

The DRSTP Connection



Issue 2

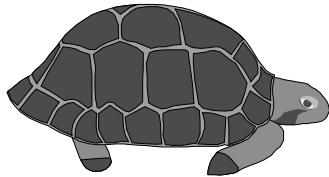
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This is an internal project bulletin to be used by the Secretariat and the project participants. The Secretariat would appreciate any contributions from the participants may considered of general interest to the 'DRSTP II community'.

PROGRESS REPORT:

PLANNING FINALISED

Some of you may have wondered what the Secretariat has been doing for the last couple of months. Well, we can assure you that we have been working, but the process of getting to an agreed point of departure for the implementation and identifying consultants has taken more time than initially anticipated. The Secretariat is, however, pleased to inform you that the preliminary planning phase now has been finalised. As you will see from the 'Implementation Chart' attached to this issue of 'DRSTP Connections' only a couple of issues remain to be solved, and the overall picture looks very good.



The National Project Teams, who early this autumn provided us with the conclusions of their needs assessments and priorities, may have wondered why we did not go ahead and initiate the consultancies. The priority of the Secretariat has been, however, to have all national priorities clarified before we enter into the implementation phase. This has proven useful in our search for consultants and coordination of activities.

THE NEXT PHASE; PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The new year will hopefully be a very active year for the project. Probably most of the consultancies will take place during the year 2000 and the working relationships between the consultants and the national experts will be developed – hopefully in such a way that it serves the national objectives.

The working capacity of your National Core Group will also be challenged. As you know the final outcome will to a large extent depend on the working group being given support from their superiors in order to be able to find sufficient time for involvement in the project

THE FIRST CONSULTANCY



In cooperation with the consultant, the NPTs are responsible for setting the dates for the first consultancy. For practical preparations, such as making flight arrangements, the Secretariat will need information as soon as the dates and the place have been decided. The timing of the remaining consultancies will be set according to the working capacity of

the NPT/NCG and the availability of the consultant. It is important to keep a certain momentum and to avoid long periods of inactivity. All consultancies should be carried out in the period January 2000 – June 2001.

The first consultancy will therefore soon take place and it is of course a very important event since it may set the tone for the whole implementation process. A good start is crucial for the final outcome. Much attention should therefore be devoted to the preparations of the first consultancy.

We are confident that practical preparations such as finding meeting rooms, reserving suitable accommodations for the consultant, and seeing that he or she will find the way to the venue etc. will be well taken care of.

However, we'd like to give you some ideas for the daily working schedules of the consultancies. Needless to say, since continuity is of major importance in the work ahead of us, all members of the NPTs and the NCGs – the experts who will be working with the consultant - should be present. Depending on the total number of missions for which each consultant has been contracted, the first day or so should be used for overall planning and discussion of the detailed list of content of the material to be developed. (Some consultants will do all six consultancies, some only one or two).

Although you all have provided us with a good picture of your priorities, which we are passing on to the consultants, there will be a need for a further direct exchange of ideas and

discussions with the consultant. Agreement on details is important in order for later consultancies to be adequately tailored to your needs and expectations. An important issue will be to make sure that you have a common understanding of the main concepts used in your description of your priorities. Setting up a 'project vocabulary' could be useful.

To get an overview of the issues to be addressed it would be useful to be very clear about the main objectives of your plans for developing training materials. The main overall objectives should be broken down into a list of results you'd like to achieve during each consultancy. This way you will have to estimate and discuss the working capacity both of the consultant and the NCG.

Further input from your experts during the beginning of the first consultancy might be to provide some information about the current situation in your country in relation to your priority area. However, keep in mind that the time is limited and there should be no need for extensive formal introductions by different experts or policy makers. The consultancies should provide input for your experts and not the other way round. Avoid courtesy visits and idling – the climate should be one of an active professional workshop. **The practical goals should guide all actions and activities. Keep the objectives in focus.**

RISK ASSESSMENT

As part of the preparations for the first consultancy we would suggest that you discuss the risk involved in the early stage of project implementation. This was briefly touched upon during the seminar in Budapest. As the project is developing, and based upon some of the work already laid down by the Secretariat and yourself, you may have new points of view and concern regarding the challenges ahead that have to be solved. If you find time to discuss this in the form of brainstorming within the NPT and the NCG it would be useful if you could share your conclusions with the Secretariat and the consultant. This may ease planning and actions.

MEETING FOR CONSULTANTS

On 7 January 2000 the main consultants identified so far will meet in Strasbourg. The Secretariat will give an in-depth orientation of the background and the intentions of the DRSTP II and describe how its implementation should be carried out. This will include an explanation of the roles and the responsibilities of the Secretariat, the NPTs and the NCGs. The letters of agreement will also be presented. Previous experience from CEEC cooperation will be discussed and we hope to prepare the group for action in a way that will ease the cooperation and the first steps of implementation.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Millennium!!



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