ALLIANCE Fact Sheet N° 3:

Towards a coherent knowledge-sharing strategy

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TELECOMMUNICATION
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Background and content

Knowledge Sharing (KS), defined as "*the process of exchanging knowledge (skills, experience and understanding) among different stakeholder categories, including researchers, policy makers and service providers*", is considered as a useful tool that enables the formulation of practice and decision making based on sound evidence (Tsui et al., 2006).

The scope of the 3ʳᵈ ALLIANCE fact sheet is to present a coherent knowledge sharing strategy to measure the effectiveness of all relevant activities that will take place during and beyond the lifecycle of the project, linking them to the general TWINNING programme goals, the specific ALLIANCE objectives and the Transport and Telecommunication Institute (TTI) Strategy and Research Programme for the period 2016-2017 (TTI, 2015).

The KS strategy is established according to specific target groups and modules for the evaluation of the relevant activities.

Knowledge-sharing target groups

Knowledge-sharing target audience can be distinguished into two main groups: internal, referring to staff and students of TTI, and external, including other potential beneficiaries from the public and private sector (Table 1).

Table 1: Knowledge-sharing target groups (Source: ALLIANCE, 2016)

Code	Target group	Potential interests	Expected benefits and impacts
Internal			
I1	Academic staff	Knowledge necessary to raise the quality of teaching of PhD and MSc students in predefined research areas	Knowledge transfer and courses' preparation, which can be supported by qualified academic staff
I2	Research staff	Innovative research topics, common publications, new areas of collaboration, new projects	Increase of the number of scientific publications, new project areas, new consulting services for the local and regional authorities, private companies etc.
I3	PhD, master students	New knowledge regarding interchanges, new MSc and PhD research topics, double supervision of PhD and MSc dissertations	Qualified young academic and research staff in the research area of transport interchanges
External			
E1	Local and regional authorities	In adopting coherent decision-making frameworks based on international good practice experience	Innovative methods, frameworks, measures and actions regarding smart solutions for the enhancement of operation and the upgrading of the provided level of service in intermodal terminals via enrolling courses in TTI premises or visiting the ALLIANCE e-platform. Potential collaboration partners in projects, potential customers of TTI consulting services
E2	Transport and terminal	In adopting innovative approaches for the design of	Increased complementarities between different modes of transport, integration of the coordination

Code	Target group	Potential interests	Expected benefits and impacts
	operators	interchanges, using ICT tools, developing strategies for the integration of land use planning, and applying flexible management and business models	between modes and operations, improvement of public transport and freight transport, promotion of sustainable transportation via enrolling courses in TTI premises or visiting the ALLIANCE e-platform. Potential collaboration partners in projects, potential customers of TTI consulting services
E3	Transport policy makers and influencers	In guidelines for the provision of information to travelers and professional drivers, development of innovative approaches for the design of efficient interchanges and their implementation framework, integration of a coherent framework regarding all involved stakeholders	Solutions for intermodality, improvement of public and freight transport, development of energy efficient urban network performance, increased economic viability, creation of cost-efficient interchanges via enrolling courses in TTI premises or visiting the ALLIANCE e-platform. Potential collaboration partners in projects, potential customers of TTI consulting services
E4	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), business and industry	In the establishment of successful business models	Guidance for the development of business schemes built upon concrete organizational models and stakeholder collaboration under Memorandums of Understanding, master plans, and other internal communication and collaboration agreements and regulations via enrolling courses in TTI premises or visiting the ALLIANCE e-platform. Potential collaboration partners in projects, potential customers of TTI consulting services
E5	General public/demand side users	In the development of advantageous transportation in terms of accessibility, timing, safety and security, cost, comfort etc.	Provision of information for their better daily transportation, the improvement and modernization of interchanges via enrolling courses in TTI premises or visiting the ALLIANCE e-platform. Potential collaboration partners in projects, potential customers of TTI consulting services

Knowledge sharing evaluation tool

The ALLIANCE knowledge sharing evaluation tool is formulated from six modules, namely: educational/training programs, summer schools, short-term staff exchanges, collaborative research activities, website and e-platform. Each of these modules is briefly described in Table 2, along with the relevant data collection methods, the measurement variables and the target groups.

Table 2: Knowledge sharing evaluation tool (Source: ALLIANCE, 2016)

Module	Description	Data collection method	Measurement variable	Target groups
Educational/training programs	These programs are based on the knowledge of UTH and Fraunhofer IFF partners, which cover the gap of the current study and training programs in TTI, Latvia and the surrounding region of the Baltic sea	Questionnaire survey	Participants' feedback	All
Summer schools	Two summer schools focusing on sustainable passenger and freight transport interchanges	Questionnaire survey (trainees, trainers)	Participants' feedback	I1, I2, I3
Short-Term Staff Exchanges (STSEs)	Staff exchanges aiming at international collaboration in preparing publications and studies, and supervision of PhD and MSc dissertations	Reporting	Report on activities during STSEs	I1, I2, I3
Collaborative research activities	Collaborative publications in scientific journals of high impact factor, participation in International Conferences, double supervision of PhD and MSc students, special issue of the Transport and Telecommunication Journal with best research results from collaborative research teams, Special Sessions in International Conferences	Reporting	Number of publications, number of double supervisions, number of Special Sessions	I1, I2, I3
Website	Knowledge regarding interchanges, new PhD and MSc research topics, double supervision of students	Google Analytics	Number of section visits (i.e. deliverables) Number of downloads (i.e. deliverables, fact sheets, etc.)	I3, E1, E2, E3, E4, E5
e-platform	Educational material, knowledge about writing highly cited research articles, publication ethics, etc.	Internal LMS tools	Number of registered users for courses Users' feedback	I3, E1, E2, E3, E4, E5

Conclusions

Knowledge-Sharing (KS) is amongst the key aims of TWINNING projects of HORIZON 2020. In order to achieve this aim, ALLIANCE established a coherent knowledge-sharing strategy, which enables the continuous monitoring of the project's activities and facilitates the achievement of the expected impacts, the most direct of which are:

- Increase of papers indexed in Scopus or Web of Science by 50%
- Increase of joint papers, written by the International team of researchers at least twice
- Increase of joint publications, written in cooperation with Latvian business entities at least twice
- Increase of the research work for industry by 20%
- TTI scientific journal development (increase H-index to 8).

The project's progress for the first year (2016), presented in Table 3, validates the positive and optimistic dynamics of ALLIANCE to successfully achieve its goals.

Table 3: Project's progress (Source: ALLIANCE, 2016)

Key performance indicator	Base values (2015)	2016
Papers indexed in Scopus or Web of Science (per year)	6*	9
Number of joint papers written by International team of researchers (per year)	2*	3
Number of joint publications written in cooperation with Latvian business entities (per year)	1*	3
Number of PhD students who work in TTI	3	3
Transport and Telecommunication Journal quality indicators:		
H-index	2	7
SJR indicator	0.19	0.32
Cites per document	0.21	1.03
International collaboration	14.29%	39.39%
Change of quality of Transport and Telecommunication Journal in the following categories[1]:		
Computer Science application	Q4	Q3
Engineering (Miscellaneous)	Q3	Q2
*Average value for the last 3 years (2015, 2014, 2013)		
[1]Based on data from SCImago Journal and Country Rank, http://www.scimagojr.com/		

References

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Tsui, L., Chapman, S. and Stewart, S. (2007). A Handbook for Knowledge Sharing. Edmonton: Community-University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth, and Families.

TTI, 2015. Transport and Telecommunication Institute Research Programme (2016-2020), www.tsi.lv.