

Minutes / Results

of

Regional Correspondents-Workshop of the IncoNet EECA: “Awakening the EECA-S&T-Webportal”

in Bonn, April 17th/18th, 2008



Participants:

Dr. Svetlana Knyazeva (HSE)
Dr. Arkadii Anisimov (NIP)
Olga Meerovskaya (BellSA)
Tigran Arzumanyan (CIT)
Dr. Kamila Magzieva (InEXCB-KZ)
Dr. Rustam Saidov (IUCP-T, only April 17th)
Durdona Komilova (IUCP-T)
Dr. Martin Sandhop (DLR)
Dr. Joern Sonnenburg (DLR)
Dr. Uta Stra ser (DLR)
Stefan Lange (DLR)
Dr. Hans-Peter-Niller (DLR)
Maria Valkova (DLR)
Karola Wichert (DLR)
Dr. Erich Rathske (DLR; representative of BILAT-UKR)
Dr. Anja Koehler (DLR; representative of SCOPE-EAST, only April 17th)
Stefan Klumpp (DLR; representative of BILAT-RUS, only April 17th)
Cornelia Schneider (DLR; representative of NCP-Network INCONTACT, only April 17th)

The Workshop is moderated by Arkadii Anisimov and Martin Sandhop.

Thursday, April 17th, 2008

1. Introduction by Joern Sonnenburg

The aim of the IncoNet EECA Webportal is to develop and enhance the cooperation between Europe and the EECA countries and to gain a common understanding of S&T cooperation in these countries.

The main tasks of the IncoNet EECA project are:

- 1) Issue of Dialogue: Policy level and other stakeholders (industry, researchers, etc.)
- 2) Practical terms of collaboration: Create a Portal which provides information of relevant activities
- 3) Strengthening the participation of EECA countries in FP7 and contribute to the internationalisation of the European Research Area (ERA)

2. SCOPE-EAST: A Pioneer Project for S&T-Cooperation with the Eastern Neighbours of the EU

See presentation held by Anja Köhler "Scenarios for a co-ordinated approach to sustainable S&T cooperation with the Eastern neighbours of the EU". All reports and further information about SCOPE-EAST are available on <http://www.scope-east.net>

3. The Regional Correspondents and Information Officers: Role and Function

Martin Sandhop introduces the current suggestions concerning "Information Flow" for feeding the Webportal and the participating bodies:

1. Central Information Office (CIO) at DLR in Bonn: The CIO coordinates the information flow and the Webportal.

2. Information Officers (IO): They deliver information/ S&T news on the national level to respective Regional Correspondents. Information Officers exist in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.

3. Regional Correspondents (RC): They act as an information bridge between the IO and the CIO. The Regional Correspondents for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Uzbekistan work on a national level, the Regional Correspondent for Caucasus (from Armenia) covers Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova; the Regional Correspondent for Central Asia (from Kazakhstan) covers Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

Martin Sandhop mentions as aims for this Workshop to:

- 1.) develop a Manual for the Webportal,
- 2.) draft a concept for an efficient information flow,
- 3.) draft a concept for a quarterly newsletter.

Arkadii Anisimov adds some aspects about the technical side of the Webportal:

1. Collection of information should be from the internet, institutions, persons, etc.
2. Storing and transfer of information
3. Useful information

He stresses that the format of the data base needs to be easy to handle, the language of recording should be English. He raises the question about sustainability of the Portal after the end of the IncoNet EECA.

Joern Sonnenburg assures that although the IncoNet EECA is funded for 4 years, there is a strong interest of the International Bureau (DLR) to keep the Webportal as a tool also after the IncoNet project, however, as long as input and cooperation of the RC's is available!

As Guideline for the RC's Joern Sonnenburg suggests to use the chances of sharing responsibility and information with each other. This is especially important since the different country structures also pose many challenges. Joern Sonnenburg highlights two specific challenges / problems:

- Problem for partners from EU: existing intransparency regarding research activities in the EECA countries
- Problem for partners from EECA: too much information about EU research activities – confusing, not sufficiently structured

That's why for structuring and launching of the Webportal the following principles should be kept in mind:

1. Keep it simple!
2. Keep it user-friendly!
3. Just start!
4. Keep in mind the sustainability of the information flow and the Webportal after the lifespan of the project!

4. Structure of the Webportal

Hans-Peter Niller and Maria Valkova present the current ideas on the structure of the Webportal. Hans-Peter Niller stresses that the contributions of the RC's (country reports and ongoing current information) are the heart of the Webportal.

There are two important aspects in the content of the Webportal:

- Guide to the relevant websites of the EU
- Provide information on the most relevant S&T institutions of the EECA-countries

5. Country reports

- 1.) Russia: See presentation held by Svetlana Knyazeva (HSE)
- 2.) Ukraine: See presentation held by Arkadii Anisimov (NIP)
- 3.) Belarus: See presentation held by Olga Meerovskaya (BellSA)
- 4.) Armenia: See presentation held by Tigran Arzumanyan (CIT)
- 5.) Kazakhstan: See presentation held by Kamila Magzieva (InEXCB-KZ)
- 6.) Uzbekistan: See presentation held by Durdona Komilova (IUCP-T)

The following discussion includes questions like "How can EECA countries represent themselves in the Webportal so that they are attractive for cooperation with European countries?" and "How should the information be presented?"

The participants of the Workshop agree on the following:

- Provided information needs to be as current as possible.
- Joint indicators of R&D in the countries might be valuable.
- Start now and include indicators that might be defined (i.e. in WP 5, Task 5.1) later.

- The content of information should be geared to the chapter structure given for the country reports in order to make country information comparable among each other.
- In order to keep the individual characteristics of each country there shouldn't be a formalization of information.

6. Presentation of the Test Version of the EECA S&T Webportal

Hans-Peter Niller and Maria Valkova present the test version of the Webportal that is still password protected.

- For the EECA and EU countries the same structure (titles etc.) is being used.
- The RC's should provide the important links to the IO. Also information on calls and other actual information that is specific for every country is important.
- A proposal was made to change "Projects" (<http://www.science-eeeca.eu/en/214.php>) into "Projects/ Programmes" and to delete the item "Programmes".
- A proposal was made to amend e.g. "Armenia" (<http://www.science-eeeca.eu/en/129.php>) for each country with the topic: "Armenia: Links/ References" on the bottom of the page.
- An important web page to the EU countries is: Cordis member states Service – see link: http://cordis.europa.eu/national_service/temp_en.html and the ERAWATCH-Website - see link: <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/>
- The Webportal has to be presented and agreed upon at the **Management Board Meeting (19 June 2008)**. During the next two months the structure and content of the Webportal needs to be improved.

7. IncoNet EECA related EU-Projects with EECA countries:

Uta Straßer mentions Task 6.2 which is dealing with links to other relevant projects and will lead to a "Project Coordinators Meeting" back to back with the Management Board Meeting in June. Some of the related projects with participation of the International Bureau (DLR) are already being presented:

BILAT-RUS: See presentation held by Stefan Klumpp

BILAT-UKR: See presentation held by Erich Rathske (hand outs)

NCP-Network INCONTACT: See presentation held by Cornelia Schneider

Information: There will be a **Workshop in Russia (15.-17.10.2008)** with the topic "**Networking between National Information Points**". For more information please ask Svetlana Knyazeva.

Friday, April 18th, 2008

The participants of the Workshop agree on the following results and the Timetable / Outlook resulting from this:

- **Who should be addressed by the Webportal:**
 1. Policy makers
 2. EECA and EU stakeholders
 3. Researchers

- **Newsletter:**

The IncoNet EECA-newsletter will show the following characteristics:

- The newsletter will be sent out quarterly by the CIO as an electronic newsletter.
- There will be teasers for all news both in English and Russian; further information each under the link “More” will be available in English.
- The content will be flexible, according to the most current news (regional newsletter, etc.).
- Content: News, Events, Calls, Country pages, etc.
- What’s going on in the IncoNet EECA? Platform meetings, etc.
- Timely and prior to every newsletter publishing the CIO will send a mail to all Regional Correspondents in order to receive input for the upcoming newsletter.

The draft newsletter – structured as mentioned above – will be presented to the Management Board Meeting (19 June 2008) in order to get the approval of the MB. The first newsletter will be released after the approval of the MB (according to Project Manual: End of June 2008) but – sensibly – not before the Webportal as the base for information itself is launched.

- **Language of the Webportal:**

The participants of the workshop agree that information in the Webportal has to be available in English and Russian language, but since it will not be doable to translate all information, priorities need to be set.

English: everything - except original documents, programmes/ calls available in Russian. To allow for summary information a short description of the content should be provided in English (teaser provided through the RC`s).

English and Russian:

- Country Reports
- Teasers (short descriptions of important news)
- National Correspondents (instead of Experts)
- Summary of the Deliverables (task-leaders are responsible for translation into Russian)

Quality Assurance for language versions:

- *Russian:* Regional Correspondents
- *English:* CIO. The final check through the CIO will only cover the English language (with the help of a translator where necessary) but will not cover the provided content!

- **New name of the Webportal will be: “S&T- Gate EECA.EU”**

- **“Marketing” for the Webportal:**

a) Marketing into the EECA: How do we reach the stakeholders in the EECA countries?

Via CIO:

- address the embassies in the EECA countries

- Network of the DAAD (and possibly comparable organisations in other EU countries)
- ALUMNI networks
- Alexander von Humboldt network
- EC delegations in the EECA countries
- ISTC
- STCU
- etc.

Via Regional Correspondents:

- addressing selected universities / institutes
- National Academies of Sciences
- Addressing relevant Ministries
- Existing data bases
- NCP's/ NIP's
- etc.

b) Marketing into the EU: How do we reach the stakeholders in the EU countries?

Via CIO:

- Press releases
- Links to and from other relevant websites
- NCP's
- etc.

Poster / Flyer: Marketing will be the second step!

• **Timetable until the Management Board Meeting in June:**

- Final Version of country reports in English to be delivered to CIO: **05 May 08**
- Newsletter draft in English (structure, first table of content) from CIO: **05 May 08**
- Country reports in Russian to be delivered to CIO: **01 June 08**
- Translation-check English through CIO: **01 June 08**
- Introducing the Webportal to MBM: **10 June 08**
- Management Board Meeting (launch of the Webportal in English): **19 June 08**
- Newsletter launch (English and Russian): **End of June 08** (planned)
- Webportal Publishing: after approval by the Management Board

• **Outlook:**

Possible second RC's meeting

- Reflect on the Webportal, talk about challenges, necessary changes, etc.
- 3 months after the launch?
- Should be an optional meeting
- Location-proposal: Kiev?
- Date to be agreed on (will be checked with other meetings): **Fall 2008**
- Regular phone conference before launching/ releasing the newsletter