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Editorial

Dear Readers,

have you ever thought about whom or what you trust in on a regular basis?

Trust - often defined as subjective conviction of the truth of actions or insights of others - is vital (for survival), because in a complex world we must rely on the competence and knowledge of others. The credibility of the person one relies on (or has to rely on) is closely linked with the concept of trust. What is the significance of trust and credibility for perception and risk assessment, how do they affect the processing of information? These questions are examined by Holger Schütz, collaborator at the Research Center Jülich in his article on the topic „Risk communication - a matter of trust?“, where he reaches a result that may come as a surprise to many readers.

Trust played a role also at the Member Assembly of the FGF this January. Once again it became obvious that FGF members are right in relying on the well-founded and investigated work of the FGF. The directors of the working groups presented a positive summary of past year's achievements.

The FGF also has great plans for 2008, e.g. the analysis of the results of the German Telecommunication Research Programme and the INTERPHONE study. One of the workshops that were planned took place already in February on the topic „Statistics“, where interested parties could obtain information about the basics and the significance of „statistics“ by example of two recent studies. As usual, you'll find reports on the workshop and on the Member Assembly in this newsletter. Of course, the new internet service of the FGF shall not be left out: When expanding our internet presence, which is „online“ since the beginning of the year, we also technically updated the website, putting special emphasis on a clearly arranged design that will help to find information more easily. In a short overview included in this issue, we present the most important changes and new features. We would be glad if you'd not only put your trust in our redesigned internet pages, but also devote some of your time to work with them. In doing so you will gain new, interesting insights when clicking on our website pages!

Sincerely, Gerd Friedrich

