

**Latest on...**

FP6  
 Presidency  
 ERA  
 FP5  
 Calls

Forthcoming  
 Events

Interviews

Email News Alert

Replication  
 License

CORDIS focus

Send News to  
 the News team

Print latest News

Press Service

CORDIS Express

CORDIS Wire

## **Busquin pushes for global ban on human cloning**

[Date: 2003-01-09]

On 8 January, Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin again expressed his total support for the creation of a global convention banning human reproductive cloning.

His statement follows claims by US company Clonaid that the world's first cloned babies have been born. Many experts doubt the validity of the company's claims, on the basis that they will not allow DNA tests to be carried out on the tw... [read more](#)



## **The FASTY project - faster typing for disabled persons**

[Date: 2003-01-09]

As the campaign for the European year of people with disabilities gets under way, Cordis News takes a closer look at the European funded project, FASTY (Faster typing for disabled persons); a project which is bringing better quality of life to disabled people.

Communication and information exchange is a vital factor in human society. Communication disorders can severely influence the quality of p... [read more](#)



## **We must boost research to beat economic slowdown, says Greek PM**

[Date: 2003-01-09]

'We should not entrust our destiny to the United States, we have to do something here: boost research, development and technology,' Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis has said in an interview with the French Newspaper 'Le Monde'.

While enlargement is the Greek Presidency's first priority for the next six months, the Lisbon process is highlighted by Mr Simitis as a second priority.

'The process... [read more](#)



## **Dutch SMEs unimpressed with impact of Internet on business**

[Date: 2003-01-09]

An end-of-year survey in the Netherlands claims that small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are not satisfied with the effect of the Internet on their business.

The survey was carried out by ICT company Syntens, which supports Dutch SMEs on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. Among the SMEs interviewed, 66 per cent were mildly satisfied with the effect of the Internet on their bu... [read more](#)



---

[Commission seeks feedback on MAP projects](#) [Date: 2003-01-09]

[Conference on European HRD research and practice](#) [Date: 2003-01-09]

[Top](#)

---

CORDIS Services Help Desk ©



**Home**

FP6  
 Presidency  
 ERA  
 FP5  
 Calls

**Forthcoming Events****Interviews****Email News Alert****Republishing License****CORDIS focus****Send News to the News team****Print latest News****Press Service****CORDIS Express****CORDIS Wire****The FASTY project - faster typing for disabled persons**

[Date: 2003-01-09]

As the campaign for the European year of people with disabilities gets under way, Cordis News takes a closer look at the European funded project, FASTY (Faster typing for disabled persons); a project which is bringing better quality of life to disabled people.



Communication and information exchange is a vital factor in human society. Communication disorders can severely influence the quality of persons' lives. FASTY, an IST (Information Society Technologies) project funded under the Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) was started in January 2001 with one main objective: to increase the typing speed of non-English disabled persons using predictive typing systems and input devices. The project involves partners from four Member States and has a total budget of 2.46 million euro.

Cordis News spoke to Wolfgang Zagler at FORTEC/Research Group for Rehabilitation Technology in Vienna who identified the three main target groups for this project: Motor impaired persons with severely limited use of their upper extremities, speech disabled persons and persons with language disorders. He explained that each group has specific difficulties with communication, which necessitates, in return, a specific solution. For instance, while experienced typists can type up to three hundred words per minute, persons with motor impairments can only attain much lower rates using alternative typing devices like the single switch.

The FASTY project entails creating a typing system for increasing the text generation rate of disabled persons using predictive typing. With only a few keystrokes whole words or sentences will appear. Not only will persons with disabilities be able to produce text faster and have better spelling and grammar, but the physical and cognitive load will be lightened. Users will have standard keyboards and a full range of special input-devices including a speech synthesiser. It will also be possible to adjust the FASTY system to meet the lingual and communication needs of the person using it.

While there are already predictive typing systems for English-speakers, Mr Zagler told Cordis News that no predictive typing programmes powerful enough to improve the communication rate and the access to information technology for disabled persons substantially exists for other European languages. In answer to this, FASTY is working on a multilingual system in German, French, Dutch and Swedish. Additionally, a language-independent prediction software that clearly separates the predictor, the dictionary, the grammar description and the user interface will be specified and implemented. This ensures that the system can be carried into most European languages without sacrificing performance.

Within the first year of the project, FASTY concentrated on assessing users' needs in order to ensure user involvement from the beginning. An extensive user questionnaire was developed with regards to the preferences and user needs in view of word prediction but also sections about the handicap, used software and hardware, PC usage and typing, and the readiness to be involved and to support FASTY. Between 70 and 80 per cent of users said they were willing to participate in or to support FASTY.

According to Mr Zagler, a system prototype is expected to be ready in mid 2003.

For further information, please consult the following web address:  
<http://www.fortec.tuwien.ac.at/reha.e/projects/fasty/fasty.html>

**Category:** Programme implementation

**Data Source Provider:** CORDIS News interview with a FASTY project partner

**Document Reference:** Based on a CORDIS News interview with a FASTY project partner

**Programme or Service Acronym:** [FRAMEWORK 5C](#); [IST](#)

**Subject Index :** Information Processing, Information Systems; Medicine, Health; Social Aspects

RCN: 19518

CORDIS RTD-NEWS / © European Communities.

[Top](#)

---

[CORDIS Services](#)   [Help Desk](#)   ©

