

The first newsletter of the SIMPATIC project



Welcome

Dear SIMPATIC friend,

It is with great pleasure that we are sending out this first newsletter of the SIMPATIC FP7 funded project, if only because it reflects another milestone in the early life of the project.

Having started in March 2012, we have passed the stage of pre- and post-natal joy and depression. We got acquainted with all members, their expertise and their role in SIMPATIC, with our EC policy officer, we set up our scientific and advisory boards, got our website up and running, became familiar with the management and administrative structures, but most importantly, started researching.

Although it is still too early for dissemination of results, we thought it would be worthwhile to already inform you of our main activities so far, as an indication of what is in the pipeline. In this first newsletter, we highlight the milestones of the project and refer you to our website (www.simpatic.eu) for those items on which you would want further, updated information.

We are eager to receive your reactions and suggestions through the website contact form, at our e-mail address info@simpatic.eu, on Twitter or at our open events. Our first Annual Conference, to be held on 25 and 26 March 2013 is such an opportunity. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Reinhilde Veugelers
Scientific coordinator of SIMPATIC

What is SIMPATIC?

SIMPATIC stands for "Social Impact Policy Analysis of Technological Innovation Challenges" it is an ambitious policy-oriented research project coordinated by Bruegel in collaboration with seven other research institutions, with the financial support of the Directorate General Research of the European Commission through its FP7 programme.

It represents a unique bottom-up project, bringing together, for the first time, a wide variety of top class micro- and macroeconomics researchers with expertise in evidence- based policy analysis, impact assessment, and the scope and nature of research and innovation policies.

The objective of SIMPATIC is to provide policy makers with a comprehensive and operational tool box allowing for a better assessment of the impact of research and innovation policies in

Europe, thus allowing European innovation policy makers to better address the EU2020 challenges.

The project is running from March 2012 to February 2015 and has been awarded a grant of 2,696,560 € by the European Commission.

The objective of SIMPATIC is to provide policy makers with a comprehensive and operational tool box allowing for a better assessment of the impact of research and innovation policies in Europe, including the social dimension. Insights from micro-analysis and micro-evidence, including SIMPATIC's own frontier pushing ex-post policy impact analysis of R&D subsidies and tax credits, and clean energy instruments, will be used as input in sectoral EU macro models, taking into account the specifics of the services sectors. SIMPATIC will thus develop and use the best possible evidence and methodologies to simulate the impact of a number of research and innovation policy alternatives, providing new insights into the potential impact of various policy alternatives, thus contributing to advancing impact assessment and evidence based innovation policy design in Europe.

For more information, you can visit the SIMPATIC website: www.simpatic.eu

Who is SIMPATIC?

There are nine partners in the SIMPATIC consortium, coming from eight different European countries:



[Bruegel](#), Belgium (coordinator)

Project manager: [Delphine Michel](#)

Scientific coordinator: [Reinhilde Veugelers](#)



[KU Leuven](#), Belgium

Team leader: [Otto Toivanen](#)



[UNU-Merit](#), The Netherlands

Team leader; [Pierre Mohnen](#)



[SEURECO](#), France

Team leader: [Paul Zagamé](#)



[Institute of communication and computer systems \(E3MLab\)](#),

Greece

Team leader: [Pantelis Capros](#)



[Universidad Complutense de Madrid](#), Spain

Team leader: [Elena Huergo](#)



[Federal Planning Bureau](#), Belgium

Team leader: [Francis Bossier](#)

**Imperial College
London**

[Imperial college](#), United Kingdom

Team leader: [Ralf Martin](#)



[Institut za ekonomski raziskovanja](#), Slovenia

Team leader: [Joze Damijan](#)

Events

Past events

9 March 2012 - Kick-off meeting, Bruegel, Belgium (internal event)

The kick-off meeting brought together the members of the SIMPATIC consortium for the first time. After a brief presentation of the different teams involved in the project, the partners discussed and planned the organisation and the future output of the project, including project management, events, publications and dissemination activities. Special attention was given to quality control of scientific and policy outputs and the editing process of SIMPATIC publications.

Advisory Committees have been set up, gathering high profile individuals from the European Union, who assess on a regular basis the policy and scientific relevance of the project. You can find [here](#) the members of these committees made of policy makers, academics and representatives of government agencies responsible for distributing R&D subsidies. A detailed picture of the governance structure is also available [on the SIMPATIC website](#).

24 September 2012 - SIMPATIC "Micro-Macro" workshop, Bruegel, Belgium (internal event)

This event gave the opportunity to the SIMPATIC researchers and a restricted group of external experts to become better acquainted with each other's work and forge stronger links between the macro and micro working groups. Discussions evolved around R&D, innovation, Macroeconomic models, European R&D policy Assessment, Subsidies, Tax credits methodology and clean innovations.

4 December 2012 - Workshop on Green Innovation Policies, Bruegel, Belgium (internal event)

This workshop focused on the methodological approaches to identify the incentives driving green innovation. Achieving the European (and global) decarbonisation targets is contingent on massive improvements of green technologies. Such green innovations are supposedly driven by a complex mix of policies. With a view to improving green innovation policy, the workshop dealt with the research issues related to the empirical evaluation of green innovation policies. It addressed two core issues in particular: first, could patent statistics be made a workable measure for (some sort of) innovative activity and what are its drawbacks. And second, which important effects would need to feature on the right hand side of a green innovation equation (e.g. spill-overs).

Upcoming events

25-26 March 2013 - First SIMPATIC Annual Policy Conference (public event)

The first conference of the project SIMPATIC will take place in Brussels in March 2013, at the offices of Bruegel and the Federal Planning Bureau. It will be split into two sessions, Scientific Workshop and Policy Conference. For more information and the updated agenda, please visit the event page [on the SIMPATIC website](#).

News

6 December 2012 - SIMPATIC scholars at State Aid workshop in Brussels

On 6 December 2012 SIMPATIC scholars [Pierre Mohnen](#), [Reinhilde Veugelers](#) and [Otto Toivanen](#) took part in the workshop “Modernising State Aid through better evaluations” at Bruegel in Brussels. The workshop reviewed the state of the art and best practices in evaluations of subsidies and discussed the requirements that need to be met in terms of data and methodologies to allow for better evaluations by Member States of State Aid interventions.

23 September 2012 - Launch of the Bruegel website

The SIMPATIC website was finalised and officially launched in September. It is meant to be the main tool of communication for the SIMPATIC project, gathering information about [events](#), [publications](#), [research](#), [scholars involved](#), [media presence](#) and [the project in general](#). On the [home page](#) visitors can see the latest news and easily subscribe to the newsletter or follow SIMPATIC on Twitter.



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