

# Supporting the Alignment of IST Research Programmes on Mobile Communications in the New Member States

*ALIPRO aims at supporting the alignment of national and regional research programmes in the New Member States (NMS) and Acceding and Candidate Countries (ACC) with European IST research in the area of mobile technologies, applications, and services .*

## At A Glance: **ALIPRO**

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**Duration:** March 2005 – March 2006

**Total Cost:** €0.61m

**EC Contribution:** €0.55m

## Main Objectives

ALIPRO's main goal is to support the European integration and alignment of national and regional research programmes on mobile communications in NMS and ACC.



The research programmes of NMS and even more of the ACC in the economically important mobile communication sector are not sufficiently aligned with and integrated into European IST research. In some NMS and ACC such programmes do not even exist.

ALIPRO will accelerate the improvement and alignment of mobility-related national and regional activities and programmes in NMS and ACC, strengthening their integration on European level.

To be more specific, ALIPRO aims to achieve the following general goals:

- Better alignment of national and regional research programmes on mobility with the European IST research, according to the goal of creating a European Research Area.
- Stimulating an intensified information flow between the major stakeholders: public authorities in the NMS and ACC responsible for national and regional research programmes and R&D entities who benefit from these

programmes. ALIPRO also aims to strengthen close relationships on policy-making and working level between these stakeholders and the EC.

- Sharing knowledge and information, developing awareness, and promoting best practices on mobile IST programmes as identified during the ALIPRO project execution.

From these general goals, the following operational objectives have been derived:

### i) Benchmarking

ALIPRO surveyed the national and regional mobility-related research programmes in the NMS, the ACCs Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey as well as selected programmes in Germany as references. Based on the results of this investigation, a benchmarking analysis was performed, in which relevant indicators were defined and best-practice cases were identified.

The main purpose of the information gathering and mapping is to prepare a factual database regarding the state of research programmes related to mobile technology in the aforementioned countries. The benchmarking process aims to identify best practices, which will be the reference point for improving the regional and national programmes in the NMS and ACC where necessary.

## ii) Vision and roadmap

Data gathered in previous steps will constitute a basis upon which experts from each country of the consortium will execute a study. The primary goal of this study is to formulate a vision for national R&D programmes and to elaborate a respective roadmap for the countries in question so that they contribute to the achievement of the ERA objectives in the field of mobile technologies.

In order to ensure a high level of integration of these research programmes at the European level, the national visions and roadmaps developed by the consortium partners will be discussed in the consortium. Then they will be integrated into a consistent, common vision and a comprehensive roadmap, taking into account the individual needs and priorities of the countries involved. Research priorities will be identified through consultations with national authorities responsible for R&D policies that will take place in the vision development.

### Technical Approach

For achieving the project goals, the activities have been organised in four work packages:

- Overall co-ordination and management of the project (WP0).
- Surveying and benchmarking of national and regional research programmes (WP1).
- Development of a vision and roadmap for improving and integrating the national research activities of the NMS and ACC into the European Research Area (WP2).
- Dissemination, including the setup of a web-based information platform and presentation of the results at national events related to national and regional research activities (WP3).

## Key Issues

Key issues of the project are:

- Surveying and benchmarking the current status.
- Creating a common vision for integrating the research programmes of NM2/ACC on mobile communications within ERA.
- Developing national roadmaps, coherent to the European vision and roadmap.

### Expected Impact

ALIPRO will help to make the whole of the research programmes on mobility in the NMS and ACC more than the sum of its regional and national research programmes. ALIPRO will give an initial push to better aligning and integrating these programmes into the European Research Area. In addition, ALIPRO will also start a process

of further improvement of scope and quality of the research programmes in the NMS and ACC.

The ALIPRO consortium acts in close collaboration with governments of the NMS and ACC. The governments of Poland, Lithuania,

and Romania officially support ALIPRO's objectives and planned activities.

In particular, ALIPRO will help to:

- Improve the existing and develop new national/regional research programmes on mobile communications in NMS/ACC.
- Better align and integrate national and regional research programmes on mobility in the NMS and ACC with European research.
- Raise awareness of the existence of mobility-related research programmes among R&D entities in the NMS/ACC that will lead to higher level of responses to the EC calls.
- Intensified mobility-related research activities in the NMS and ACC.

