



# DissTec RFCS-2015 project Seminar

Valorisation and dissemination of technologies for  
measurement, modelling and control in Secondary metallurgy

RFCS Funding for R&D: opportunities and dissemination actions

Brescia  
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# Outline

- 1. RFCS Background Information**
- 2. RFCS – Accompanying measures/ Dissemination projects**





# RFCS Background Information



# History of the RFCS

*From the past ... European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)*

1952: ECSC Treaty of Paris (validity 50 years)

Expired in July 2002

Levy from coal and steel production

Assets left : ~ 2 billion €



# History of the RFCS

*... to the present: Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS):*

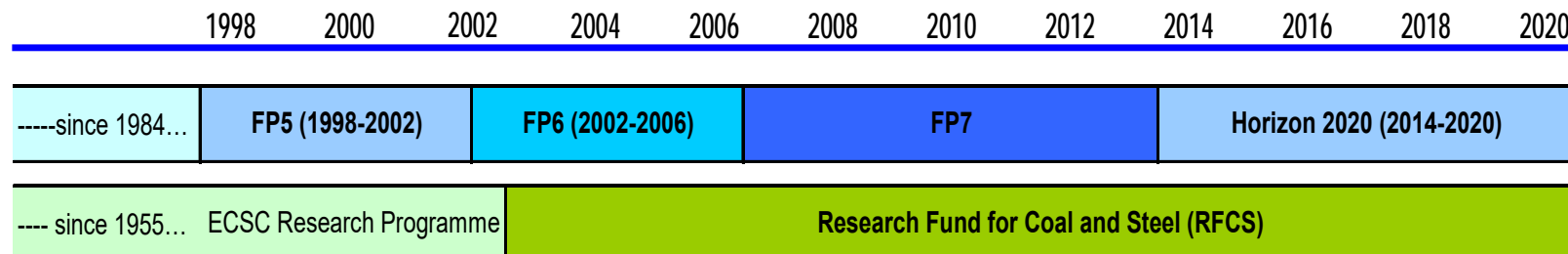
- 2001: Treaty of Nice
- To transfer the ECSC assets (originally paid by industry) to the European Community and utilise the interests generated by these assets (now ~ 2,0 billion € to co-finance research in coal and steel)
- To create the RFCS: 1 February 2003





# The RFCS Programme

- A research fund with a budget of ~ 40 M€ / year, no taxpayer money
- Promoting industrial research in the field of *Coal and Steel*
- Yearly call with deadline 15 September for proposals for
  - Research projects (60% funding)
  - Pilot & Demonstration projects (50% funding)
  - **Accompanying measures (up to 100% funding)**
- Outside the FP/H2020 ... yet closely co-ordinated & complementary



# Legal Basis

COUNCIL DECISION of 29 April 2008 on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel and on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme *(2008/376/EC)*

# Who can participate?

## Simple rules

- Any legal entity established in the EU28 Member States
- Partners outside EU28 are entitled to participate but without receiving financial contribution

## Typical projects

- Focused on industrial participation
- Dedicated and manageable consortium (5/8 partners)
- Average funding 1 – 2 M€ per project
- Duration typically 3 – 4 years



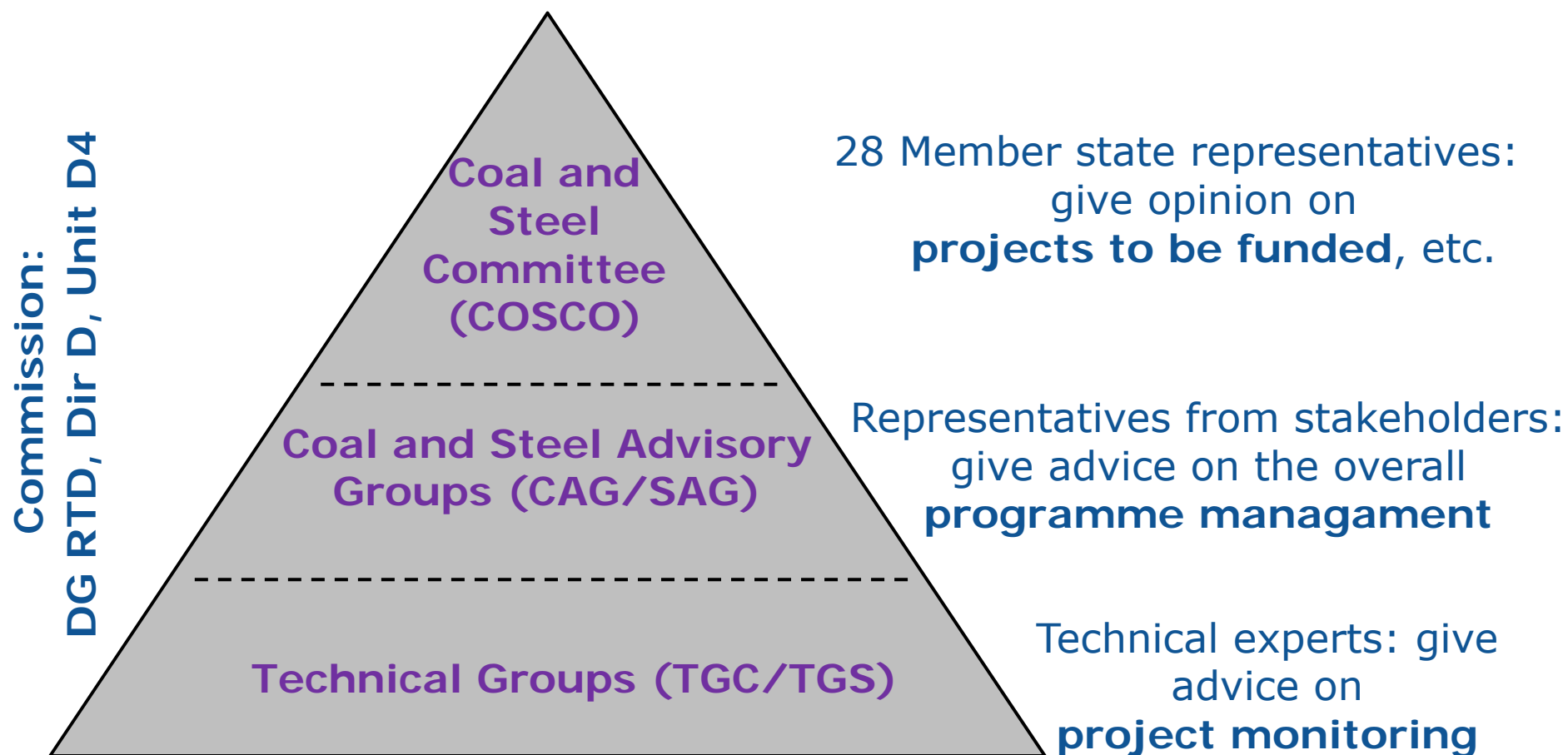


# RFCS Overview: Facts & Figures

- Approx. up to 300 Grant Agreements running at any time
- >700 M€ funding in Coal and Steel research since 2003  $\approx$  1 B€ total spending
- Mixture of industry, academia and research centres
- Technical, innovative projects, well defined objectives
- Can be complementary to other funding (H2020, national funds, etc.)

# Management of the Programme

3 levels assisting the Commission



# COAL: Programme Research Objectives

Management of  
external dependence  
on energy supply

Health and Safety  
in Mines



Improving the  
competitive  
position  
of Community Coal

Efficient protection of  
the environment  
& improvement  
of the use of coal  
as clean energy source



Coal means: Hardcoal - Lignite - Coke - Briquettes - Oil Shales

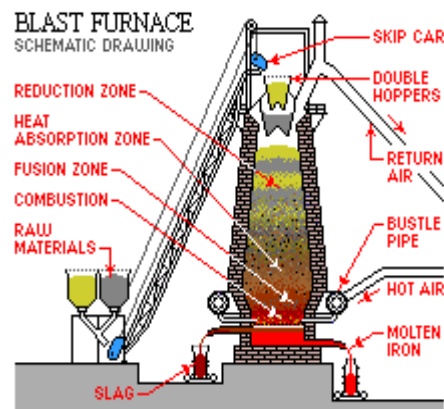


## Coal Technical Groups

- TGC 1 Coal mining operation, mine infrastructure and management, unconventional use of coal deposits
- TGC 2 Coal preparation, conversion and upgrading
- TGC 3 Coal combustion, clean and efficient coal technologies, CO<sub>2</sub> capture



# STEEL: Programme Research Objectives



Conservation of resources  
and improvement of  
working conditions



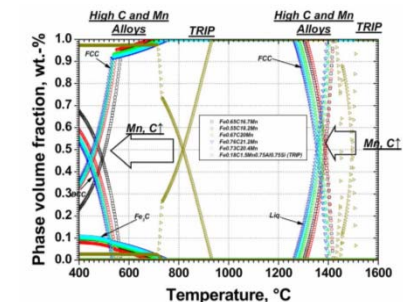
New and improved  
steelmaking  
and finishing  
techniques



Research on  
the utilisation  
of steel

# STEEL Technical Groups

- TGS 1 - Ore agglomeration and iron making
- TGS 2 - Steelmaking processes
- TGS 3 - Casting
- TGS 4 - Hot and cold rolling processes
- TGS 5 - Finishing and coating
- TGS 6 - Physical metallurgy and design of new generic steel grades
- TGS 7 - Steel products and applications for automobiles, packaging home appliances
- TGS 8 - Steel products and applications for building, construction and industry
- TGS 9 - Factory-wide control, social and environmental issues





## **RFCS projects**

**Accompanying measures/ Dissemination projects**



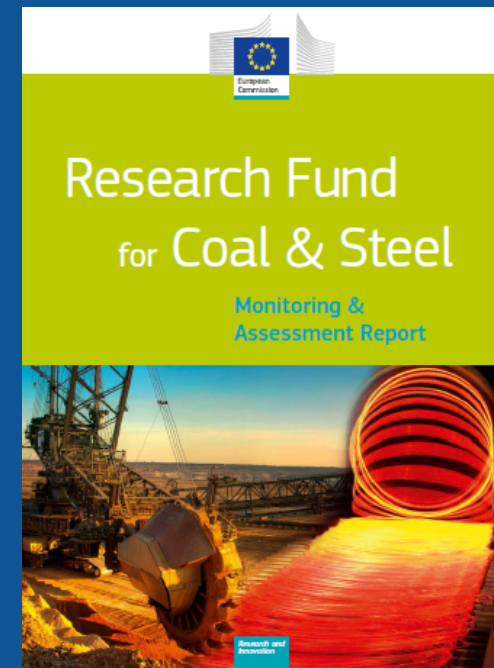




## >10 years' experience within RFCS

- Monitoring Report presented in Luxembourg in September 2012 (10th Anniversary RFCS)
- Assessment Report prepared following on site visits and detailed assessment running throughout 2012
- Final M & A report was published in 2013 in accordance with Article 38 of the RFCS legal basis

The RFCS Monitoring and Assessment report is published and available from:  
EU Bookshop and RFCS web site







## Quantitative Benefits

The 23 projects analysed have provided an annual benefit of about 100 M€/year for the beneficiaries.

This annual benefit was compared to the corresponding budget of the projects and to the RFCS funding → 1 Euro of RFCS funding resulted in a benefit of 3.3 Euros/year for the beneficiaries.

Estimation of the potential accumulated benefits for the beneficiaries → 400 M€.

Correspondingly: 1 Euro spent of RFCS funding corresponds to an average of potential accumulated benefit of ~ 14 Euros at the level of the beneficiaries.

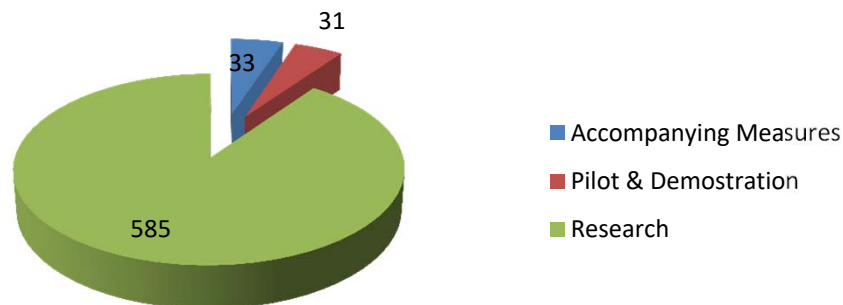
**\*Source: M&A Report**



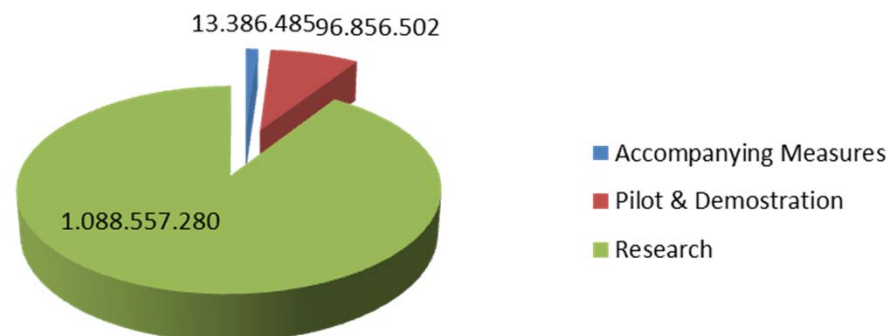
## Projects per Instrument (2015 data)

RFCS supports all actions along the typical stages of innovation, from research over pilot to demonstration projects as well as accompanying measures e.g. for dissemination of knowledge and results.

**Projects per Instrument**



**Total Budget(€)**





## Projects per Instrument

- Research projects are by far the most used action ( $\sim 90\%$ ).
- Pilot/demonstration projects and **accompanying measures** have a much lower share ( $\sim 5\%$  each).
- Accompanying measures have been mainly carried out in TGS 8 for dissemination and recommendation of technical guidance applicable to the use of steel in building, construction and industry





## Accompanying Measures

**Accompanying measures** shall relate to the promotion of the use of knowledge gained or to the organisation of dedicated workshops or conferences in connection with projects or priorities of the Research Programme.

This activity includes the valorisation of research results having a direct impact in one of the following areas and excluding any kind of research activity:

- contribution to the assessment or enhancement of European or international technical regulations and standards;
- valorisation of results that have a direct and immediate potential application at industrial level. The improvement of product quality and environmental and safety standards in and around the workplace are of particular importance;
- exploitation of new or alternative market possibilities of products and processes related to the coal or steel sector.





## Dissemination Means

The dissemination of research results is achieved by presentations to the Technical Groups, by mainly by publishing the Final Report and also by other publications. Other forms of dissemination are encouraged.

The Final Report, as the essential means for the dissemination of project results, is published by the Commission

**\*Source: M&A Report**



## Dissemination Means

The Final Report is by far the most common means of dissemination and also seen as effective (see Figure 4.5). However, publications and conferences or workshops are clearly rated as more effective, followed by the internet. Publications are the most appropriate means of dissemination.

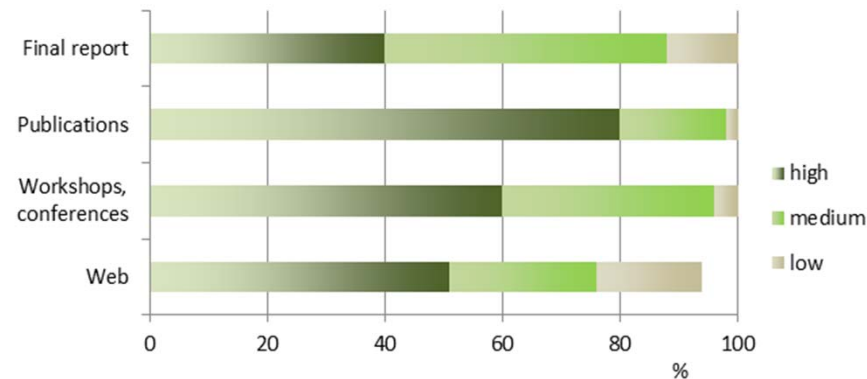


Figure 4.5  
Useful means for dissemination of projects results

\*Source: M&A Report

## Dissemination Impact

According to the assessment of the beneficiaries:

- The degree of dissemination of project results is highest for the same or similar applications at the partners which were involved in the project (Figure 4.4).
- Dissemination is less within the scientific and technical community and within the relevant industrial sectors.
- The degree of dissemination is still more than 80 % for all these three groups. Dissemination within society as a whole is comparatively low, at about 35 %. However, the sectors are highly specialised and so a wider dissemination beyond the sector itself can rarely be expected.

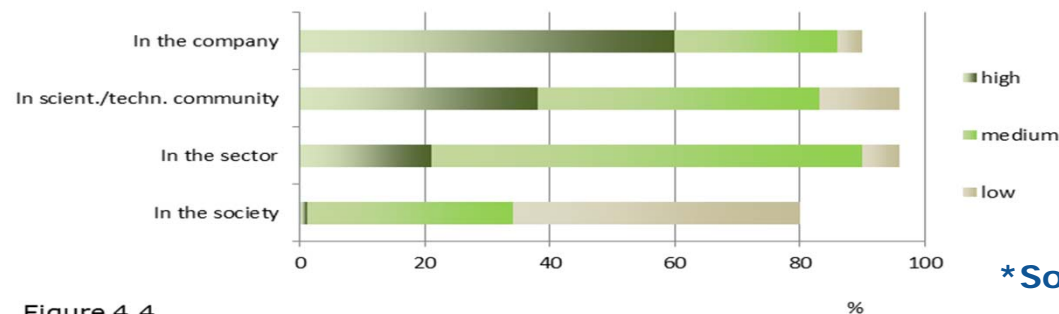


Figure 4.4  
Degree of dissemination of projects results

\*Source: M&A Report

## Web Links / RFCS Info

- RFCS website: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial\\_technologies/rfcs\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/industrial_technologies/rfcs_en.html)

The website now contains :

- the latest news about activities in Coal and Steel
- information for stakeholders on how to participate
- a link to successful RFCS projects

- Latest published technical reports: <http://bookshop.europa.eu/>



Thank you for your attention

