



RISK GOVERNANCE AND POLICY LEARNING WITHIN AND BETWEEN RISK FIELDS

Final Conference of the RiskBridge Project (EC FP6 Coordination Action)

Brussels, March 26-27 2009

Scotland House Conference Centre (Rond-Point Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels, Belgium)



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day 1

- 09:30 – 10:00** *Coffee and Registration*
- 10:00 – 10:30** *Welcome Address: **Jaap Van der Vlies**, TNO (Overview of the RiskBridge Project – original goals and achievements; format and aims of the conference)*
- 10:30 – 10:45** **Philippe Galiay**, European Commission DG Research, will provide a statement on the interest of the Commission in risk-governance and introduce the work of the Goverscience seminar and it's final report
- 10:45 – 11:30** *Plenary Talk: Introduction to Risk Governance in National and International Contexts (international speaker tbc will talk about the framing of risk and risk management for complex technologies; followed by questions from the floor)*
- 11:30 – 11:45** *Coffee Break*
- 11:45 – 13:00** *Observations from Key Sectors and Questions/Discussion from the Floor (3 invited speakers representing the commercial, regulatory and non-governmental sectors will provide short 15-minute comments on risk management followed by open discussion from the floor)*
- 13:00 – 14:15** *Lunch (Parallel Press Briefing tbc – journalists will be invited to meet partners and members of Riskbridge and question them about their findings)*
- 14:15 – 16:15** *Riskfield Presentations and Panel Discussion (Representatives from each of the six risk fields will provide 15-minute summaries of their key findings – state of the art for risk management, main developments and outputs from workshops, and what policies have been learned from other riskfields)*
- 14:15 – 14:30** *Nanotechnology (Dr Matthieu Craye, EC JRC)*
- 14:30 – 14:45** *Stem Cells (Dr James Mittra, University of Edinburgh)*
- 14:45 – 15:00** *Electromagnetic Fields (Prof Luigi Pellizzoni, ISIG, Gorizia)*
- 15:00 – 15:15** *Radioactive Waste (Prof Andy Blowers, Open University)*
- 15:15 – 15:30** *Sediments (Jos Brils, TNO, Netherlands)*
- 15:30 – 15:45** *Climate Change (Julia Ortleb, DIALOGIK, Stuttgart)*

Presentations will be followed by a 30-minute panel discussion involving the presenters and questions from the floor (**chaired by Prof Joyce Tait, University of Edinburgh**)

- 16:15 – 16:45** *Coffee Break* (A slide show showcasing the Riskbridge work will be shown)
- 16:45 – 17:30** *Summary of the Main Integrative Results of RiskBridge and Questions from the Floor* (**Jaap Van Der Vlies and a representative from Dialogik** will present the key policy implications of the RiskBridge findings – policy learning across risk fields, integration of results and development of the science/policy interface)
- 17:30 – 17:45** *Concluding Remarks and Summary of the Day* (By a Reporter from the two plenary discussion periods)
- 19:30** *Conference Dinner (tbc)*

Day 2

- 9:00 – 9:15** *Coffee*
- 9:15 – 10:00** *Plenary Introduction: Risk Governance and Transversal Issues* (A Representative from Dialogik will provide an introduction to and elaboration of the main transversal issues identified by RiskBridge and how they have been used to link the different fields. Key concepts around systems thinking and adaptive governance will be discussed)
- 10:00 – 10:15** *Coffee Break*
- 10:15 – 12:15** *Thematic Workshops* (Delegates will be split into five groups, each chaired by a RiskBridge partner, to discuss in-depth the key insights and issues identified from policy-learning across the diverse risk-fields and the broader science and policy implications)
- 12:15 – 13:30** *Lunch*
- 13:30 – 14:15** *Plenary: Reporting Back from the Groups* (Each group will provide a short structured summary of what was learned through the workshop discussions)
- 14:15 – 15:00** *Panel Discussion: Common Lessons and Research Needs* (This session will bring together a panel of

academics and practitioners to discuss the implications of the RiskBridge findings for European science and technology politics, risk regulation and management, and multi-level governance; **chaired by Claire Mays, Symlog)**

15:00 – 15:30 *Plenary Discussion: Final Questions and Statements from the Floor*

15:30 – 15:45 *Summary and Concluding Remarks*

15:45 *Close of Conference*

Information about RiskBridge and Purpose of the Conference

RiskBridge is an EC-funded Coordination-Action Project commissioned to explore new integrative approaches to risk governance. The project aimed to develop an integrative risk governance model based on a resilient and discursive approach connecting risk assessment management and communication. The project took:

- An open project architecture rather than a specific model as a starting point
- Policy learning as the central mode of operation, allowing for input across different science fields, geographical boundaries and science-policy interfaces
- Cases related to complex risk fields where the agreement of risk governance approaches is limited.

The project was structured in three parts. In the preparatory phase, the project partners (in consultation with nominated expert members) exchanged insights on risk governance practice and developed a framework for risk governance learning. This included classifications of risk governance situations and of social and cultural settings, criteria for 'good quality' processes in governance, and methods to promote learning within and across different risk fields. In the empirical phase, the following six risk fields took centre stage:

- Stem cells
- Radioactive waste
- Nanotechnology
- Climate Change
- Sediments
- Electromagnetic fields

For each risk field, a learning trajectory was organised and three workshops formed the focal points for the project. The first workshop focused on best practices in risk governance across disciplines and stakeholder groups within each risk field. Workshop 2 explored the science-policy interface for each risk field to produce recommendations. The final workshop focused on

comparison, analysis and learning across risk fields, with input from scientists and policymakers.

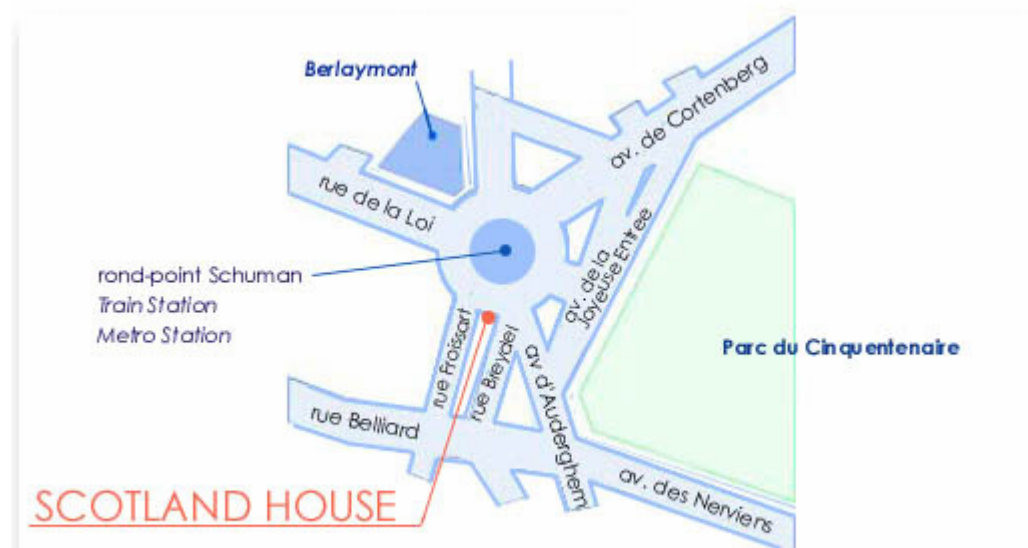
In the integration phase, the results from the workshops and risk field studies have been combined and integrated in a report. This report provides recommendations on how to handle complex and emerging risks in the form of a process scheme approach. In summary, the project has built “bridges” between different kinds of “risk fields”, scientific disciplines, policymaking and science.

The main purposes of this conference are to disseminate the main findings to academics, scientists and policymakers, and to generate interdisciplinary debate and suggestions for how to take this work forward and make a real impact on risk management and governance. The conference will appeal to practitioners within the various risk fields, scientists and social scientists interested in general issues around risk governance of complex technologies, and policymakers directly involved in risk management. Individuals working in the commercial sector and relevant NGOs will also find the conference programme directly pertinent to their work in these areas.

The Venue

The conference will be hosted at the Scotland House Conference Centre, Rond-Point Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels, Belgium. Scotland House is owned and run by Scotland Europa (<http://www.scotlandeuropa.com/>), which provides intelligence, policy analysis and strategic funding information about the European Union and its relevance to Scottish organisations. Scotland Europa is a partnership of public, private and voluntary bodies who have combined to provide a central point of contact for Scotland in Europe.

Travel Directions and Map



Registration

To register, please complete and return the registration form to Mrs Eileen Mothersole (RCSS, University of Edinburgh) at E.Mothersole@ed.ac.uk

For enquiries/further information, please contact Dr James Mittra, James.Mittra@ed.ac.uk Tel: +44 131 6502453

Hotel Suggestions

Hotels 5 minutes walk from Scotland House.

Charlemagne
25-27 boulevard Charlemagne
B-1000 Brussels
www.new-hotel.com

Dorint Hotel Brussels
11, boulevard Charlemagne
B-1000 Brussels
www.dorint.de/brussels/uk/

Crowne Plaza Brussels Europa
107, rue de la Loi
B-1040 Brussels
www.crowneplaza.com/cpbrussels

Hotel Holiday Inn-Brussels Schuman
20, rue Breydel
B-1040 Brussels
www.holiday-inn.com/brusselschuman

Hotels 20 minutes walk from Scotland House.

Hotel Leopold
35, rue du Luxembourg
B-1050 Brussels
www.hotel-leopold.be

Aparthotels Citadines
61-63, Avenue de la Toison d'Or
B-1060 Brussels
www.citadines.com

Aparthotels Citadines Sainte-Catherine (closer to city centre)
51, Quai au Bois a Bruler
B-1000 Brussels
www.citadines.com

Hotels accessible by Metro and at reasonable prices.

Albert Premier
Place Rogier, Tel.+32 2 203.31.25 ; Fax.+32 2 203.43.31

Hotel du Congrès
42-44 rue du Congrès
Tel. +32 2 217.18.90; Fax. +32 2 217.18.97