

MNT ERA-Net Mid-Term Conference

**“Improving European MNT Programme Co-operation
through ERA-Nets”**

30 Nov 2006, Mainz (DE)

Parallel Workshops - Workshop 2:

Added value from co-operation of MNT programmes

The client's view

Chair: Ben Kloeck, IWT-Flanders

Rapporteur: Tron Espeli, Research Council of Norway



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Austria/Belgium/Czech Republic/Finland/France/Germany/Ireland/Norway/Poland/Romania/Slovakia/Slovenia
/Spain/Sweden/Switzerland/The Netherlands/United Kingdom

Starting points

- MNT is an area that is so wide and multidisciplinary that **international** collaboration is desirable – if not necessary – to bring together all necessary competencies.
- MNT is still in a phase where most research needs are pre-competitive, high-risk developments, i.e. it requires **public funding**.

→ Cause for transnational public funding



How to choose ??



National/Regional Programmes



Each of the (four) transnational funding instruments

(should be designed such that it)

has a specific value to offer for candidate applicants.



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National programme cooperation other than ERANET

- Establishing bilateral or multilateral programmes
 - a common interest on the subject matter is then assured (as it will be the actual basis/trigger for the cooperation)
 - But ERANET provides a broader platform
- National programmes with cross-border funding
 - To strengthen cooperation between researchers
 - To facilitate technology transfer



MNT ERA-Net vs. EC programmes

- EC programmes are top-down defined
 - High degree of specification of criteria is necessary
- MNT ERANET partners is closer (than EC) to industrial customers and their needs
 - Better positioned to facilitate projects focused on shorter-term innovation
 - Can be more flexible in taking into account the characteristics and pluralism of industry



MNT ERA-Net vs. (current) Eureka

- Higher commitment from national agencies
 - to the addressed topics
 - to provide funding
 - to accelerate funding decisions
- The networking of programmes could give additional benefits beyond the funding
 - Eureka clusters and MNT ERANET similar

