

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 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 (FNIR), 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.

Who is the scientific member of ICSU in your country?	What type of organisation is it?	How are ICSU family activities coordinated in your country? For example, do you have one national committee for ICSU plus one for each of the unions, or some other model? Please specify.	Please include a rough estimate of staff time spent on ICSU family business in terms of days per month.	What do you as a member expect from ICSU?	Do you have any useful information you can share on best practice in respect of working with the ICSU family?
Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA)	Academy	All activities are coordinated by MASA	Hard to say - depends on activities.	Better information on progress in science, and about ongoing activities on preparation of ICSU projects.	No
Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (Spain)	Government Department	There is a Spanish ICSU Committee for every Union or Program of ICSU. Most of the Spanish ICSU Committee takes part in the Spanish ICSU Commission. At present 21 Committees are in the Commission. The Chair of this Commission is the General Secretary for Scientific and Technological Policy. The Commission meets once a year. A working group for the Commission meets 3 times a year in order to boost and coordinate ICSU activities. The General Secretary also chairs this meeting and 4 experts from the Spanish committee come to the meeting.	In the Ministry, 1/3 person a month for ICSU. The Spanish Committee also have their own staff.	Expectation from ICSU: The hardest question to answer. Regarding only ICSU HQ: First, more visibility for itself. Support for national activities and other international coordination could be done later	The Ministry funds the Spanish Committees by annual open calls to the Spanish ICSU committees. The Ministry usually funds cost for a secretary, travel and a few time costs for staff. Not every committee manages to get enough funding.
Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR), Luxembourg	Public research funding organisation	There are few ICSU activities going on in Luxembourg. ICSU activities are widely published by the FNR to all relevant stakeholders.	0.5 days per month	Joint initiatives for researchers and member organisations on topics of relevance at a global scale.	No, as there are very few ICSU related activities going on in Luxembourg.

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Polish Academy of Sciences	Academy	We have one National Committee for Cooperation with ICSU as an organisation plus one for each of the scientific unions.	1-2 days /month. We do not know how much time is spent by the members of National Committees.	We do not understand the present role of ICSU, in a situation when ICSU's scientific unions are independent international scientific organisations. In our opinion, there is a risk of multiplication of activities and initiatives with many other international organisations dedicated to science in general (non-specific scientific organisations).	No.
Swiss Academy of Sciences	academy	Two dozen committees establishing the link to the unions, no coordination of the committee work on a national level	difficult to estimate, voluntary work, staff work 1 day	address major issues of relevance in science and society, dialogue with politics on an international level, advocate for the freedom in the conduct of sciences, development of scientific standards, launch foresight activities in interdisciplinary fields, inputs in science policy	coordination of European business inside ICSU

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Royal Irish Academy (RIA)	Academy	<p>ICSU has no formal national committee structure in Ireland - the RIA acts as the national affiliate body and prior to key meetings (such as the General Assembly) the RIA brings together relevant key Irish personnel involved in ICSU - i.e. former Sub-Committees chairs, Presidents, representatives on the finance committee / capacity building etc - in order to discuss the upcoming agenda. The RIA is also the formal home of almost all Irish affiliations to the unions (ISUs). Traditionally these are affiliated via the relevant Academy Committee - i.e. IUPAC via Academy Committee for Physical & Chemical Sciences. In recent years the RIA has been attempting to implement change along the lines devised by the Royal Society that meant that more relevant national professional bodies become the affiliate organisation. This has been achieved with limited success but the programme is on-going.</p>	2 - 3 (including accounts / programme managers involved in various ISUs etc)	<p>It is difficult to discern if we are members because to not be would be to 'miss out', and because we believe that the "mission" of the promotion of the universality of science is so important that the support of a strong and credible body to defend the interest of science on a global stage is critical in itself. As to what we may expect in return, well - in theory our membership entitles us to a voice, and the access of our researchers to the ISUs. In practice I am not certain we use that voice well or that enough scientists are aware of the networking opportunities that exist.</p>	<p>As per q. 2 we would be very interested to hear of other national models of organisation on this front, both working with ISUs and ICSU in general. We certainly find that it is useful to get our national representatives together, even informally and biennially, as many senior academics are asked to serve on a variety of ICSU Committees without the knowledge that there are other key Irish personnel also working under the same umbrella. The main problem is that it is such a large umbrella! It would be useful to know how ICSU views various national modalities of organisation - some countries must be more critical than others and this is likely due to well established and well supported practices at a national level.</p>

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Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS)	academy	LAS represents Latvian science in general and the necessary actions and decisions are taken by the LAS Presidium; the national unions/societies are working independently but information is exchanged and contacts are maintained through members who are elected as LAS members, too	ca 1-2 days/month	The LAS is largely pleased with the existing situation	No

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Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters	A common body for 4 academies	Basically we have one national committee for ICSU (the Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters) and more or less one for each of the scientific unions (or programs) In addition to acting as the national committee for ICSU, the Delegation represents the Finnish Academies in other international scientific organisations (ESF, ALLEA, EASAC, IAP, IAMP, IFS, UAI etc.) as well. The Delegation consist of 14 representatives from the four academies plus a small secretariat (1,3 persons) The Delegation coordinates the Finnish representation in the scientific unions by taking care of the annual membership fees of the unions, by providing basic funding for the national committees and by informing the committees of issues related to international cooperation (within ICSU family and otherwise). The national committees report annually to the Delegation of their activities. At the moment Finland is represented in 24 scientific unions and 8 multidisciplinary programs. In some cases, when there is considerable overlapping of the thematic fields, the same national committee represents Finland in more than one union/program (For example the contacts to SCAR and IASC are coordinated by the same committee). Some of the committees function within a scientific society (11 altogether) and some are coordination bodies founded solely for this purpose (16 altogether).	Approximately 10 days per month. That includes the coordinating activities within Finland as well.	We expect that ICSU continues to address key interdisciplinary issues of importance for science and society.	During the last couple of years we have gathered the representatives of the national committees to an annual meeting. This has proved to be a very promising platform to (strategic) discussions considering the work within the ICSU family. This annual meeting has facilitated communication with the national committees and provided all the parties involved a better understanding on what is happening in the broad field of ICSU related issues.

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Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	Academy	The academy has set up a Reference Group for International Cooperation and Relations within which, among other issues, ICSU related activities are coordinated. In addition, there are national committees set up for each scientific union.	3-4	That ICSU promotes a scientifically based approach in society, looks after freedom in the conduct of science all over the globe, and works for capacity building in less developed countries.	No
Académie des Sciences (France)	Académie des Sciences	The committee in charge of ICSU, names COFUSI (Comité Français des Unions Scientifiques Internationales) which includes 28 National committees corresponding to most unions and six International bodies.	about 2 persons full time : 40 days/month	Initiation, stimulation and coordination of scientific activities to contribute to the development of science and its role in society	As an ex-member of the ICSU executive board, I know that ICSU is expecting contributions from National members (as well as Unions) in terms of suggestions of actions, ways of carrying them, names of participants for ICSU committees...
Academy of Sciences (Czech Republic)	Academy of Sciences	In the Czech Republic, there are 37 National Committees for different international scientific Unions. In addition, we have a small national council for ICSU, in which four groups of sciences are represented, each by one person: I. Physics, chemistry, mathematics, techniques; II. Biology & medicine; III. Earth & Space; IV. Social sciences.	2	Coordination of different branches of science on global scale	No
The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium (RASAB)	Academy	one national committee for ICSU plus one for each of the Scientific unions	4	Planning and coordinating interdisciplinary research in Science Acting as a focus for the exchange of ideas, the communication of scientific information	no

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The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	as a national funding organization in Germany	We have no special National Committee for ICSU. In Germany the DFG is coordinating all ICSU activities. In this field the DFG is supported by Professor Eckart Ehlers; he has a Senior Scientific Advisor position for all ICSU-affairs and all international umbrella organizations. National Committees of international scientific unions of ICSU are coordinated by the respective German Scientific Associations (German scientific unions), in some cases with financial support of DFG.	One person at the DFG division for international affairs, 5 - 6 days per month; + external Senior Scientific Advisor (Eckart Ehlers)	DFG expects that ICSU reconsiders its function as union representative vis-à-vis international political and scientific bodies, and that ICSU reconsiders its basic mission as representative of scientific unions and science as such.	The German ICSU family is interested in a coordinated European initiative, due to the fact that Europe represents the largest part of members' contributions and that we should do everything to strengthen the European role especially within ICSU.
Estonian Academy of Sciences	academy	Estonian Academy of Sciences is the sole member of the ICSU family in Estonia. At present Vice President Ain-Elmar Kaasik, MD, PhD is responsible for the contacts with ICSU.	2-3 days	Coordination of important international programs and relevant information. Particular attention to the problems of global development, incl. natural and man-made hazards.	Estonia, one of the post-communist countries, has definitely made a rapid and successful development and has also gained progress in the human development. However, we are aware of our weaknesses. In Estonia, human development reports have been issued since 1995, and nine reports have been published altogether.
Royal Academy of Sciences and letters (Denmark)	Academy	One national committee for ICSU plus one national committee for each union.	No answer given	Keep informed, supply information and be the "watch dog" for the sake of science international	no

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The Royal Society (UK)	Academy	We have one national committee for ICSU plus 4 committees on space research, Antarctic research, earth research, and global environmental research, and a number of working groups for SCOPE, IGBP, SCOR, IUGG, IUTAM, and URSI.	Approximately 10 days per month.	ICSU's value is that it embodies the international character of science, and that it can undertake international, interdisciplinary activities that are beyond the scope of its individual members who are limited by their national or disciplinary remit. We expect it to have a clear, targeted focus to its work which should add value to existing activities undertaken by the international scientific community. There has been a tendency for ICSU to spread itself too thinly in the past and try to take on too much – it should stick to investing more time in fewer activities where it can have more of a measurable impact. ICSU's recent appointment of a staff member devoted to communications is a step in the right direction.	<p>The Society, as the UK Academy of Science, is the adhering organisation for the UK to ICSU and a number of its International Unions and Committees (specifically 3 unions: IUGG, URSI and IUTAM, and is a constituent member of IUMS). UK adherence to the other ICSU unions was devolved to the relevant disciplinary learned societies following a review process, with the Society contributing to their subscriptions to the appropriate ICSU union. Our experience has shown that this move has encouraged stronger links between UK learned societies and the wider international communities in their fields.</p> <p>The Society also runs a Scientific Unions Committee whose role is to act as the formal UK Interface to ICSU and the Scientific Unions for which the Society is the adhering body. It also appoints the UK delegates to some of the periodic meetings of international unions.</p>

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Who is the scientific member of ICSU in your country?	Do you coordinate representation and communication with the ICSU HQ in Paris, and if so how?	Do you have any national scientific priorities which you would like ICSU to include in its programmes, and if so what?	Do you consider joint European initiatives/activities desirable?	If 'yes', what would you propose for the aims, goals and structures of these?	Do you have concrete suggestions in regard to such initiatives, and in which fields?
Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA)	Yes, by mail and on individual basis.	Environmental sciences - especially toxicology and renewable energy.	Yes	We agree and support already established structures and approved goals.	To organize the European Institute for Technology dispersed in European countries.
Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (Spain)	The Ministry coordinates representation and communication. Communications from ICSU HQ are distributed among Spanish ICSU Committees and get their replies and proposal.	At present, we do not have any specific scientific priorities for ICSU. We still have to coordinate with our National Research Program which defines the Spanish National Policy for 2008 - 2011	Yes	To set ICSU national organisations in Europe as actors of the European Science and to set an elected delegation for the European Commission, ESF For Example, If European Commission need experts, these experts could be found with the help of these bodies which represent the national scientific communities.	Based on the open call of the 7 th Framework Program, a proposal could be submitted in order to build a structure which makes ICSU and its committees more visible in Europe.
Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR), Luxembourg	No, as there are very few ICSU related activities going on in Luxembourg.	Innovation in Services, Sustainable Resource Management in Luxembourg, New Functional and Intelligent Materials and Surfaces and New Sensing Applications, Biomedical Sciences, Labour Market, Educational requirements and Social Protection Identities, Diversity and Integration	Yes	Prepare ICSU meetings, coordinate statements of European members, launch joint initiatives of interest to European members	
Polish Academy of	Theoretically, the Polish National Committee for	This question is not clear. We	Yes	Our support depends on what exactly the programme of these	

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Sciences	Cooperation with ICSU is responsible for coordination of the cooperation of Polish scientists with ICSU. In fact, there is intense communication between many National Committees for Cooperation with specific scientific unions and the unions' headquarters, but very weak between the Academy as a whole and the ICSU headquarters in Paris.	do not know, if you mean the scientific priorities that shall be included within the programmes of the ICSU's scientific unions, or others.		initiatives will be.	
Swiss Academy of Sciences	Not really	inputs in science policy on an European level and common initiatives of academies in the 7th framework programme	Yes	continue coordination on an European level and participate actively in ICSU bodies, common activities and representation of science in Europe	initiatives and common projects of academies in the 7th framework programme

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Royal Irish Academy (RIA)	Yes, as far as I am aware - although as mentioned above there are Irish personnel on Committees who we did not nominate so I assume those nominations happen without the knowledge/input of the affiliate body. But for representation at General Assemblies / EU Network, etc, our International Secretary would normally be nominated by our Executive Committee to attend. In his absence another RIA Officer of the Head of International Relations would attend on his behalf.	I am not certain the RIA is strictly authorised to determine Irish national scientific priorities, we can certainly inform ICSU on national strategy documentation as appropriate - however, meaningful participation would mean additional funding which we do not have. We do attempt to "match" national and international groupings if possible, for instance there are national programmes on women in science etc. Certainly where there are key Irish personnel involved in ISUs (i.e. when Professor Buttimer was President of the IGU the RIA supported her travel costs) then we are aware of a considerably better flow of information both ways.	Yes	As a first point EU networked meetings should be held in as convenient a location as possible to encourage broad attendance- i.e. London/Amsterdam/Paris - Berne is beautiful but not accessible! The current terms of reference for the ICSU EU Network seem entirely appropriate at this time. As a first step this "mapping" of current practice and sharing of best practice would be a major assistance to us. Where active national ICSU / ISU activities are identified then EU Networking at this level would be desirable.	i.e. workshops within specific ISUs on best practice followed by scientific briefings? Sharing of resources to encourage EU press statements on ICSU activities? The RIA certainly does not have the resources to promote the great breadth of good work done across the EU & Internationally - if the EU Network could agree to ICSU-related press statements and EU wide launches then impact is possible - IAP/IAC / EASAC all seem to function well in this regard.
Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS)	Since the LAS is the only representative, there is no need for such functions	No	No	At present time the LAS has not enough resources, namely manpower, to initiate any activities and take active part in these	

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Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters	Yes, the Delegation coordinates both the representation and the communication. The correspondence from and to the ICSU HQ is channelled mainly through the Delegation. If need be, the individual academies or the national committees are consulted. Considering the representation in general ICSU events, representatives are chosen by the Delegation. Regarding the activities of the scientific unions, the national committees have a full autonomy.	This is not a national scientific priority in itself, but we would very much like to see the humanities and social sciences more prominently represented in the ICSU programmes. ICSU is a vast network of scientific unions but the focus is currently very much on the natural sciences. When issues of societal importance are addressed perspectives from the humanities and social sciences are crucial.	Yes		The above mentioned humanities and social sciences should be included in the future initiatives.
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	No	Climate Capacity Building in Less Developed Countries (Climate scenarios indicate drastic changes in local climates during the coming 100 years which will affect all parts of the economy, mainly agriculture and food availability. Parts of for example Africa has already been suffering during the last century. It is doubtful whether politicians and even researchers are aware of the future problems arising from climate change).	No	No, there are already a sufficient number of organizations for joint European initiatives and activities, e.g. ESF, EASAC, ALLEA etc. This does of course not mean that ICSU is prevented to support or get involved in European projects and other activities.	

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Académie des Sciences (France)	Yes, ICSU HQ being in Paris, the Académie des Sciences is well placed to offer possibilities to welcome meetings (Unions or IB or others), or organizing ICSU events (as the 75th anniversary of ICSU in 2006). The Académie des Sciences would be happy to contribute more in the future.	France has been pushing, together with Japan, the idea that ICSU should get more involved in scientific activities related with energy. We still feel that ICSU should go beyond what has already be decided (ISPRES) in the future. Health has also be a priority for France since a long time and we are happy that a new programme is developing.	Yes	Once an objective is identifies between European members, a working group could prepare a more elaborate proposal to ICSU to be discussed at the EB and CSDP.	As a first step the 2 issues mentioned above (energy and health)
Academy of Sciences (Czech Republic)	I am regularly forwarding all important and relevant information coming from ICSU HQ to our National Committees, via national council for ICSU, and also provide feedback from them to ICSU.	National priorities of the Research and Development for 2004-2008 were approved by the Czech government in January 2004, and upgraded in June 2005 and February 2006. The CR joins the Lisbon strategy and aims to develop an economically competitive society keeping all its social aspects. The main research streams of the CR are: 1. Sustainable development, 2. Molecular biology, 3. Energy resources, 4. Material research, 5. Competitive machine industry, 6. Information society, 7. Security research. I feel that most of these are already included in some way in ICSU programmes.	Yes	Coordination of European national representatives in proposing members of different ICSU Working groups and/or candidates for important positions in ICSU.	

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The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium (RASAB)	Mr. J. Mawhin president of the National Committee of Scientific Unions represents the RASAB during the ICSU meetings.	no	Yes	Planning and coordinating research to address major European issues in both science and society;	
The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	There are no direct contacts between German scientific unions and the ICSU HQ in Paris. The coordination is made by the DFG's international division. There are no further coordination activities.	Renewable Energies Sciences for Health and Well-being Social Sciences	Yes	Continuation of our Joint Meetings in an ad hoc fashion especially towards the GA, at least once a year in a more or less informal regular way.	This has to be discussed in the Euro-ICSU family.
Estonian Academy of Sciences	Mostly by participation in the events arranged by the ICSU HQ.	No	Yes	Everything that could be titled under the headline "Europe in the 21 st century", more specifically: "Europe in the mid-21 st century".	Not exactly
Royal Academy of Sciences and letters (Denmark)	NO, not until now	no	Yes	A main focus for ICSU in Europe should be to keep focus on the interests of science in the EU programmes in relation to industry programmes.	

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Royal Society (UK)	We have a dedicated member of staff responsible for ICSU (Ruth Cooper) and maintain regular communication with various different members of staff in the secretariat, all of which goes through her.	No	Yes	The new informal grouping of European members of ICSU has already had a major impact. The coordination meetings it has set up so far have been very useful, and having a European coordination system proved particularly effective at the most recent General Assembly. This was partly due to the fact that members had a daily 'coordination breakfast' which was crucial in getting the European members to vote as a bloc, thus giving a much more coherent and coordinated European input into the general assembly.	The European grouping of members of ICSU should concern itself primarily with ICSU family business. While there is clearly a role for the group to encourage ICSU to support European projects and activities, it should not seek to exceed this remit by getting involved in wider European scientific issues, with which organisations such as EASAC, ALLEA, EUROHORCS and ESF are best placed to work.