

SINAPSE

Scientific **IN**form**A**tion for **P**olicy **S**upport in **E**urope

www.ec.europa.eu/sinapse



WHAT IS SINAPSE

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION FOR POLICY SUPPORT IN EUROPE

- An **electronic network** accessible via the Internet.
- A new **communication channel** between the scientific/expert community and the policy makers, including the European institutions.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Better **mobilise European scientific knowledge** in support to policy making (one of the two key objectives of the EU RTD policy).
- SINAPSE is a practical tool to support the EU efforts to develop **new forms of governance**. It will **facilitate the involvement of actors/stakeholders** that at present can't be easily consulted or encounter difficulties to share their knowledge and viewpoint.

The membership

- Over 750 organisations are currently registered.
- As regards the scientific community, this includes some of the largest **European/international organisations** :
 - ESF (European Science Foundation)
 - ICSU (International Council for Science)
 - ALLEA (All European Academies)
 - FEAM (Federation of the European Academies of Medicine)
 - UNICA (Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe)
 - EUA (European University Association)
 - EURO-CASE (European Council of Applied Sciences)
 - EARMA (European Association of Research Managers and Administrators)
 - EUROHORCS (European Union Research Organisations Head of Research Councils)

The membership

- EIRMA (European Industrial Research Management Association)
- EARTO (European Association of Research and Technology Organisations)
- EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organisation)
- EASAC (European Academies Scientific Advisory Council)
- Academia Europaea
- European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)
- European Mathematical Society (EMS)
- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)
- COST
- As well as **several national research/health/ethics councils, research organisations (CNRS, DFG, etc), science academies**, various advisory bodies covering different policy areas, etc.

- In the Commission, 36 DGs, Services and Agencies are effectively registered.

SINAPSE MAIN TOOLS


SINAPSETM

[Important legal notice](#)

[en](#)

[Registration Phase](#)

[EUROPA > European Commission > SINAPSE](#)

[Contact & Assistance](#) | [Search on EUROPA](#) | [About](#) | [Sinapse help](#)

	Library of scientific opinion & advice	EC consultation	Early warning system	Communication among members	Sinapse web search
Enter the network : Enter as a member Become a member Enter as a guest Last items					

I — THE YELLOW PAGES

- A “**Yellow Pages**” section to quickly identify and contact scientists or scientific organisations with specific expertise.
- Users can on the basis of numerous criteria **search for registered individuals/organisations with a specific profile or expertise.**
- They also have automatic **access to** the members’ visiting cards, including information on their **activities and contact details** (e-mail, website, CVs, etc).

Yellow pages - screen sample

22 June 2006

Admin Box

You are in admin mode
You have **17** pending tasks

• Site administration menu

Yellow Pages

• Search for members
• Search for organisations

Organisation name:

Quick search

Search tip

View current list in a tree view format

Export data

Advanced search

List sorted by:

Geoscope

Refresh

☐ Show activity description

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z all organisations

Organisations 11 - 20 from 43

< previous 1 2 3 4 5 next >

Organisation	Country	City	OCP Name	Activity	Type	Geoscope
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC (ASCR)	Czech Republic	Prague 1	AIM Karel	Scientific advice, Associative activities	Academy of sciences (and humanities/arts)	National
ACADÉMIE SUISSE DES SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES	Switzerland	Bern	Zürcher Markus	Scientific research	Academy of sciences (and humanities/arts)	National
ACADÉMIE SUISSE DES SCIENCES MÉDICALES	Switzerland	Basel	Leuthold Margrit	Scientific research	Academy of sciences (and humanities/arts)	National
ACADÉMIE SUISSE DES SCIENCES NATURELLES	Switzerland	Bern	Kissling-Näf Ingrid	Scientific research	Academy of sciences (and humanities/arts)	National
ACADÉMIE SUISSE DES SCIENCES TECHNIQUES	Switzerland	Zürich	Hänni Hans	Scientific research	Academy of sciences (and humanities/arts)	National
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	Austria	Vienna	Mang Herbert	Scientific research	Academy of sciences (and humanities/arts)	National
BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (BAS)	Bulgaria	Sofia	YAKIMOFF Naum	Scientific advice, Associative activities	Academy of sciences (and humanities/arts)	National
COUNCIL OF THE SWISS SCIENTIFIC ACADEMIES (CASS)	Switzerland	Bern	ZÜRCHER Markus	Scientific advice, Associative activities	Academy of sciences (and humanities/arts)	National
ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	Estonia	Tallinn	Poitel Anne	Scientific research, Scientific publishing, Policy Making,	Academy of sciences (and humanities/arts), Learned society,	National

Visiting Card- screen sample

Organisation visiting card for All European Academies

Elements marked with a star (*) are only visible to administrators and members of this organisation.

[Disclaimer](#)

Organisation's name & acronym (original language): All European Academies (ALLEA)

Organisation's name & acronym (english): All European Academies (ALLEA)

☐ ORGANISATION CONTACT DETAILS

Organisation's category *: Other bodies

Organisation's e-mail : secretariat@allea.nl

Organisation's web site: <http://www.allea.org>

Working language: English

Organisation's phone *: +31 (0)20-5510754

Organisation's address:
Street: Het Trippenhuys
Kloveniersburgwal
Number & PO box: 29 & 19121
Zip: 1011
City: JV Amsterdam
Country: Netherlands

☐ ORGANISATION ACTIVITY PROFILE

☐ POLICY AND SCIENTIFIC DOMAINS OF INTEREST AND EXPERTISE

☐ SINAPSE AND THE ORGANISATION

☐ SINAPSE CONTACT PERSONS

II — SINAPSE WEB SEARCH

- SINAPSE will offer the possibility to perform thematic/focused searches in the members' websites.
- The objective is to **increase the “visibility”** of these information sources and to give access to **some resources** that are **not yet taken into account by other search engines**.
- The limited number of sources will increase **minimise** the **“information white-noise”**.
- The user will be able to instantly get **further details on the sources**, and use filters to limit the results.
- The first phase is the **collection of the web sources**.

Web search - screen sample

Visiting Card	Organisation members	Organisation profile	E-mail preferences	Special Rights	Web sources
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Fields followed by a star sign (*) are mandatory

GENERAL INFORMATION

Web source name*: Since this name will be displayed in the search results, please use a meaningful name — e.g. Position paper from the organisation

Web source description: In order to help the user to better understand what can be found in this web source, you can provide a brief description of the content (e.g. This web source contains all the scientific advice published during the last three years by our Committee). This text will be included in the Visiting Card.

Web address*:

☐ Add a link to this web source on the organisation visiting card.

This will enable the users to access the sources directly via the visiting card, without having necessarily to use the search module (e.g. a link to a database or pages containing the last report produced by the organisation).

WEB SOURCE DESCRIPTION

Type(s) of content*:

Please indicate the type(s) of content stored at this web address.

Available types of content

- Scientific advisory body opinion/advice
- EU institution Scientific Advisory Body opinion/advice
- Scientific experts report/advice
- Scientific article/book/document
- Scientific peer reviewed article
- Research results

Selected type(s) of content

Multiple choices are possible. You can use shift+click to select multiple consecutive items and ctrl+click to change the selection of an item from the list ?

Language(s) of the content*:

III - LIBRARY OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE AND OPINIONS

- SINAPSE members (organisations) are invited to **upload scientific advice/opinion they** produced or requested.
- The advice **reaches automatically potentially interested organisations and experts** through a notification system based on the profile of the members (scientific and policy domains).
- The member uploading the document decides **who will have access to the different elements** of the document (title, short description, abstract and full text).
- **In addition to the document itself**, a description sheet includes meta data on who requested and produced the document, its likely impact, etc.

LIBRARY OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE AND OPINIONS

- Offers **advanced search functions**, enabling for example to look for documents produced or requested by a certain type of organisation.
- The main objective is to **increase the dissemination** of scientific advice in order to increase its **impact**.
- Progressively, as the number of documents in the library increases:
 - **serve as a basis for** new advice, enrich advisory bodies work.
 - **avoid** unnecessary duplication of efforts.







Library - screen sample

[Library of scientific opinion & advice](#)[EC consultation](#)[Early warning system](#)[Communication among members](#)[Sinapse web search](#)[Library of scientific opinion & advice > Document description](#)[Download this description](#)

Should you like to save, print or communicate the information related to this document, you can download this description page in a word processor compatible format.

DOCUMENT GENERAL INFORMATION

 You have the right to edit this document

TITLE	Market Report
Document ID	LIB4
Document type	Study results
Issue date	31/12/2004
Original language of the document	German
Document produced by	Energy-Control Ltd. 
Document produced at the request of	European Commission
Document uploaded by	Andrea BRANDSTAETTER  (OCP) Energy-Control Ltd.  (02/03/2005)
Policy domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competition• Energy

DOCUMENT TEXT

Short description

The market report of E-Control describes the electricity and gas market structure in Austria, the market behaviour of the enterprises as well as the results after three years of fully liberalised electricity and and two year of fully liberalised gas market.



Library - screen sample

Abstract (focusing on the key recommendations)

The first day of October 2004 marked the third anniversary of the full liberalisation of the Austrian electricity market, and the second anniversary of that of the gas market. This report reviews the progress made in the intervening periods, and recent developments in the electricity and gas markets. The amended Electricity and Gas Directives, which entered into force this year, are aimed at re ...

[\[View the complete abstract\]](#)

Full Text

[EC MB 04 ENGL 1502 KORR.pdf \(1.21 MB\)](#)



[EC MB 04 1502 END KORR.pdf \(1.31 MB\)](#)



<http://www.e-control.at>

DOCUMENT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This section contains additional information on the impact of the document provided by organisation which uploaded the document.

- What is the overall satisfaction of the user(s) of the advice/document?
 - high

IV- EC CONSULTATION

SINAPSE will offer to **all Commission services** the possibility to **consult the members**:

- Select appropriate **sub-set of members** on the basis of various criteria: domains of competence, type of organisation, location, etc.
- Possibility of getting **centralised contribution** from consulted organisations.
- Services will be able to design their own **questionnaire** and get automatic statistics on responses.

EC CONSULTATION

- **Upstream or in support** to existing scientific consultation mechanisms, such as committee meetings
- Tap into a **larger knowledge reservoir**. Give the possibility to experts not involved in the existing advisory system (participating in Committees or expert group meetings) to share their viewpoint and expertise.
- Get **rapid feedback**.

V - EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

- Whenever an issue necessitates or would benefit from the attention of the SINAPSE community (scientific organisation and public authorities).
- SINAPSE enables its members to **post early warnings** and to inform in one go all members with compatible interests and expertise, in view of facilitating a rapid mobilisation.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

- Such a tool will in particular **increase the awareness of the competent actors** regarding emerging issues.
- It will allow **not only** to better **detect potential crisis** but also to raise awareness and **share observations or experiences** that could be exploited on a European scale.



VI - COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBERS

- The members of the network can make use of these communication tools to **exchange information or initiate debates** (e-mails, discussion groups, etc.). They can:
 - **Decide who to involve** at a first stage. Select the right sub-set of members based on their profile and competence.
 - **Open or not** the discussion (control the access).
 - **Involve or not the Commission services.**

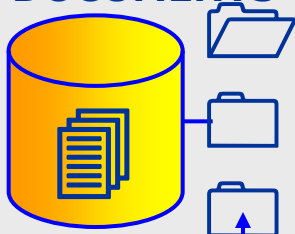
COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBERS

- As for the EC consultation tool, the organisations members of SINAPSE will have the possibility to **launch structured debates based on a questionnaire** that they are able to design themselves online (as well as get statistics on answers and import the results for further analysis).
- Members also have the possibility to set-up **“Communities” of members sharing a common interest** (within communities: libraries of documents and links, “message board”, thematic discussions/surveys etc) .

SINAPSE Community

PRINCIPAL MODULES

LIBRARY OF DOCUMENTS



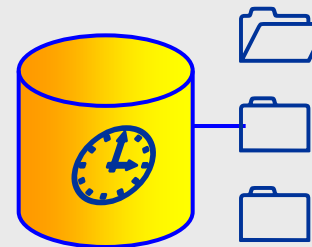
LIBRARY OF LINKS



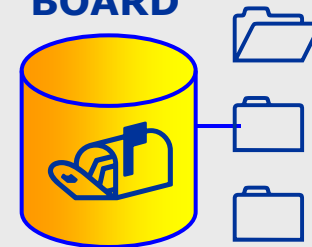
• DISCUSSIONS • SURVEYS



CALENDAR



MESSAGE BOARD

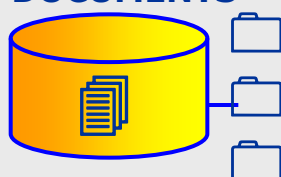


Manage Community

- Validate membership
- Validate items posted
- Manage validation settings (manual / auto)
- Manage modules folders

WITHIN DISCUSSION / SURVEY INITIATOR / ADMINISTRATOR

DOCUMENTS



LINKS



CONTRIBUTIONS



Manage Discussion / Survey

- validate membership
- validate items posted
- Manage validation settings (manual / auto)
- Manage discussion/survey folders

NOTIFICATION SYSTEM ENABLING MEMBERS TO BE INFORMED OF ACTIVITIES CORRESPONDING TO THEIR PREFERENCES

POSSIBILITY TO CREATE SPECIFIC THEMES AND FOR MEMBERS TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH SOME OF THEM.

SINAPSE Communities

- Beyond the internal communication possibilities, one advantage of setting up a community in SINAPSE is the **capacity to establish links with other networks/ organisations and to enlarge, if appropriate, the community to new relevant members** who join the network and have compatible interest with the Community. (invite contacts and network).
- The **members of the organisations already in the community** have automatic access to the community if they register in SINAPSE.
- **Beyond** the community: the members can benefit and use the other SINAPSE tools and create for example specific communities with other organisations.

LIBRARY OF DOCUMENTS

- A library of documents organised in folders

Community > "EC IMPACT ASSESSMENT" > Library of documents Library of documents ▼

[Suggest a new document](#)

[All documents](#)

[Library administration](#)

[Folders](#)





(infos)

- Main Folder (1) [i](#)
 - AGRICULTURE (0)
 - AUDIOVISUAL AND MEDIA (0)
 - CONSUMMERS (0)
 - CULTURE (0)
 - DEVELOPMENT (0)
 - EDUCATION (0)
 - ENVIRONMENT (0)
 - FISHERIES (0)
 - FOOD SAFETY (0)

DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN ALL FOLDERS

[Show / Hide more information on this page](#)

List sorted by: Title ▼ ☐ Show short descriptions

IMPACT ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES		 (605.2 KB)	 
Posted By: System Administrator Sinapse  (SSA)	Produced By: European Commission	Folder: Main folder i	Issue date: 15/06/2005 Upload date: 05/07/2006

Possibility for the members to share documents and access these resources in an **organised environment**, from anywhere.

The **tree of folders** offers an intuitive display and **targeted notifications**

LIBRARY OF LINKS

- A library of links organised in sections/folders

Community > "EC IMPACT ASSESSMENT" > Library of links

Library of links

Suggest a new link

Show all links

Links administration

Folders

(infos)

- Main Folder (1) 
- AGRICULTURE (0)
- AUDIOVISUAL AND MEDIA (0)
- CONSUMERS (0)
- CULTURE (0)
- DEVELOPMENT (0)
- EDUCATION (0)
- ENVIRONMENT (0)
- FISHERIES (0)
- FOOD SAFETY (0)

LINKS PUBLISHED IN ALL FOLDERS

Show / Hide more information on this page

List sorted by: Link name

☒ Show short descriptions

GOVERNANCE IN THE EU / USEFUL DOCUMENTS



 Sinapse System
Administrator (SSA)


Upload date:
05/07/2006

Short description:

Page on Europa with the main documents related to governance, including impact assessment.

Links to useful web resources shared by
community members.

MESSAGE BOARD

- Sharing news and ideas

Suggest a new message

Show all messages

Administration

Folders

(infos)

Main Folder (9)

Report advancement comments (0)

report 1 (1)

report 2 (0)

Deadline comments (0)

report 1 (0)

report 2 (0)


Partnership research comments (0)

Other messages (0)

MESSAGES PUBLISHED IN FOLDER: REPORT 1

Show / Hide more information on this page

List sorted by: Message ☐ Show short descriptions

Message	Posted by	Date created	Folder	
Report 1 introduction	4 Sinapse System Administrator (SSA)	24/03/2006	report 1 ?	 

Community members can either use the “send a message” tool or the message board which offers the possibility of informing those interested by a certain topic while keeping the **history of the communication**.

CALENDAR

Suggest a new event

All scheduled events

Archives

Display events of: 2006

Administration

Folders

Calendar

April events

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May events

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

EVENTS SCHEDULED ON THE 03/04/2006

Show / Hide more information on this page

☐ Show events description

Dates	Events	Type	Posted by	Folder	
03/04/2006	<u>First meeting on Theme A</u>	Conference	 Sinapse System Administrator 4 (SSA)	<u>Meetings</u> ?	 

Scheduled events are highlighted in blue in the calendar.

NOTIFICATION SETTINGS

Can be restricted to specific folders.

Frequency of notification chosen by the users for each community module

☐ NOTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

Frequency of notification:

☐ Notifications for ALL folders

☒ Notifications for SELECTED folders

Folder(s) available

/AGRICULTURE	<div>></div> <div>>></div> <div><<</div> <div><</div>	<div>Folder(s) selected</div> <div>/AGRICULTURE</div> <div>/CONSUMERS</div>
/AUDIOVISUAL AND MEDIA		
/CONSUMERS		
/CULTURE		
/DEVELOPMENT		
/EDUCATION		

Multiple choices are possible. You can use shift+click to select multiple consecutive items and ctrl+click to change the selection of an item from the list ?

By selecting a folder, you will automatically be notified of items created in it's subfolders.

By default, notifications are set to **immediately** for **all folders**.

SINAPSE Communities EXAMPLES

- European Scientific Advice Network on Health (EUSANH).
- Technology Platform on nano-medicine .
- Network of the Universities from the Capital of Europe (UNICA).
- The future of Scientific Publication
- EU – commission – Measure of administrative burden.

SOME GENERAL FEATURES

- SINAPSE has been conceived to reproduce, as far as possible, the **way people traditionally communicate**. You are able to :
 - Decide and know **with whom you communicate**
 - Determine **who has access** to the documents you upload, discussions you launch, early warning you send, etc...
 - **Filter what you receive** on the basis of the sender. Decide to receive invitations to join discussions or e-mails from only certain types of organisations (e.g. public authorities)

Filter what you receive- screen sample

Your Profile	Your Groups	Your notification preferences	Your e-mail preferences	Your Domains	Your Bookmarks
<p>Use this section to manage the preferences regarding the delivery of messages sent through the application. The e-mail preferences apply to e-mails sent through the mailing tool and to invitations to participate in a discussion in communication among members. They don't apply to e-mails sent by members of the European commission.</p>					
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept to receive messages and invitations sent to you by Sinapse members :</p> <p>When Sinapse members choose you as recipient of a message or an invitation to a discussion/survey would you like to:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Accept all the messages and invitations specifically sent to you, independently of the related domains (default) <input type="radio"/> Accept only those compatible with your domains of interest (contains the domains of expertise) <input type="radio"/> Accept only those compatible with your domains of expertise </p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members of Sinapse can, via the mailing tool of the Communication among members module, send messages of general interest. Check the box if you want to receive this kind of messages.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Filter messages and invitations based on sender:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Don't accept messages and invitations from individual members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don't accept messages and invitations from the following organisation type(s) </p> <div> <div> <div>(Other) Advisory Body/Committee</div> <div>EU institution Scientific Advisory Body/Committee</div> <div>(Other) EU institution Advisory Body/Committee</div> <div>PRIVATE AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS</div> <div>Political organisation</div> <div>Professional association</div> </div> <div> <div>></div> <div>>></div> <div><<</div> <div><</div> </div> <div></div> </div> <p>Multiple choices are possible. You can use shift+click to select multiple consecutive items and ctrl+click to change the selection of an item from the list ?</p> <p> <input type="button" value="Update"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/> </p>					

SOME GENERAL FEATURES

- **Members can be notified** of new SINAPSE activities **on the basis of their profile** (scientific and policy domains of expertise and interest) and for each tool decide on the frequency of notification.
- **Flexibility**: the tools will evolve on the basis of the needs expressed by users; new functionalities can and will be added.

Profile and preferences- screen sample

Your Profile
Your Groups
Your notification preferences
Your e-mail preferences
Your Domains
Your Bookmarks

Use this section to manage the notifications sent to you by e-mail to keep you informed of the new items created in the different modules of the application (click on the different tabs below to manage the notifications in each module).

Library
EC consultations
Early Warnings
Communication
Pending tasks

If you have changed your preferences, click on **Save** to validate

Frequency of notification: Twice a week

Would you like to be notified in all your domains of interest or only in your domains of expertise?

☒ Domains of interest
☐ Domains of expertise

You can also filter the notifications on the basis of the authors of the item(s) for which you are being notified

☒ Yes, I want to activate this option

Please, specify the restrictions:

☐ Don't accept notifications for documents posted by individual members (this option has currently no impact since individual members do not have the right to upload documents)
☒ Don't accept notifications for documents posted by the following organisation type(s)

Non-governemental organisation
European Economic Interest Group
Media group
Consultancy
Company
Lobby group

>
>>
<<
<

KEY TO SUCCESS

- SINAPSE offers a **communication platform**. Its usefulness will depend primarily on the capacity to reach the **critical number of members**.
- Importance of the current **registration phase** focusing on the **building** of the **SINAPSE community**. Registered members are invited to act as relays.
- Being a member **does not imply regular active participation**. One of the **essential benefits** comes from the use of **the “yellow pages”** function, which enables members to be contacted (if they so wish) or to contact other members whenever appropriate.

SINAPSE

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