



Summary of Work Package 0

Policy Evaluation and Application

Introducing Work Package 0

Since it was clear that we see science and technology systems, policies and processes as embodying and reproducing inequality it was clear from the outset that we needed to engage with those undertaking and managing S&T. This was necessary in order to tap into their perspective on the distributional issues that were of key importance for study to have some sense of how social, economic and S&T goals related in their own policy systems and, later, to refine our research results through dialogue with them. In this way we hoped to improve the relevance, utility and take-up of what we did, but we also saw it as a reflexive act, in following our own concerns, by tying ResIST into an accountability structure. This can be seen as our first, short-term objective – to ‘establish effective links with policy and practice in the three selected representative geo-economic areas’.¹

The dialogue with policymakers and practitioners became one element of our second objective, to build the capacities that would be needed on a continuing basis, after ResIST, to support further academic and policy work on the issues we raised – establishing ‘a basis for sustained mutual learning on issues, mechanisms and models.’² Both objectives were in service of a wider aim through bringing work together from across ResIST ‘focus[ing] on the overall objectives to support policy and practice which can support balanced growth.’³

Two strands of WPO dialogue in ResIST

There were two planned strands of dialogue under this immediate objective. The first was intended to be with the Commission. We sought to contribute to the growing dialogue between DG Research and DG Development, and raised this early in the research, the proposal eventually taking the form of Commission representation on our advisory group. After some prodding from our side, the Commission, in a strict application of principal-agent theory, saw participation in the Advisory Group as a potential conflict of interest and declined. However, the participation of the project scientific officer, or of an officer from DG Development, in the series of World Regional Meetings organised by ResIST with the status of observer could not be considered conflicting. Both Commission and ResIST objectives of accompanying the development of the project and benefiting early on from its insights would have been achieved. As it happened, the potential of such interaction was only glimpsed at our final policy seminar in which staff of the Commission took a full active part.

¹ ResIST Description of Work, p. 23

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

The second strand of dialogue was with policymakers and practitioners in the selected geo-economic areas (Europe, Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean). Initial dialogue at meetings in Maputo, Rio de Janeiro and Istanbul led to the formation of a ResIST Advisory Group whose members contributed to discussion in further meetings in Coimbra, Barbados, Stellenbosch and Brussels. This was very fruitful, and what ResIST has achieved can be seen largely as co-production based in these exchanges. The Advisory Group had a strong influence on our consideration of National Innovation Systems as a general reference point for our policy proposals – see section 7 of the ResIST final report – as well as providing detailed feedback on individual work packages. With others they also contributed substantially to the idea of the follow-up action-research studies to ResIST, and to our reconsidering the disciplinary inputs and perspectives that should shape our future offerings of expertise on these issues. These issues are taken up below.

Developing networks of expertise as capacity for development: what ResIST has done

We have also sought to contribute to research which seeks to counter inequalities within or between nations. Entirely on the basis of links with policymakers and practitioners made in the course of our research, we are in the course of working on a proposal to develop and apply ResIST's approach in four specific world regional contexts where we have worked:

- In support of the Turkish Programme of Local Innovation Platforms;
- In developing and applying a Caribbean Regional Policy Framework for S&T and Sustainable Development;
- In supporting a Public Health Initiative in Mozambique;
- In delivering a North-South Collaboration on Women's Health between the UK and Uganda.

A project proposal is expected to be put to funders in the last quarter of 2009. If successful, we expect such work to make a policy contribution in a local context, as well as making a methodological contribution in, for example, mapping and measuring the effects of different approaches to research development.

We also sought to re-think our contribution to expertise networks, despite ResIST already being a widely-based collaboration between sociologists, anthropologists, philosophers, economists and political scientists, whose work is broadly informed by the interdisciplinary enterprise, science and technology studies (STS). At the 2008 joint meeting in Rotterdam of two professional STS societies, the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST), as well as presenting the work of ResIST over two sessions, Rob Hagendijk organised a Development, Globalisation and STS Roundtable to consolidate and broaden such interdisciplinary collaborations in the context for development. The Roundtable was notable for bringing together Development Studies scholars ('sensitive to local contexts, blackbox-ing technology') with those specialising in STS ('sensitive to technology, blackbox-ing local contexts'), so as to combine their strengths, and compensate for weaknesses in intellectual perspectives/expertise⁴. It led to the establishment in September 2008 of a STS, Globalisation and Development network with a website (<http://st-and-dev.net>) and a programme of activity drawing on a range of funding sources, including a workshop in Amsterdam in June 2009 on *Technoscience and the Transformation of the Global South*. It has been a specific goal of these initiatives to involve young researchers and practitioners from the South, who have the possibility of being central actors in this process. As this network develops we hope that it will contribute to a programme of meetings and researcher exchanges in and with the Global South that will help to strengthen the capacities for research and analysis there.

⁴ A notable collaboration of this kind has been established in the STEPS programme in the University of Sussex, bringing together researchers from two distinguished organisations, SPRU and the Institute of Development Studies.

Recommendations: Countering S&T Inequalities in Europe and in Development

In our Second Review Report (deliverable #34), produced under WP0 but drawing on work across the project, ten specific proposals are set out, targeted at the EU, which are aimed at supporting policy and practice which uses S&T for broad social and economic inclusion, a process which the paper calls building a 'social knowledge economy'. The first of these are targeted at helping to bridge S&T capacity gaps in Europe; the other three are oriented primarily to international development contexts, but all can contribute to both purposes. They are:

For the direct benefit of Europe:

1. Broaden the sources of research ideas and requirements in Europe;
2. Establish a firm basis for the assessment of the outcomes of different forms of public participation in setting and delivering research priorities, either in their own right, or in contributing to the delivery of goods and services; recognising the diversity in needs and settings;
3. Assess the composition of research portfolios, and the ways in which the research they comprise will distribute social and economic opportunities and costs;
4. Confront the national and regional disparities in research capacities across Europe, and launch a fund to address these; the additional research to be determined in part through carefully assessed experiments in broader participation in research priority setting, and in designing related accountability arrangements;
5. Whilst not compromising the rights of the individual researcher to move freely across Europe to train and work, monitor more carefully the effects of internal migration on the distribution of highly skilled expertise across Europe, and the effects of this on this ability to deliver more evenly distributed European scientific capacity as proposed in 4 above;

For the benefit of Europe's partners in trade and aid, particularly in the developing countries:

6. Critically examine how mundane technologies used in the EU, such as the textiles and electronic equipment studied under ResIST, distribute costs and benefits across different jurisdictions during their lifetime of production, use, re-use and re-cycling, and consider how the different times and places these processes occur can be stitched together in an accountability system that better protects the most disadvantaged from exploitation, contamination, and other risks;
7. Ensure that 'brain circulation' works to the benefit of all parties in exchanges between Europe and the rest of the world, by adopting a policy of balanced highly skilled personnel exchange applying to all developing countries;
8. Support knowledge remittances through the fostering of knowledge, business and investment networks between the knowledge diasporas in Europe and their originating countries in the developing world;
9. Press for wider and fairer arrangements for knowledge ownership and contribute to a wider debate through support of a South-based Science, Technology and Development Forum;
10. Reflect all these changes in a major effort to develop a broader set of indicators of the social knowledge economy: the relationships between science, technology and innovation policies and social cohesion, applicable to states with diverging values and with different needs in development.

Want to Know More?

Many of the presentations of the ResIST world regional meetings can be found in the *results, reports and papers* section of the project website (<http://www.resist-research.net>), as can the ResIST final report, also produced by the WP0 team, and the two WP0 Review Reports (deliverable # 33 – April 2008, and deliverable # 34 – June 2009).