16 years old), family groups, school classes and teachers will be taken along training paths on specific scientific topics (e.g. "Earth Science", "Microbes", "Palaeontology").

These initiatives are intended to build a close connection between research, training and communication, with public awareness as the centre of gravity, in the cultural framework of a city with an ancient history and traditionally devoted to art, science, technology and shared sociability.

In this respect, the very aim of this project is to contribute to the integration of science in society and society in science at a European level.

Strategic objectives addressed

1. to improve public awareness on science and its benefits and limits
2. to improve the exchange of experiences and resources in science communication and teaching
3. to attract young people towards scientific careers
4. to favour the collaboration between institutions and people

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-003191 SCIRAB

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1

Domain : Public understanding and confidence

Type : SSA

Title : SCIENCE IN RADIO BROADCASTING

Duration : 12

Start Date : 01/01/2004

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RO	ROMANIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION		Puscas, Constantin

Abstract:

Radio uniquely brings together science and society.

Radio is enjoying a renaissance, also due to the take up of digital radio, and most broadcasters include science in their programmes and general news. Public debate and perceptions of science have also shifted, and the public is increasingly aware and critical of the scope and limitations of science.

More instantaneous than print, more ubiquitous than the web and more intimate and interactive than TV, radio is where much of the discourse between scientists and the public is played out. However, the radio practitioners around Europe, who mediate the debate are linked, at best, through informal, occasional and ad-hoc contacts.

SCIRAB is a one year project aimed at linking journalists, science communication researchers and scientists, who produce, teach, study or participate in science radio programmes (SRP).

SCIRAB main objectives are :

- a) stimulate a European dimension in SRP;
- b) set up guidelines for the assessment of the impact of SRP on public perceptions of science;
- c) assess and promote the role of SRP in stimulating the dialogue between scientists and society at large.

First step will be a survey of existing SRP in the main European radio stations; a website and a discussion group will be set up to involve interested parties.

A two days seminar will bring together radio practitioners, researchers and scientists; best practices, priorities, and research needs will be presented and discussed.

Two workshops will be held, focusing on:

- a) strengthening the co-operation at European level, with specific attention to candidate countries;
- b) stimulating the involvement of the scientific community in SRP;
- c) explore the challenges and opportunities of the radio-web convergence.

Proceedings of seminar and workshops will be published, together with a survey report, a final report and an action report mapping the state of the art and setting the guidelines for future, longer term FP6 activities.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-508865 SCHOOL-FORESIGHT
Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2
Domain : Public understanding and confidence
Type : SSA
Title : Launching a Visionary Quest for the Intelligent School of Tomorrow on the basis of Relevant State-of-the-art Scientific and Technological Achievements
Duration : 10
Start Date : 01/01/2004

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BG	CENTER FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDIES	HES	IVANOV, RACHO
EE	ALFA-OMEGA COMMUNICATIONS LTD	OTH	AASMA, VIIVE
CZ	GYMNAZIUM F.X. SALDY	HES	PRADNA, IRENA

Abstract:

The School-foresight proposal aims to realize different visions for the "intelligent school of tomorrow" unveiling, particularly to school students, new horizons that are created thanks to the contribution of scientific and technological achievements performed in the European Research Area.

The visualisation of the "intelligent school of tomorrow" will be realised by focusing on two scientific and technological domains:

- a) new learning techniques and ICT technologies affecting learning process, methods and tools and
- b) ICT & eco-efficient technologies in intelligent school buildings affecting school as a physical entity.

Experts will analyse and select the most suitable for demonstration relevant FP5 projects. Equally, Experts will adapt and popularise the scientific content based on young people perception abilities and the respective pedagogical principles.

To prepare the information activities a detailed organisational plan and a diversified information material will be prepared.

To accelerate early involvement of school students a School-foresight composition contest with subject "A vision for the school of 2020" will also be organised. 5 cities of Greece, Estonia, Romania, Bulgaria and Czech Republic will host a diversified Information Programme before, during and after the European Science Week 2004, including publicity, core, and closing events. 5 interactive exhibitions, debate workshops, a virtual 'classroom of tomorrow' comprising a synchronous collaborative lesson (of science and technology's impact on school education) will be used to achieve the project's objectives.

At least 10,000 secondary school students of 5 European countries will participate in projects activities and interact with the most recent state-of-the-art S&T achievements.

A quantitative and qualitative review of project's results and dissemination activities to 7 discrete target groups will conclude School-foresight project's activities.'

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-508963 VENUS TRANSIT 2004

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2

Domain : Public understanding and confidence

Type : SSA

Title : VENUS TRANSIT IN JUNE 2004: EXOPLANETS AND THE SIZE OF THE WORLD

Duration : 12

Start Date : 01/01/2004

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CZ	ASTRONOMICAL INSTITUTE - ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF TH	REC	STEFL, STANISLAV

Abstract:

On June 8, 2004, planet Venus will pass in front of the Sun. This event, a transit, is extremely rare - the last one occurred 121 years ago. Easily observable in Europe, it will most certainly generate unprecedented attention from the media and the public.

This project aims at transforming curiosity into knowledge and interest in European science through large-scale pedagogic action, specially geared towards the importance of uncertainty in scientific observations, the leading European role in the discovery of extra-solar planets and the measure of the Universe.

This project will set up a large international network of individuals (teachers, students, amateur astronomers, etc.), and institutions (planetariums, science centers, etc.). It will encourage them to participate in real-time measurements of one of the most fundamental astronomical parameters, the distance from the Earth to the Sun.

It will explain the relation of this event to a current front-line research area, the search for extra-solar planets by the transit method; the only one, which, in the near future, will enable the discovery of Earth-size planets and thus possibly, alien habitable worlds.

The project will promote international collaboration throughout Europe, and also in Africa and Asia, by observing the same rare celestial event, debating it via web and adding local observational contributions to a large, common database.

The project is centred on the delivery of the detailed explanation in all European languages of all aspects (scientific, technical, historical etc.) of the event itself and its implication in the search for life, and on the involvement of media, teachers and amateur astronomers to ensure the highest return.

The Internet will be the main vector of interaction.

To emphasize the sociological importance of this event, a video contest will be launched.

The project will be thoroughly evaluated in terms of impact and management in a Final Event during the Science Week.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-509029 SHIELD
Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2
Domain : Public understanding and confidence
Type : SSA
Title : Launching an Educational Scientific Journey on Natural Hazards and Disasters - Exploring Today's Achievements, Future Challenges & Expectations with Respect to Forecast, Prevention and Mitigation'
Duration : 10
Start Date : 01/01/2004

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PL	PROGRESS AND BUSINESS FOUNDATION	OTH	SKULIMOWSKI, ANDRZEJ MACIEJ
EE	HILL & KNOWLTON EESTI AS	OTH	VAARIK, DANIEL
TR	HACETTEPE UNIVERSITESI	HES	GECIM, SELCUK

Abstract:

SHIELD project aims to demonstrate particularly to high-school students the (often not clearly visible) contribution of science and technology on the confrontation of the natural hazards and disasters that occur around the European continent. By presenting in a vivid and interactive manner the struggle between technology and natural phenomena through the eye of science:

Today achievements versus challenges and threats of tomorrow (Forecasting natural hazards - preventing and mitigating natural disasters) the SHIELD project targets to promote an increased scientific culture to young citizens of Europe and highlight the importance of the european S&T research performed on the European Research Area.

To achieve the aforementioned, an Integrated Information Programme will be implemented in 4 European countries (Greece, Poland, Estonia and Turkey).

The programme will be divided into 3 stages: Publicity, core and closing events.

The Publicity events will precede the execution of the core events and will aim at maximizing the publicity of the forthcoming stage.

The core events will be executed during the European Science Week 2004 and will comprise mainly of an exhibition and a workshop per country.

Finally, the closing events will include the continuation of the exhibition (for an additional week) and the dissemination of the results of the Information Programme.

Interactivity in exhibitions will mainly be served through the tangible demonstration of related FP5 project's through micro scale simulators of natural disasters, demo versions, video show, virtual patterns, whereas young scientists will be used to interact and guide with the visiting school students in the exhibition venues.

At least 8,000 high-school students of 4 European countries are expected to participate in projects activities.

A quantitative and qualitative review of the project and specific dissemination activities to 7 discrete target groups will conclude SHIELD activities

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-509052 FW-Science2004

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2
Domain : Public understanding and confidence
Type : SSA
Title : The Fascinating World of Science
Duration : 12
Start Date : 01/04/2004

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Partners:

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Abstract:

Two thirds of the Europeans consider that they are often poorly informed about science and technology and 45% feel they are neither interested nor informed, according to the results of the last Eurobarometer 'Europeans, science and technology', conducted by the EC and published in December 2001.

The perception of science among young people is at the same level as among the public as a whole. The lack of interest of young people in scientific studies and careers is firstly attributed to "the lack of appeal of scientific studies" (60%), followed by the "difficulty of the subjects" (55%) and thirdly by the fact that "young people are not so interested in scientific subjects" (50%). The above survey also reveals that, among the Europeans, the Portuguese are the least informed about science and technology (73% feel not well informed; EU15: 61%).

This fact is in agreement with recent sociological research data developed in Portugal (Costa et al., 2002).

Therefore, a gap exists between science and society, particularly strong inside Portuguese society.

This projects aims at raising public awareness of science by implementing initiatives particularly addressed to the Portuguese general public and school population.

Efforts will also be done to assure a maximum participation of other European publics, mainly through Galician schools visits and virtual and interactive activities through the event web site. The project also aims to increase public knowledge of science applications and its influence on everyday life on Sciences and encourage young people to do training and a career in these areas.

The current project proposal for the "FW-Science 2004" Initiative covers the following activities: Laboratory and Practical Workshops; Field Workshops; Poster Session; Debate Forum; Virtual interactive activities; Permanent exhibitions. The following main fields of Science will be covered: Biology, Geology, chemistry; Physics and Mathematics.'

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-509058 SUPERLIFE

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2
Domain : Public understanding and confidence
Type : SSA
Title : Superconductivity in everyday life
Duration : 24
Start Date : 01/06/2004

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DE	INSTITUTE FUER PHYSIKALISCHE HOCHTECHNOLOGIE E.V	REC	Bartelt, Hartmut
HU	S-METALLTECH 98 MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	IND	SZALAY, András
UK	THE CHANCELLOR, MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVER	HES	Espinasse, Pierre
SE	SYDKRAFT AB	REC	Sjunnesson, Lars
ES	CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	REC	LORA TAMAYO, Emilio
HU	DIAMOND CONGRESS	OTH	VARGA, Attila

Abstract:

The objective of the project is to raise public awareness for European research activities on applied high temperature superconductivity (HTS) and to help citizens understand the impact of HTS devices on their lives.

Some of the major benefits of HTS applications are: significant increased electric power quality, reduction of environmental pollution and more convenient and high speed ground transport. Magnetic levitation and transport, energy storage devices, water cleaning are possible with HTSs, even today.

As a result, the application of superconducting, particularly HTS devices would provide competitive and sustainable new products for the industry, on the one hand, and would provide much comfort for the everyday life of the general public, on the other. In the worldwide competition for new products it is important that the European Union could secure a leading position and proper market share in the present and future superconducting market.

By propagating the real potential of the high-tech emerging technology, the present project would help the European Community to achieve the above goal.

For the promotion of market introduction of HTS devices, exhibitions, seminars and demonstrations of interactive demonstrator devices are planned to be performed. Exhibitions are for the general public as well as for school/university students, with special workshops for different target groups (schools, industry, SMEs).

The main event will be held during the European Science & Technology Week, but coordinated national activities will encircle it.

The expected results are the following: a series of demonstrators (small-size operating model devices) and exhibitions, bringing closer HTS applications to professionals as well as to the general public; obtaining experience on the European level of propagating HTS, including the availability of videos and CD-ROMs.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-510152 ESO2004

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1

Domain : Public understanding and confidence

Type : SSA

Title : Euroscience Open Forum 2004 Highlighting Science, Technology, and Innovation in Europe

Duration : 18

Start Date : 01/01/2004

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UK	BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE	OTH	Jackson, Roland

Abstract:

We propose a pan-European Forum on all the sciences (including engineering, the social sciences and the humanities) to be held in Stockholm in 2004.

This will be the first event of its kind ever staged in Europe and our target is to attract about three thousand participants, including researchers, decision makers, journalists, and persons interested in science and technology from many walks of life.

The Forum is coupled to an outreach programme, and will emphasise Science and Society debates on subjects of interest to the general public. The unique feature is that we will call on all the European Agencies, Associations, Academies and Laboratories to propose sessions or events of their own, to be hosted in the Forum and run under their own banner.

After consultation of external referees, the best of these proposals will be selected for the Forum by a Programme Committee of international standing.

Euroscience, assisted by an experienced group of partner organisations, will provide the main platform for the event and its logistics. It will also co-ordinate the Scientific Programme, and structure the Science-Society dialogue. Eighteen themes have already been announced by the Programme Committee, around which proposals are invited.

The general purposes of the Forum are to showcase European Science, to offer a platform for European dialogue, to enhance the European public's interest in and awareness of science, as well as the scientists' awareness of the public's rightful role. The Forum will also provide a focus for the European Research Area.

It will enable the important themes of science governance to be addressed, thereby creating a more dynamic interface between science and policy-making.

Also, it will bring together scientists and decision makers from all over Europe, and follow a bottom-up approach in building a European scientific identity, by encouraging the active participation of scientists at large in policy development

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-503282 TRUSTNET-IN-ACTION

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1

Domain : Science and Governance

Type : CA

Title : The making of inclusive risk governance: TRUSTNET-IN-ACTION

Duration : 36

Start Date : 01/01/2004

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NL	NATIONAL INSTITUT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRO	REC	Canton, H
FR	INSTITUTION PATRIMONIALE DU HAUT-BEARN/SYNDICAT MI	OTH	Lassale, Jean
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FR	FEDERATION UNIVERSITAIRE ET POLYTECHNIQUE DE LILLE	HES	Vandecandelaere, Gaston
FR	CENTRE D'ETUDES SUR L'EVALUATION DE LA PROTECTION	REC	Lochard, Jacques
FR	CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE	REC	Moreau, Sylvie
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UK	UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER	HES	Whaley, Stephen

Abstract:

The difficulties encountered in co-ordinating the activities having an impact on health and the environment call for radical innovation to improve the governance of hazardous activities in Europe.

This requires consideration of the complex interactions between the vertical (i.e. local, regional, state, Europe, globe) and horizontal (i.e. public authorities, stakeholders, affected citizens, experts) governance levels, as well as between the various dimensions (technical, social, political, economic, cultural, ethical...).

Building on the results of the TRUSTNET 1 and 2 concerted actions, as well as on a recent research project developed in the area of risk governance, the objective of the project is the creation and the promotion of an inclusive risk governance culture by: Exploring new roles and mutual trust relationships of all categories of actors, Developing and testing structures for active participation of actors in risk governance,

Developing guidance documents for each group of actors as a means to assist them in finding their role in an inclusive risk governance culture, The project participants have identified in Europe a set of local, regional or national innovation fields in risk governance that are to take place in the next years.

The purpose is to create the conditions for a group of stakeholders involved in these processes together with a multidisciplinary core group of key European experts in risk governance to work out a common inclusive risk governance culture.

This common culture will be based both on the experience of these innovative processes that will be developed during the 3 years and on the available expertise in risk governance.

The project will not fund the innovative processes (already planned and financed at local, regional or national levels), but will bring resources to create the conditions for the integration of these processes at European level. TRUSTNET-IN-ACTION is expected to be an original #

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-503539 CONFERENCE SACRIMM

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1

Domain : Science and Governance

Type : SSA

Title : European Conference on Scientific Advice, Crisis management and media

Duration : 8

Start Date : 27/03/2003

Contact:

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Abstract:

Crisis management is governed by a mixture of political, economic and technical factors, which weigh differently depending on the situation.

Recent international experiences in crisis management (natural and man-made) stress the importance of accurate communication of the risks during a crisis. Misleading coverage of health and science issues can generate unnecessary 'panics' and other types of inappropriate public responses be established. Accurate communication of the risks and benefits in regards to scientific research in general has also been identified as a current issue. Building trust between the actors in advance has been stressed as an important factor in the management of a crisis.

- This conference was intended as a contribution to the efforts to develop a systematic approach to crisis management.
- Although focusing on biological risks, it covered wider underlying principles and key public policy, ethical and communication aspects that bear on crisis management.
- In keeping with the canons of inclusiveness and transparency, the conference brought together all the stakeholders: scientists, media representatives, academics, health workers, decision-makers and lay people.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2004-510636 PATH

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1
Domain : Science and Governance
Type : CA
Title : Participatory Approaches in Science and Technology
Duration : 33
Start Date : 01/04/2004

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UK	LANCASTER UNIVERSITY	HES	McClintock, Marion
DE	UNIVERSITAET STUTTGART	HES	Kaufmann, Dieter

Abstract:

It has been widely recognised within academic and policy circles that deliberation of science-based issues and formulation of policy is no longer the exclusive realm of politicians and experts. In order to develop robust, transparent and effective policies new participatory structures for involving a wide range of actors and the public are urgently required.

The PATH project will form a network bringing together academics, practitioners, policy-makers and stakeholders to exchange knowledge and develop future directions for the involvement of society in the deliberation of science-based policy issues.

The project will focus specifically on two persistent challenges: scale and representation. To date, participatory processes have largely been used at a local scale. However, many policy challenges are relevant to a regional or international scale and hence guidance on how participatory processes can be scaled-up is a pertinent issue. Of key concern in such processes is how best to represent a diverse and diffuse public as well as 'silent voices' (e.g. children, future generations).

These two cross-cutting themes of representation and scale will be explored at a generic level, and via three case study areas, namely: genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture, biodiversity conservation and nanotechnology. Information exchange and development of innovative future directions will be achieved through an international workshop focusing on issues of representation and scale, and an international conference which aims to integrate elements of best practice in science-based policy deliberation and sketch out future directions with regard to the three case study areas. Project outcomes will be disseminated to academic and non-academic audiences through policy briefs, conference proceedings, journal articles, reports and the project website.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-502494 WIR- CONFERENCE

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1
Domain : Women and Science
Type : SSA
Title : WIR- Conference. Speeding up Changes for Europe
Duration : 9
Start Date : 16/06/2003

Contact:

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Partners:

Cty	Participant	Type
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Abstract:

Women in Industrial research "Speeding up changes for Europa"

The proposed international conference is a key activity to promote the issue of women in industrial research in Europe. Based on the results of the High Level Expert Groups' report "Women in industrial research.

A wake up call for European Industry" and the EC-funded study on "Women in research in the private sector", data, good practices, strategies and recommendations will be presented and discussed with representatives from a wide spectrum of European R&D companies, female researchers from different sectors of industrial research, representatives of the national governments and universities, and other stakeholders.

As a result of this conference it is proposed that action lines for future co-ordinated actions will be adopted to promote women in industrial research, raise awareness on this issue and implement further changes.

The conference will be organised in plenary sessions and workshops (young scientists, careers in industrial research, innovation and entrepreneurship, statistical data and analysis, top women: networks and mentoring).

Additionally, there will be parallel sessions for researchers and managers from the main sectors of industrial research in Europe (for example ICT, Pharmaceuticals & chemicals, manufacturing, energy) as well as for private non-profit institutions.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-503316 ENWISE ETHICS

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1

Domain : Women and Science

Type : SSA

Title : Starting a Debate with Women scientists from Post- communist Countries on Ethical Issues

Duration : 12

Start Date : 01/06/2003

Contact:

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Abstract:

The vehicle for the dissemination of the results of the Enwise report will be a conference to be held in Tallinn, Estonia (proposed date September 9-10, 2004), with emphasis on participation by scientists from the Enwise countries, including decision-makers in research policy, in order to encourage debate on gender issues in in research.

The Enwise Report, launched in January 2004, was prepared by the Enwise Expert Group, which was set up by the European Commission in September 2002 to promote gender equality in science by addressing the situation of women scientists in CEEC and in the Baltic States.

This conference will present an opportunity for scientists and research policy decision-makers from the Enwise countries, and also from the current Member States and the countries associated to FP6 to hear the results of the Report, to conduct a debate on the conclusions and validate its recommendations.

Keynote speakers will cover the recommendations of the Report and related themes, and the parallel sessions will examine in detail the main themes in the Report with opportunities for extensive debate and the active involvement of the well-represented delegations from the Enwise countries as well as the countries represented in the Helsinki Group.

The first day will also include a ministerial roundtable with research policy decision-makers from the Enwise countries participating. An innovative survey of the participants and their opinions will be conducted using mobile telephones. This technology has been successfully used in Estonia on a number of occasions.

The event is intended to be a major vehicle for raising the awareness of Enwise countries regarding the gender issue in research.

Post-communist countries, as also shown by the Enwise Report, have a low level of gender awareness generally, so this conference is intended as an effective way of introducing the issue in the context of science and society, and of encouraging debate.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-509884 DATAWOMSCI

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1
Domain : Women and Science
Type : SSA
Title : Study on databases of women scientists
Duration : 10
Start Date : 01/04/2004

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NO	KILDEN/INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE FOR WO	OTH	Kristiansen, Nina
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DE	UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN (DUPLI USE 999013019)	HES	Kueck, Gerd-Ruediger
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Abstract:

Networks and databases are an important strategy to promote women in science and to increase the percentage of women in top positions in the scientific field. While there are projects covering networks, an international cooperation and linking of mostly national databases is still missing. The promotion of women scientists is urgently needed and databases are an effective means to achieve this.

The study will result in presenting the bases to build up co-operations.

It comprises three tasks concerning databases of women scientists:

1. a structured coverage and an overview of databases,
2. a feasibility study on the technical possibilities of linking databases,
3. the development of criteria of quality and formulation of recommendations for building up new databases.

In order to ensure the adequate participation of women scientists in the 6th Framework Programme and in the building of the European Research Area, the internationalisation and collaboration of women scientist is urgently needed.

Databases are an effective means to achieve this aim.

For databases to be used efficiently by women scientists and organisations, they have to meet certain criteria of quality.

A catalogue of relevant criteria for a high quality database will be presented as one of the results of the study. It will also include best practice examples for those countries wishing to build up new databases.

The availability of recommendations, including a technical background, can also facilitate any plans for a database possibly accompanying the European Platform of Women Scientists in the future

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-510295 ERA-GENDER
Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1
Domain : Women and Science
Type : SSA
Title : Women in Science: Mainstreaming gender equality in the European Research Area
Duration : 6
Start Date : 01/09/2003

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Partners:

Cty	Participant	Type
IT	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI ROMA TRE	HES Breccia, Alfredo

Abstract:

The issue of women and science is at the core of the European Research Area.

The under representation of women in science is hindering the full realisation of the ERA's potential and the achievement of the Lisbon objectives.

The project aims at implementing the policy debate at national, cross-national and European level and developing synergies between Members States and Associated States to boost gender equality in research.

The objective is to organise a Conference (Women in Science: Mainstreaming gender equality in the European Research Area, Rome, 3rd December 2003) with the sponsorship of the Italian EU Presidency to maximise the European added-value.

The event will include the Ninth Meeting of the Helsinki Group (on purpose jointly planned in Rome, 4th-5th December 2003) as an integrant part.

The Conference focus will be on encouraging co-ordinated approaches: exchanging experiences and good practice, transferring know-how, comparing and evaluating existing policy measures.

The starting point is building upon the work of the Helsinki Group on Women and Science.

This objective should be reached by addressing three main topics: the presence and role of women in science (through a compared analysis of available statistics and appropriate indicators), the identification of the know-how to form gender competencies (in relation to both the promotion of specific new training areas and the introduction of gender aspect within traditional disciplines), the visibility of women researchers (women's participation to scientific information and public understanding of science, fostering a better and tighter interaction between the media and female scientists).

The final point is the adoption of a conclusive paper identifying key issues and policies, best practice and new tools as a contribute to the Helsinki Group Work Plan in order to build a consensus for future action and also as a starting point towards a new partnership for further

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2004-980749 ENWISE CONFERENCE

Call : Add-hoc or Spontaneous Reactions

Domain : Women and Science

Type : SSA

Title : Enwise conference Enlarging Europe with/for Women Scientists

Duration : 12

Start Date : 01/05/2004

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Partners:

Cty	Participant	Type
EE	ARCHIMEDES FOUNDATION	OTH MUST, Ülle
EE	HARIDUS-JA TEADUS MINISTEERIUM	OTH MAIMETS, Toivo

Abstract:

The vehicle for the dissemination of the results of the Enwise report will be a conference to be held in Tallinn, Estonia (proposed date September 9-10, 2004), with emphasis on participation by scientists from the Enwise countries, including decision-makers in research policy, in order to encourage debate on gender issues in research.

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An innovative survey of the participants and their opinions will be conducted using mobile telephones.

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Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-509027 EUROBOT

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-2

Domain : Young people's interest in scientific careers

Type : SSA

Title : Coupe d'Europe de robotique 2003/2004'

Duration : 13

Start Date : 01/11/2003

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Partners:

Cty	Participant	Type
FR	VM GROUP SA	OTH GOLDZAHL, Nicolas

Abstract:

Le projet consiste à organiser et promouvoir une compétition européenne de robotique dont le lancement aura lieu lors de la semaine européenne de la science 2003 (présentation du règlement du concours et du jury).

La coupe d'Europe de Robotique 2004 s'adresse aux étudiants européens, qui vont construire durant l'année universitaire 2003/2004, un robot en fonction du thème retenu pour le concours.

La phase finale de la compétition se déroulera en mai 2004 en France, dans le cadre du festival ARTEC (Arts et Technologies). Elle rassemblera les équipes finalistes (3 par pays).

La remise des prix sera effectuée pendant la semaine de la science 2004 lors d'une soirée d'exhibition (démonstration des robots gagnants et exposition d'applications robotiques par des entreprises).

EUROBOT est un exemple concret de sensibilisation de la jeunesse à la science. La manifestation est organisée comme une compétition sportive et dispose d'un rayonnement médiatique qui dépasse largement la seule jeunesse universitaire : EUROBOT est diffusé en prime time sur la chaîne de TV nationale française M6 et toutes les télévisions européennes auront accès à la manifestation qui est libre de droits.

Une couverture presse et radio est également prévue (plus de 100 articles de presse pour la dernière édition).

Comme la Coupe de France de Robotique, devenue le premier événement étudiant de France (160 écoles d'ingénieurs et Universités), EUROBOT veut devenir une grande fête de la technologie européenne (en 2003: 22 pays participants dont 11 Etats membres et 34 Universités), élargir le nombre de pays participants et sortir de France (organisation itinérante).

Il s'agira, en 2004, de la 7^e édition d'EUROBOT.

Le soutien de l'Union Européenne au projet EUROBOT, augmentera financièrement les capacités d'accueil des délégations étrangères, élargira la crédibilité européenne et internationale de la manifestation et renforcera la médiatisation auprès du public.

Contract No : SAS6-CT-2003-980001 YSC 2003 - BUDAPEST

Call : FP6-2002-Science and Society-1

Domain : Young people's interest in scientific careers

Type : SSA

Title : 15th European Young Scientists Contest - Budapest 20-26 September 2003

Duration : 20

Start Date : 17/02/2003

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Partners:

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Abstract:

Organization the 15th Contest for Young Scientists.