

Survey of European Members of ICSU

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In August 2007 all members of the informal grouping of European members of ICSU were sent an online questionnaire in order to gain a clearer understanding of each organisation's strategic links with and national perceptions of ICSU, and their views on future European activities within ICSU. The intention was that this mapping exercise could provide a starting point for discussion on the future role and remit of the group at the October meeting in Berne.

The survey was sent to 24 organisations, of which 16 responded (listed below):

- Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA)
- Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (Spain)
- Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR), Luxembourg
- Polish Academy of Sciences
- Swiss Academy of Sciences
- Royal Irish Academy (RIA)
- Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS)
- Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters
- Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- Académie des Sciences (France)
- Academy of Sciences (Czech Republic)
- The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium (RASAB)
- The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
- Estonian Academy of Sciences
- Royal Academy of Sciences and Letters (Denmark)
- The Royal Society (UK)

Some of the results from the survey can be summarised as follows:

- 14 organisations which responded (88%) felt that joint European activities were desirable
- 9 organisations which responded (56%) run a national committee for every ICSU international scientific union
- 8 organisations which responded (50%) spend around 1-5 days on ICSU family business per month, although some organisations spend up to 40 days per month
- 5 organisations which responded (31%) have little or no communication with ICSU HQ in Paris
- Among the scientific priorities highlighted by respondents to the survey as areas for future inclusion in ICSU programmes were climate change, renewable energy, capacity building and the humanities and social sciences
- The expectations that respondents have of ICSU's responsibilities as an organisation include defending science on a global stage, encouraging the coordination of interdisciplinary research on issues of social importance, promoting the free conduct of science around the world, acting as a focus for the exchange of ideas and information, and working for capacity building in less developed countries.
- Possible reasons for the low response rate (66.7%) could be that some organisations do not feel that their links with ICSU are sufficiently strong, problems with email/emails going to the wrong person, problems accessing the online survey, or a lack of time and/or resources.

The survey responses are attached below in full. Please note that the document is split into two in order to fit in each organisation's response to all 10 questions. Responses to questions 1-6 are given on pages 1-9, with the responses to questions 7-10 starting from page 10.