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D07 Liaison to research projects

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SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

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Executive Summary

Coordination and consolidation of results of projects, supporting the eSafety Forum, especially the Working Group Communications, as well as harmonization with activities and initiatives elsewhere in the world are guiding the work of COMeSafety.

Hence, due to the supportive nature of COMeSafety objectives, a close liaison to research projects is indispensable. In addition, liaisons to research projects foster and enable dissemination activities defined in the COMeSafety Dissemination Plan (Deliverable D4).

Therefore COMeSafety establishes processes, activities and a dedicated infrastructure to facilitate the necessary exchange of information between related projects and initiatives.

The D07 deliverable outlines all major measures necessary to make the flow of information effective and efficient:

- Information gathering as well as
- Communication and
- Information sharing between projects

In addition a checklist of potential liaison activities is provided. This (not exhaustive) checklist is meant to be applied whenever a liaison to a dedicated research project is regarded as necessary. All these measures make up the COMeSafety Liaison Plan.

Figure 1 provides a graphical overview of relevant aspects addressed in the COMeSafety Liaison Plan.

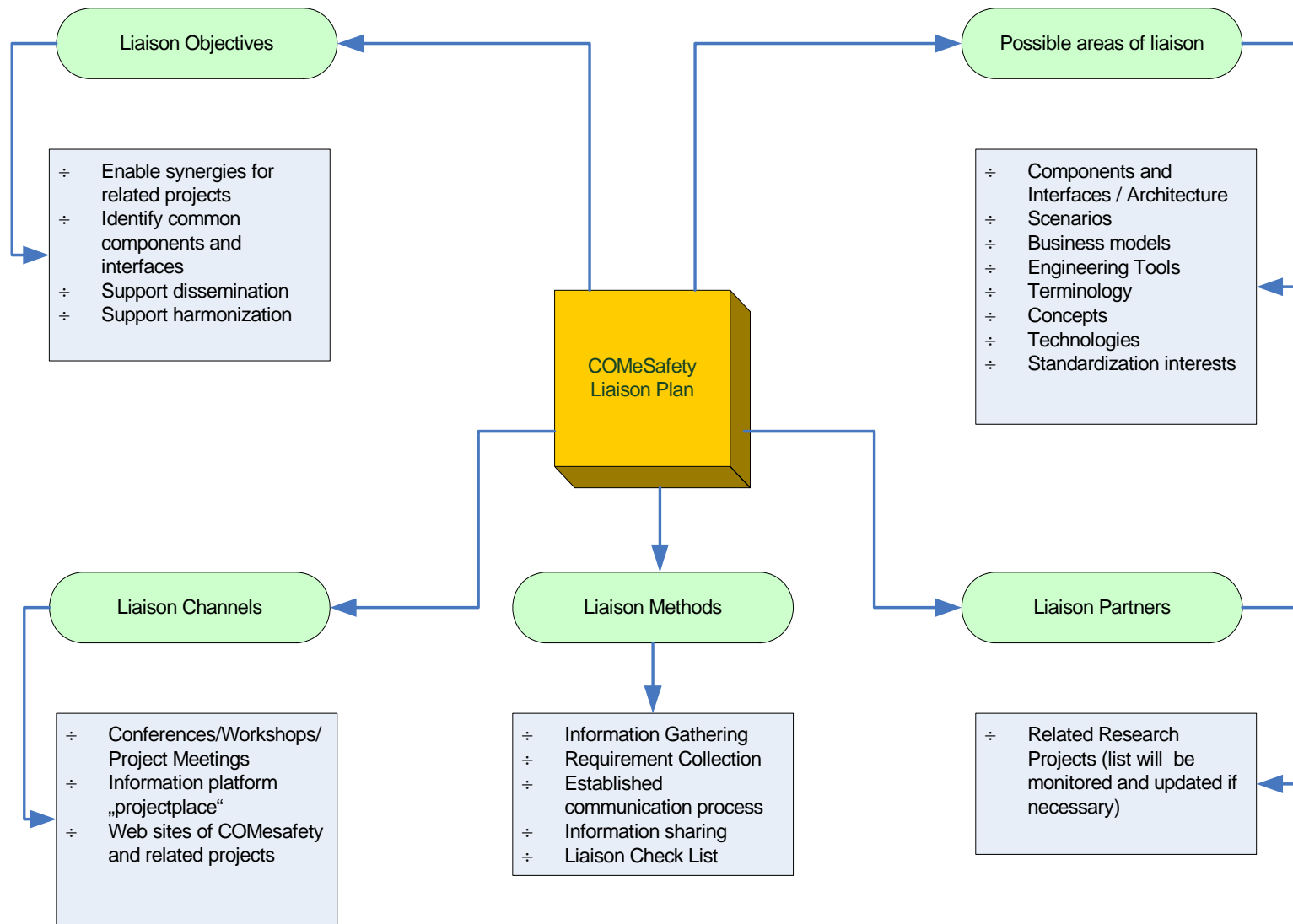


Figure 1: Overview of COMeSafety Liaison Plan

1. The COMeSafety Liaison to Research Projects

1.1. Overview

COMeSafety is a Specific Support Action co-funded among the initiatives of the Sixth Framework Programme DG Information Society and Media. In FP6, a Specific Support Action is a type of instrument whose nature foresees among its strategic objectives the establishment of liaisons and links with related RTD initiatives.

As SSA, COMeSafety contributes to the strategic objectives of the eSafety Forum explicitly defined in Annex 1 – Description of Work, [Anx01] and supports the European Commission in the task of Concertation among the different running projects on road safety and enhanced mobility. In addition, the SSA is intended to support the activities of different transversal working teams, supports the connection of the net of European projects to national projects and to relevant American and Asian initiatives, and enables and organises different dissemination events that are focused on communication technologies for cooperative systems.

The particular relevance of the COMeSafety goals to the IST priorities and objectives are described below:

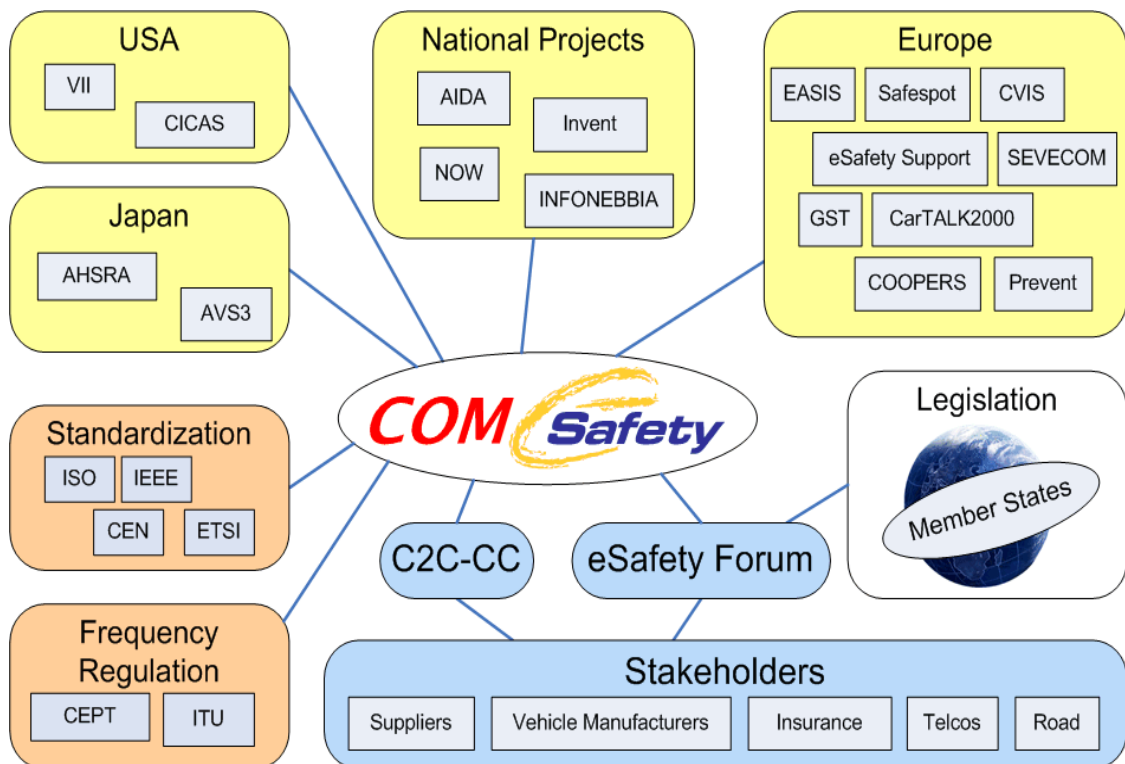


Figure 1: Organizations and Projects relevant for COMeSafety

1.2. Objectives of the liaison to research projects

The purpose of the COMeSafety liaison to research projects is directly derived from the “mission statement” of the SSA. Liaisons to relevant research projects are intended to facilitate or enable the accomplishment of core aims of COMeSafety, namely to:

- envisage and establish a stable link with the coordinating teams of the different research projects, to enable a coordinated and efficient flow of information,
- identify the major cooperations among the related projects that are necessary for system integration such that the different applications addressed are understood as part of an overall system strategy that reaps attractive synergy options and thus leads to additional benefits by deploying applications that are developed to work well together,
- collect and harmonise all the requirements for the different applications under development that involve vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication for road safety and traffic efficiency, to bring forward a common architecture and prepare the deployment of a communication system throughout Europe that supports the wide variety of applications developed in the different projects,
- support the definition and promotion of a common and overall communication architecture in terms of specific and dedicated views on communication based cooperative safety systems,
- assist the projects in choosing the right tools and methods and in doing so, foster the interoperability and transferability of models and components,
- establish and consolidate a common terminology, to allow an easy and accurate exchange of information, concepts or components
- cooperate with American and Japanese research initiatives, intensify established contacts and set up a means for regular flow of information based on the International Workshop and beyond, thus co-ordinate the worldwide harmonisation of the basic radio system, and support the worldwide standardization
- continue and strengthen activities with ETSI and CEPT to push forward a co-ordinated EU frequency allocation Process, involve research projects by providing information about the progress, asking for support in the process and especially with respect to justification, collecting additional requirements and prepare a peaceful co-existence of applications and fair sharing of resources after deployment,
- support and co-ordinate the standardization process by continuous information exchange, especially with the larger consortium of the

C2C-CC by attending the relevant meetings and ensuring the flow of information and harmonization with the European projects, but also with the ISO WGs, continuing the discussion on the way forward and on how to address all safety relevant aspects,

- support of the eSafety Forum especially the Working Group Communications, continuing the cooperation established which includes mutual attendance of meetings as well as active participation in work items

Thus, it is already ensured that established liaisons to research projects are designed to enable the identification of synergy options and architectural harmonization as well as to foster dissemination activities defined in the COMeSafety Dissemination Plan. Hence, the Liaison Plan is regarded as a means to further organize the input to defined measures for dissemination of achieved results or ongoing activities.

Details with respect to dissemination activities of COMeSafety are outlined in [Del04].

1.3. Overview of related research projects

The table below gives an overview of current major research projects – named as Liaison Partners in Figure 1 - that are of interest to COMeSafety to establish a permanent platform to exchange information.

In the moment of writing, the list is not exhaustive and is expected to be updated with upcoming new projects in the field of ITS cooperative safety systems.

Name	Comments	Contact Person	Webpage
AIDE	Adaptive Integrated Driver vehicle interface	Jan Arfwidsson	http://www.aide-eu.org
ATESST	Advancing Traffic Efficiency and Safety through Software Technology	Dr. Canan Gabay	www.atesst.org
COM2REACT	Cooperative Communication System To Realise Enhanced Safety And Efficiency In European Road Transport	Iris Fiedler Olaf Weinrich	http://www.com2react-project.org
COOPERS	CO-Operative Systems for Intelligent Road Safety	Alexander Frötscher	http://www.fav.de/Pro_COOPERS.html

CVIS	Co-operative Vehicle Infrastructure Systems	Paul Kompfner	www.cvisproject.org
CyberCars2	Co-operative Vehicles running at close range (platooning)	Michel Parent	www.cybercars.org
EASIS	Electronic Architecture and System Engineering for Integrated Safety Systems	Dr. Vera Lauer	http://www.easis.org
GST	Global Systems for Telematics	Peter Van der Perre	http://www.gstproject.org
GoodRoute	Cooperative Systems for Dangerous Goods Transportation	Dr. Dimitrios Tzovaras	http://www.goodroute-eu.org
Highway	intelligent maps & geographic tools for the context aware delivery of e-safety & added-value services	K. Geramai	www.ist-highway.org
Infonebbia	("Security in a foggy environment")	Giancarlo Alessandretti	http://www.infonebbia.it/
NOW	Network on Wheels	Dr. Walter Franz	http://www.network-on-wheels.de
PREVENT	PREVENTive and Active Safety Applications	Mathias Schulze	http://www.prevent-ip.org
SafeSpot	Co-operative Systems for Road Safety "Smart Vehicles on Smart Roads"	Roberto Brignolo	www.safespot-eu.org
SEVECOM	Secure Vehicle Communications	Antonio Kung Jean-Pierre Hubaux	www.sevecom.org
WATCH-OVER	Vehicle-to-Vulnerable road user cooperative communication and sensing technologies to improve transport safety	Andrea Guarise	http://www.watchover-eu.org/

Table 1: Current list of "liaison candidates"

1.4. Project Liaison Methods

1.4.1. Nomination of a responsible Liaison Official

As a first step, a so called Liaison Official is nominated once the need for a liaison to a specific project has been identified. COMeSafety has already nominated team members as Liaison Officials. They are in charge of a dedicated liaison to a single research project from a COMeSafety perspective in terms of planning, monitoring and coordinating liaison activities. Subsequent Table 2 reflects the current list of Liaison Officials.

Responsibility for Project	Liaison Official
AIDE	RUDOLF MIETZNER
ATTEST	CORNELIUS MENIG
COOPERS	RUDOLF MIETZNER
COM2React	AMER AIJAZ
CVIS	DIETER SEEBERGER
Cybercars	AMER AIJAZ
EASIS	RUDOLF MIETZNER
GST	ABDEL-KADER MOKADDEM
Highway	MICHELE PROVERA
PreVent	DIETER SEEBERGER
Safespot	MICHELE PROVERA
SeVeCom	DIETER SEEBERGER
Watch-Over	MICHELE PROVERA

Table 2: Current list of “liaison officials”

1.4.2. Information Gathering Process

Efficient information gathering is an important and continuous task in every collaborative project environment and – due to its objectives mentioned above - especially for COMeSafety.

The COMeSafety project will collect and organize its information gathering process as follows on different levels:

- for all relevant projects the official contact persons are identified (see Table 1)

- exchange of information is agreed with every project under the guidance of the identified contact persons
- COMeSafety attends relevant conferences, workshops or project meetings depending on the specific agendas on an individual basis
- COMeSafety takes care of the distribution of information collected within the COMeSafety community and supports actively the dissemination of collected information to related organisations and projects
- COMeSafety organizes the assessment and evaluation of collected information

In addition, so called Concertation activities are periodically organised by the European Commission and are regularly supported by COMeSafety. These Concertation meetings provide a platform to present project results as well as the discussion of open issues and the definition of further actions. COMeSafety makes use of this platform to achieve its liaison goals. It has already contributed to the Concertation Meeting held on 5-6 July 2006 in Leuven in the area ICT for Transport. The following table shows the action list for the follow-up, this list summarizes (as an illustrative example) all actions decided during the Concertation meeting. It also stresses the deep involvement of COMeSafety which has taken action especially on architectural harmonization and providing guidance with respect to architecture and communication technologies.

Area	Action needed	Deadline	For whom
Communication architecture	Continue co-ordination on communication architecture with other projects - inform COMeSafety on these efforts - inform your project officer on these efforts	Ongoing action	All projects
	First outline for the description of a common European communications architecture for co-operative systems	asap	COMeSafety
	Input to first outline	asap	All projects
	Stable draft of the description of a common European communications architecture for co-operative systems	London ITS congress	COMeSafety
	Communicate your ideas about the organisational model that could be used for the organisation "owning" and promoting the	End of August	All projects

	common architecture and your willingness to participate		
Reference Standardisation	Nominate one person responsible within your project as a standards champion	End of August	All projects
	Provide a list of those partners involved in standardisation bodies, working groups etc.	End of August	All projects
Task force to build a Common simulator to test co-operative systems	Nominate persons interested to participate	End of July	All projects
	Find a leader for the simulation task force	Asap	All projects
	Start working on a task list		All projects concerned
Task force on Field Tests	Nominate a contact person in your consortium	End of August	All projects concerned
	Send detailed table on field tests in order to facilitate the identification of possible synergies / sharing of facilities and structures,	End of August	All projects concerned
Task force on Communication technologies	Send corrections / additions concerning your project in the table of Francisco Ferreira	End of August	All projects concerned

Table 2: List of actions defined in the Concertation Meeting in Leuven

As indicated in this table, a number of task forces have been established among the different projects. The next Concertation meeting is going to be held at the end of November 06. These task forces are then expected to have specific meetings on the different topics with the overall aim of harmonising the activities and to create and put in operation all possible synergies in the design, development, integration and testing phases.

1.4.3. Requirements Collection Process

Requirements collection and consolidation is another important measure to establish an effective liaison to research projects. This process is supported and organized by COMeSafety in conjunction with the related projects.

The subsequent illustration depicts the basic process and activities for requirements collection.

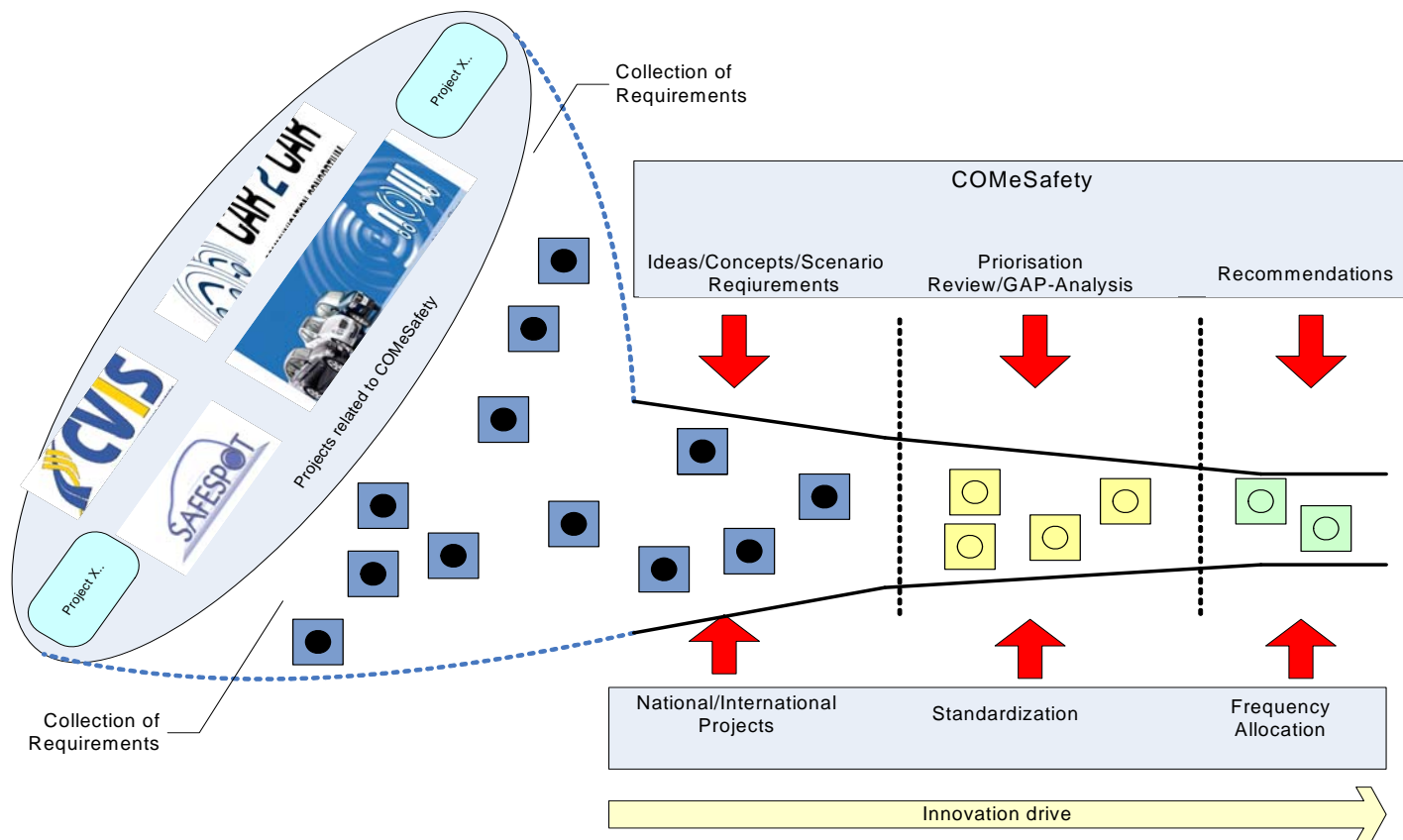


Figure 2: Visualization of the Requirements Collection Process

Every research project necessarily identifies and harmonizes its respective requirements depending on the specific focus of the project. In order to identify synergy options as well as common components across the different projects COMeSafety acts like a “funnel”.

The requirements of linked projects are collected, analyzed and prioritized in the context of global aspects and constraints (e.g. standardization, frequency allocation, legal prerequisites). Eventually a recommendation to related projects with respect to specific enhancements is given. The means to enable requirements collection may consist of reviews or joint project meetings or joint workshops and will be selected on an individual basis.

1.4.4. Communications Process

Beyond personal communication means, like conferences and phone calls, the ITS project society largely depends on spreading information by e-mails. This means will also be exploited by COMeSafety. The key to successful e-mailing strategies lies in the existence and maintenance of e-mail distribution lists. Ideally, every interested (and ac-

credited) person should have access to several server based distribution lists – one for a specific purpose each.

The COMeSafety administrative team pursues possibilities to offer such groupware functions, like the way to use server based address lists.

1.4.5. Information Sharing

As mentioned before, the COMeSafety project fosters the information interchange very actively. Therefore the project maintains two online tools:

First, at the beginning of the project the tool “Projectplace” has been established. Projectplace is a common collaboration tool for large and distributed working groups. At the present time, all partners of the COMeSafety project participate in an active way through this tool. Especially the address lists, the file exchange platform, the calendar as well as the project guidance functions are used on a regular basis. These functions can also be used, usually temporarily, by colleagues from liaised projects and are thus a useful means for cross-project information exchange and collaboration.

Second, the COMeSafety website www.COMeSafety.org is available for the general public since June 2006. This means was widely used for the 2nd International Workshop on Vehicle Communications 2006 in London. This information exchange platform may not only be used for the general public but also for closed groups, i.e. working groups. In the members' area only accredited persons have access. Beyond this, COMeSafety can give special read and write permissions to certain user groups. This is used by liaison projects as a means for information interchange.

1.5. Possible Areas of Work of Liaisons

Regarding the objectives of the SSA, subsequent areas of work are of specific interest for a liaison to a research project:

- Terminology and notation
- Software specification methods and tools
- Development Environments
- Concepts and architectural descriptions
- Components and interfaces
- Scenarios
- Requirements

- Business Models
- Deployment Strategies
- Standardization needs and requirements
- Technologies

Details with respect to scope and focus of the liaison are defined when a specific liaison is conceptualized and negotiated with the corresponding project. The list is not exhaustive and will be extended if necessary.

1.6. Checklist for Potential Liaison Activities

The following checklist is meant to identify potential activities for liaisons to consider when preparing a list of action for the related research projects. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive; rather it is meant to outline a variety of actions to be considered when preparing a specific action plan for a particular liaison within the COMeSafety project.

Recognizing that no one plan will serve for all liaison activities, because each of the related research projects pursues its own specific strategy during its life time, the checklist is presented rather as a source of possible actions than as a specific or definitive programme.

1.6.1. Communication Process

- Have name added to the projects and e-mail distribution lists.
- Create or update electronic distribution list of liaison to the related research projects.
- Update web page or other resources by subject page.
- Produce information guides on related news.
- Prepare and distribute library information news updates (electronic or paper) targeted to the liaison group.
- Invite people to phone- or webconferences on projectplace when appropriate.

1.6.2. Information Sharing

- Send information packets to the related research projects.
- Schedule individual liaison meetings between the related research projects.
- Coordinate joint meetings between the related projects.
- Review and, if appropriate, revise requirements from the related projects.
- Establish or update current awareness of research results from the different projects.
- Prepare library exhibit(s) relating to liaison area.
- Include information into the Newsletter and other information sharing possibilities.
- Allow individual access to parts of the document repository on the website or on projectplace.

1.6.3. Information Gathering

- Meet with project coordinator to learn about the current plans for the projects; seek feedback and discuss the action plan which should be established for the next couple of months or beyond.
- Continue to meet regularly with the related liaison research projects.
- Attend other events like conferences, tutorials or (joint) workshops.
- Get access to documents and repositories of corresponding projects.
- Coordinate assessment and evaluation sessions for gathered information.

1.6.4. Requirements Collection

- Perform requirements collection reviews including the process for requirement collection.
- Coordinate and consolidate requirements.

- Organize workshops for harmonization and consolidation of requirements.
- Perform a survey with respect to requirements (e.g. requirements already identified, under discussion) in the respective subject or program area and prepare a recommendation for the related research projects.
- Create or update collection of user needs as a prerequisite for the derivation of requirements.
- Perform reviews for potential shift of requirements under discussion.

Annex 1 Acronyms

SSA	Specific Support Action
DoW	Description of Work

References

[Del04]	COMeSafety Dissemination Plan, T. Kosch, B. Kallauch, June 2006
[Anx01]	COMeSafety Specific Support Action – Annex 1 Description of Work, October 2005