



Consensus Overview

Multi-Objective Decision Making Tools through
Citizen Engagement

CONSENSUS at a glance

❑ **Start Date**

- 01/10/2013

❑ **Duration**

- 30 months

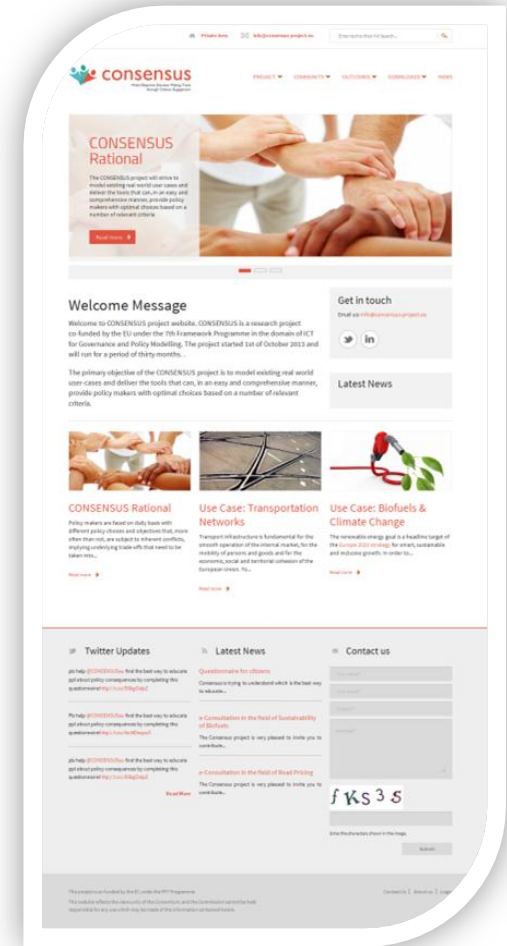
❑ **Project Coordinator**

- *Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (Greece)*

❑ **Project Partners**

- *IBM Israel – Science and Technology LTD (Israel)*
- *Internationales Institut Fuer Angewandte Systemanalyse (Austria)*
- *Athens Technology Center S.A. (Greece)*
- *Universitat Konstanz (Germany)*
- *OXFAM Italia Onlus (Italy)*
- *WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature (Switzerland)*
- *European Union Road Federation (Belgium)*

❑ **Web Site:** <http://www.consensus-project.eu>



Challenges

- ❑ Policy makers are faced with different policy choices and objectives that are subject to inherent conflicts, implying underlying trade-offs
- ❑ A number of factors such as the cost of the investment, its socio-economic return in terms of social cohesion and economic trade, environmental aspects, safety considerations have to be considered

The Vision

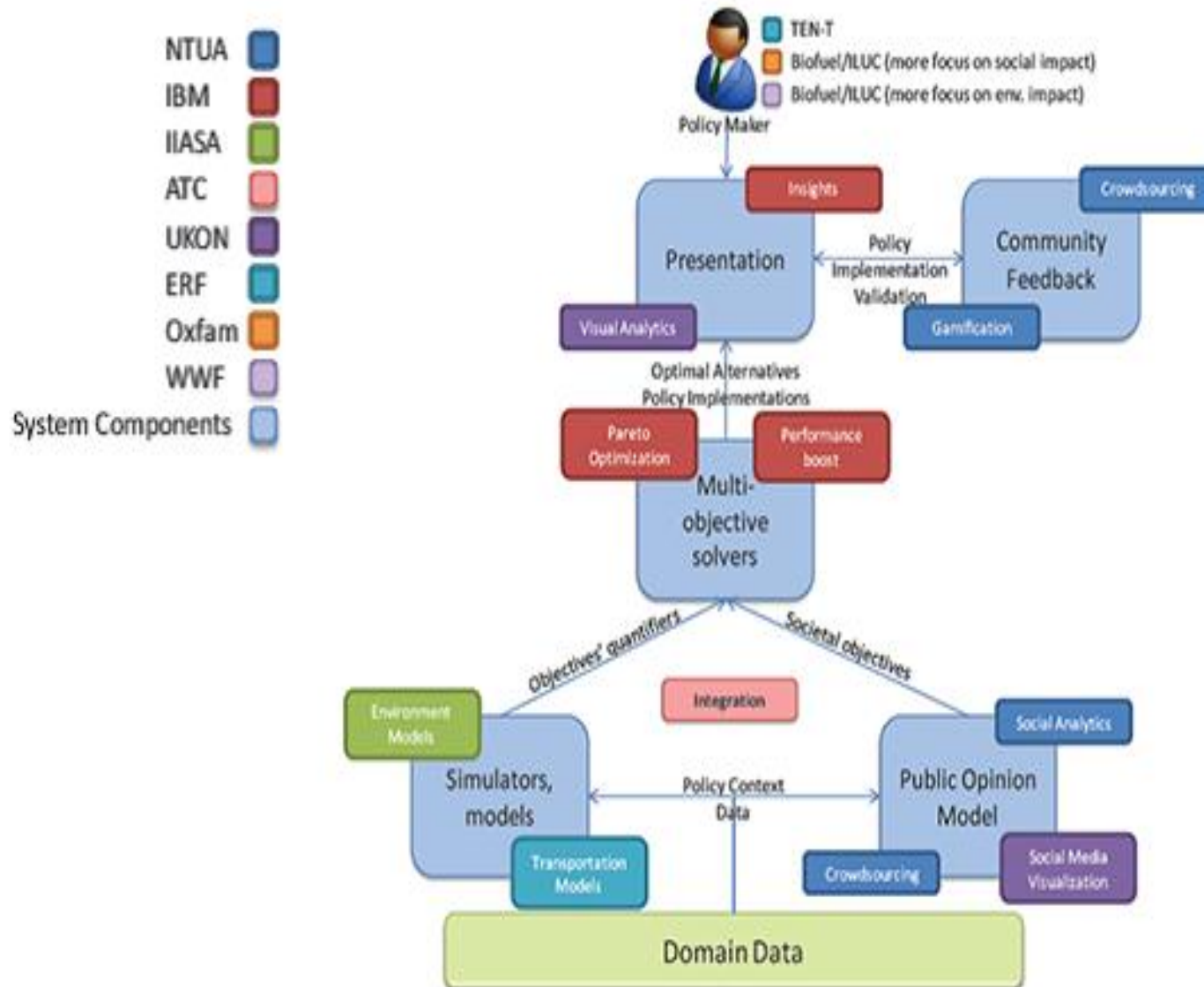
- ❑ CONSENSUS aims to **model existing real world user cases** and **deliver the tools** that can, in an easy and comprehensive manner, provide policy makers with **optimal choices** based on a number of relevant criteria
- ❑ Consensus aims to **involve citizens' in the policymaking scheme** since their input can potentially become highly valuable
- ❑ Project is meant to cover two important real world user-cases in the project:
 - Biofuels and Climate Change (EU Renewable Energy Directive),
 - Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T).

Objectives

CONSENSUS will simplify, predict and visualize the consequences of decisions in the policy making process by:

- ❑ **Maximising the impact of policies** by accurately predicting policy implementation effects in multiple domains.
- ❑ **Empowering citizens** and echo the increasingly growing importance of public opinion in policy making.
- ❑ **Mapping policy implementation alternatives** to actual policy decisions.
- ❑ **Educating citizens** on policy issues and increasing transparency in decision making.

Approach



Use Case: Transportation Networks

- ❑ The CONSENSUS project proposes a multi-criteria decision framework that will be elaborated through a platform. A brief description of the framework is provided below.
 - **Stage 1:** Definition of Impacts/Criteria identification
 - **Stage 2:** Estimation of Criterion Scores
 - **Stage 3:** Estimation of Criteria Weights
 - **Stage 4:** Estimation of Weighted Alternatives Scores
 - **Stage 5:** Hierarchy of Alternatives – Final Choice
 - **Stage 6:** Uncertainty Handling



Use Case: Biofuels & Climate Change

- ❑ **CONSENSUS** project will seek to address the problem of indirect land use change through the impact maximisation of the European policy implementation. A multi-criterion decision-making perspective will be fostered through a platform.
- ❑ **CONSENSUS** project will identify the conflicting objectives, quantify them and feed them to an analytical model so as to better comprehend the tradeoffs. For this purpose, the criteria (environmental: greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss; economic: farmers income, and social: food and energy security) will be reviewed for completeness with the end-users.
- ❑ **CONSENSUS** platform plans to use social analytics, to obtain an optimal roadmap that satisfies all the posed constraints, and adheres to the preferences of the EU (official policy-makers and/or the general public) in terms of the underlying conflicts between the objectives.



Expected Results

- ❑ CONSENSUS aims at delivering, promoting and standardizing policy context models.
- ❑ Intents to reach to the point to educate people about the implications of certain policy making decisions.
- ❑ The expected results and benefits are directly addressed to multiple European enterprises and stakeholders, and indirectly to all EU citizens.

