

Productivity and environmental tax reform in Europe (petrE)

Notes of teleconference

28 July 2006

Present:

PSI: Paul Ekins (PE), Roger Salmons (RS), Paolo Agnolucci (PA), Andrew Venn (AV)

CE: Terry Barker (TB), Sudhir Junankar (SJ)

GWS: Bernd Meyer (BM), Christian Lutz (CL)

SERI: Stefan Giljum (SG), Stefan Speck (SS)

UEP: Petr Sauer (PS), Jaroslav Klusak (JK)

Apologies

FU: Martin Janicke (MJ)

1. Welcome and Introduction

PE chaired the teleconference and welcomed all Partners. The opportunity was taken to congratulate everyone for the project being selected for funding in a highly competitive tender process.

2. Administrative Issues

a. *Grant acceptance forms*

All Partners confirmed that they had received back a signed copy of the grant acceptance form from PSI. RS confirmed that all forms have been now been sent to the Anglo-German Foundation (AGF) and he is not aware that there are any outstanding issues.

b. *Contact details*

Contact details have been circulated to the Partners. It was requested that any changes to contact details are forwarded to RS / AV who will re-circulate an updated version to the group.

c. *Project website*

PSI is currently investigating establishing a project website, and will report back at the Steering Group meeting in September. It was agreed that the website did not need a file sharing (ftp) function.

3. Work Packages

a. Assignment of lead responsibilities

It was agreed that there was a need to assign a lead Partner for each work package. PE clarified that this was so that a single point of contact could be established for administrative purposes, rather than ascribing an intellectual lead for each work-package. The following lead contacts were agreed:

- WP1 – PSI (PA)
- WP2 – PSI (RS)
- WP3 – CE (PS)
- WP4 – To be confirmed (SERI (SS) will discuss with UEP).
- WP5 – SERI (SG to confirm specific person)

It was recognised that there is a need for a clear understanding from the outset of the project on key 'deliverables', final reports and the book that will be produced by the project. It was agreed that PE will produce an outline for the book which will be produced as a result of the project for the Steering Group meeting (scheduled for 22nd September 2006), based on the work-package "concept notes" that will be produced for that meeting (see section 4a).

It was also noted that it essential for all of the Partners to be fully integrated with one another in research terms. Partners should therefore allocate time in their budgets to comment and discuss on each others outputs.

b. Updates, work plan changes and other issues

WP1

PA outlined the three components of WP1 which include analysis of resource productivity, quality of life and environmental industries. PA will lead on resource productivity, while PE will lead the work on quality of life. FU are to be approached (by CL) and asked to lead on the environmental industries work. PA will liaise with BM and MJ on the allocation of Partner resources between the three elements of the work package.

Data availability is a key issue for the resource productivity analysis. BM reported that there is good data availability for Germany for a variety of resource flows, but the situation in the UK – and other countries – is less clear. PA, BM and SG will liaise in order to understand data availability. SJ informed that CE are involved in another European Commission (EC) funded project – DROPS - which is collecting data on resource flows.

For the quality of life work, it was agreed that the key issue would be the development of a systematic methodology for assessing linkages between material flows and quality of life indicators. It was noted that this issue is of contemporary importance in the material flow debate.

For the environmental industries work, TB commented that this should include an analysis of the development of low carbon technology technologies. In order for this to feed into WP3, it would need to cover all European countries. However it was recognised that – given budgetary constraints – the work would necessarily focus on the UK and Germany.

WP2

RS explained that WP2 is to start in October 2006, and will involve himself and Alexandra Miltner at PSI who is a strong econometrician and is fluent in German.

WP3

SJ outlined the initial priorities for the work in WP3. These are:

- the development of a base case to 2020 and design of scenarios;
- the analysis of subsidies on low carbon technologies and the building of these into the E3ME model;
- the modelling of technical change
- the incorporation of the waste sector into the model.

Key modelling assumptions will focus on growth rates, population growth, emissions levels and oil levels/rate of use.

TB identified a need to assess relative strengths of the CE and GWS models, in order to divide the tasks within WP3 between the two modelling teams within WP3. BM agreed with the approach. SJ identified a need to assess commonalities and differences between the models and approaches.

WP4

Initial contact has been made between SERI and UEP. A Six point draft of the WP4 work contents has been developed, but still not agreed in details with SERI. An important question for WP4 is the focus for research i.e. European wide or focus on a few nations? PE suggested that it should focus on a few nations in good depth (while having an awareness of the wider context), rather than on many nations with little depth of analysis. It was suggested and partly agreed a good focus would be on the Visegrád group of countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia).

PE raised the issue of the interaction of data between WP4 and WP3. It was agreed that in time for the Steering Group meeting it would be helpful if the work-package lead (to be confirmed) could provide an indication of what information they will need from WP3, and what they will be able to provide to WP3.

WP5

WP5 will be led by SG. WP5 will have strong links with WP3, and will take results from this work package (especially results from the GWS model), possibly creating new models to address international trade aspects better.

It was agreed that WP5 will start immediately rather than at the start of year two. RS confirmed this had been agreed with AGF.

4. Future meetings/events

It was agreed that the Gant chart included in the proposal document – showing the timing of project meetings / events, etc. – would be updated by RS and re-circulated to all Partners.

a. Steering Group meeting, September 2006

It was confirmed that the first Steering Group meeting will be held at PSI in London on Friday 22nd September 2006 from 10.30 to 16.30 (UK Time). It was emphasised that the meeting is not restricted to Steering Group representatives, and that others are welcome to attend. BM indicated that he plans to attend the meeting.

It was agreed that the lead partner for each work package would produce a "concept note" to be discussed at the meeting. The structure and content of these notes is flexible – reflecting the differences between the work packages. However, it was noted that they should not be long (i.e. 3-4 pages maximum), and that they should provide an overview of:

- what will be done in the work package, and how it will be done – in slightly more technical detail than was included in the project proposal;
- the division of tasks between the work package Partners and the resources (person months) that will be devoted by each Partner to the work;
- the identification of appropriate milestones, and the timing of work package deliverables;
- any significant issues that need to be resolved, such as the availability of data, etc.

It was agreed that the concept notes would be sent to PE in advance of the meeting (i.e. by 11th September 2006), to allow him sufficient time to draw them together and produce a book outline (see section 3a).

In addition, it was agreed that the lead Partner for each work package should prepare a short PowerPoint presentation – summarising the main points in the note – to aid discussion at the meeting.

b. Partner meeting, November 2006

It was reported that FU are willing to host the Partner Meeting in Berlin. AV/RS will liaise with FU to organise this. It was agreed that the meeting will commence on Wednesday 15 November 2006 at around mid-day, with a Partner dinner in the evening. The project team will then meet with the Advisory Board in the morning of 16 November 2006, before completing the Partner meeting in the afternoon. It was noted that the Advisory Board should be informed as soon as possible.

It was noted that on the following two days (i.e. 17/ 18 November) there is a conference on 'Resource Policies: Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity' in Berlin – organised by MJ – that may be of interest to Partners.

The next Partner Meeting will be in May / June 2007 – dates to be confirmed.

c. UK Government briefing, November 2006

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office have suggested to AGF that they host an informal policy seminar, at which the four projects within the AGF research programme present an outline of their proposed work to key policy strategists from a range of UK government departments (e.g. FCO, DTI, Defra, Treasury, DfES, etc). The date for this has yet to be confirmed, but it would only require the involvement of PSI (although other Partners would be welcome to attend if they wish).

d. AGF mid-point events, November 2007

RS reported that AGF will be holding two "mid-point events" in Berlin and London in November 2007. The objective of these events is to bring together the four projects in the AGF research initiative with the policy community in Germany and the UK, and other European countries. The main event will be held in Berlin, and will be in two parts: a policy debate on the afternoon of the first day, and a more academically-oriented conference on the second day. Two alternative dates have been set aside for this event – either 15-16 November, or 29-30 November; with the final choice will depend on the availability of the keynote speakers that AGF wish to invite. It was emphasised that all Partners are expected to attend this event (the Partner meeting will be organised to coincide with it).

The policy debate will be repeated in London in the following weeks, but it will not be necessary for all Partners to attend this.

5. Any other business

a. Project Acronym

It was agreed that the project acronym should be "petrE" (productivity and environmental tax reform in Europe).

b. Other

It was agreed that there was a need for a strong "brand identity" for the project. To this end, RS will investigate the possibilities for designing a project logo.

Roger Salmons / Andy Venn

12 September 2006

Appendix A

Resource productivity, environmental tax reform and sustainable growth in Europe

Tele-conference
Friday 28 July 2006, 9.00am (UK time)
Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction (PSI – PE)
2. Administrative issues (PSI – RS)
 - a) Grant acceptance forms
 - b) Contact details
 - c) Project web-site
3. Work-packages
 - a) Assignment of lead responsibilities
 - b) Updates, work-plan changes and other issues

WP1 (PSI – PA)

WP2 (PSI – RS)

WP3 (CE / GWS)

WP4 (SERI / UEP)

WP5 (SERI / GWS)
4. Future meetings / events (PSI – RS)
 - a) Steering Group meeting, September 2006
 - b) Partner meeting, November 2006
 - c) UK Government briefing, November 2006
 - d) AGF mid-term events, November 2007
5. Any other business
 - a) Project acronym
 - b) Other