



Grant Agreement number: 231710

Project acronym: ASSYST

Project title: Action for the **S**cience of complex **S**ystems and **S**ocially intelligent ic**T**

Funding Scheme: FP7-ICT-2007-3, Objective: ICT-2007.8.4

Year 1 Deliverable Report D8.1.1

WP8: Periodic Activity Report to the European Commission - Year 1

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Date: 7th March 2010

Period covered: 01/01/2009 to 31/01/2010

Start date of project: 01/01/2009 Duration: 38 months

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WP8: Periodic Activity Report

This report gives a summary of the activities of each ASSYST work package and the lessons learned.

WP1: Kickoff, Roadmap & Promoting Complex Systems Research, and Supporting Research Policy

WP1.1 Kickoff

Activity: Kickoff Meeting held in Paris, 27-28 February 2009.

WP1.2 Roadmap for COSI-ICT and Complex Systems

Activity: First Roadmap Meeting was held in Paris, 1st march 2009.

Activity: French Roadmap Meeting held in Corsica, 11 March 2010.

WP1.3 Finding & publishing CS Success Stories & Lobbying for CS Support

Activity: Community solicited for success stories

Activity: Success stories published in the ASSYST newsletter

Activity: Initiated negotiation with Springer to publish a book of success stories

Activity: Circulation of a questionnaire on possible FET Pro-active calls on complex systems

Activity: Publication of the Expert Consultation Report: Complex Systems Science, Dec 2009
ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/fet-proactive/shapefetip-wp2011-12-06_en.pdf

WP1.4 Coordinating with EC initiatives

Activity: worked closely with Complexity-Net to promote and implement their €5 million call which will fund ten projects in March 2010. Attended meeting in Chantilly, Jan 2009.

Activity: Gave presentation at Complexity-Net Brokerage Event in Brussels, May 2009

Activity: Co-organised a complexity-policy BIG-STEP¹ workshop in Brussels in April 2010 with Complexity-net and the the GSD (Global Systems Dynamics) coordination action.

Activity: working closely with GSD towards another policy-oriented coordination action, GSDP. Attended European Commission & GSD meeting in Brussels to discuss GSDP. Dec 2009

Activity: Attended meeting in Potsdam to discuss GSDP, Jan 2010

Activity: working with the PerAda coordination action towards a joint school planned in Budapest for September 2010,

Activity: working with the PerAda coordination action towards a workshop on social intelligence planned for the summer of 2010 at Imperial College, London.

Activity: distributed information on the FET Flagship initiative through the CSS email lists (2000+ people)

Activity: attended FET announcement of the Flagship initiative in Brussels in February 2010

Activity: attended the FuturIcT proposal workshop coordinated by Dirk Helbing at ETH Zurich. This could result in funding of €1 billion over ten years in research relating to complex systems, and ASSYST is supporting the preparation of a formal first stage proposal for late 2010.

¹ Business, Industry and Government: Science & new Technologies for Enhancing Policy

WP1.5 Scientific Meetings (Europe, Turkey, SFI, Valpariso, Japan, etc)

Activity: Johnson attended many scientific meetings promoting ASSYST, CS Science and COSI-ICT
(See Appendix A)

WP1.6 Coordinating national societies with the Complex Systems Society

Activity: Discussions with the UK Complexity Society at ECCS'09

Activity: Discussions with the UK Complexity Society at 'Complexity in Business', Cranfield, June 2009

WP1.7 Organising CS FET & COSI ICT Projects Forum Day at ECCS

Activity: organised a very successful COSI-ICT day at the European Conference in Complex Systems
ECCS'09 held at Warwick University, providing a common platform for all the COSI-ICT
projects

to disseminate their work. This will be particularly useful at ECCS'10 in Lisbon providing the
projects with high profile opportunity to showcase their mid-project research findings.

Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned with WP1

No major problems were encountered with WP1 but we learned that it is necessary to be opportunistic to
get the best from this workpackage, making contacts wherever possible and responding in a flexible way.
We also learned that by working with our project officer we can achieve excellent outcomes for the
project and for the scientific community we are coordinating.

WP2: Scientific Meetings for Interchange, Dissemination, Roadmap & Policy

WP2.1 Organising Scientific Meetings around Europe and New Member States

Activity: Organised the meeting *Aesthetics at the Heart of Science* at the FET European Future
Technologies

Conference *Science Beyond Fiction* held in Prague 21-23 April 2009. The speakers
included Gregory Chaitin, Eve Mitleton-Kelly, Rolf Reber, Nadine Peyri ras, Louis Bec, Ren 
Doursat, Albert-L szl  Barab si, Jeff Johnson and Paul Bourguine. About fifty people attended.
The response to the event from both the audience and the participants was very positive –
was an example in which art stimulated a very lively scientific debate.

WP2.2 Organising Scientific Meetings in Turkey and Associate Member States

Activity: Prof Haluk Bingol of WP2.2 has leveraged its small budget to organise a complexity school at
the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Physics at Turun  in Turkey, working with Peter
Richmond of the COST Action MP0801 Physics of Competition and Conflicts.

WP2.3 Organising scientific meetings with India (India-China-Europe Triangle)

Activity: Various discussions for future meetings.

WP2.4 Organising scientific meetings with India (India-China-Europe Triangle)

Activity: Co-organised Workshop on Route Map of Interdisciplinary Physics and Complexity Sciences
Sanya, Hainan, China, Jan. 4-10, 2010

WP2.5 Organising Scientific Meetings with Africa (UNESCO Chair)

Activity: Meeting planned with development policy specialists at Open University, UK, May 2010

Activity: Meeting planned with development policy specialists and UNESCO, Paris, July 2010

WP2.6 Organising Scientific Meetings with the Para Limes Institute

Activity: Initial discussions for meetings in years two and three.

WP2.7 Coordinating scientific meetings to feed into roadmap and policy

Activity: The CSS Roadmap for the Science of Complex Systems edited by Paul Bourguine, David Chavalarias and Edith Perrier published in March 2009

Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned with WP2

No major problems were encountered with WP2, and this work package is well positioned to deliver many events during the next year. The major lesson to be learned from our experience with this work package is that we must get each work package leader to commit to and publish their planned activities for 2010. Related to this we must keep a clear calendar of events to make sure that our events don't clash, and that they don't clash with other important scientific events. Another lesson learned during the year is that we can get leverage on the ASSYST funds by working with others, *e.g.* the BIG-STEP event in Brussels in April 2010 ASSYST-COST summer school in Turkey in September 2010.

WP3 Coordinating Private Sector Applications with CS Science and COSI-ICT

Activity: Many discussions on WP3 and WP4 and plans to hold meetings.

Activity: *Cloud Computing* meeting planned for 2010 at HP in Grenoble

Activity: *Social Computing* meetings planned for 2010 in London (with PerAda at IC) and Turin.

Activity: made contact with Unilever Foodsolutions and discussed their intention to begin a new form of web-based marketing - a possible application for COSI-ICT we suggested a meeting with them.

Activity: supported satellite meeting proposals for ECCS'09 organised by a company called Abaci on the subject of *Putting Complexity to Work – Supporting the Practitioners*.

Activity: Merali and Johnson attended two meetings of the Institute of Advertising Practitioners organised by the UK EPSRC with the intention of connecting scientists to business people in this area. One event involved 'speed dating' and resulted in a relationship between Merali and a company that is currently being further developed within WP3.

Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned with WP3

We see WP3 and WP4 as the most challenging and highest risk for the ASSYST project. We have had intense discussions on how we might best proceed, the WPs have produced coordinated plans of activities for the next year. We have opened up many possible ways forward. The lesson to be drawn from the review is that in 2010 we must move into a phase where we begin to execute our plans and begin to make tangible progress. Both WPs have husbanded their resources to date, but it is expected that they draw on these to support their activities, some of which will involve significant expense.

WP4 Coordinating Public Sector Applications with CS Science and COSI-ICT

Activity: Organised session 'relationships between complexity & planning' during INPUT conference March 2009, INPUT= CUPUM (Computers in Urban Planning & Urban Management)

Activity: Informal meetings in IRES - applications of complexity for policy oriented regional analysis

Activity: Satellite meeting in the Lisbon ECCS'10 Conference (Policy making in complex adaptive systems)

Activity: Planned a conference on "Territorial intelligence" in autumn 2010 in which we foresee the participation of the administrative bodies (Ile de France, London administration, Piedmont and Tuscany Region representatives). This conference is the starting point for a discussion on the utilization of the Complex system paradigm in the decision making of the public administration.

Activity: In March 2009 to a meeting on Local and Regional Sustainability in Odense

Activity: Took four children & two teachers from Milton Keynes to participate in the Bright Green Youth Climate Camp to be held in Sønderborg in Denmark 8th – 11th August 2009.

Activity: This is the first event in a programme of educational activities planned to take place across Milton Keynes over the new few years. The camp brought together 300 children from around the world. We will follow this up with BrightGreenYouth project in Milton Keynes in the summer of 2010. This will be an opportunity for WP4 to connect with education and local government. We will take a COSI-ICT approach.

Activity: Attended in the UK, ASSYST participated in a *Systems Engineering at the Defence Science and Technology* meeting at the UK Joint Services Command and Staff College Defence Academy at Shrivenham. The meeting was organised by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. We discussed the possibility of ASSYST running a workshop on complex systems, and this is something we plan to organise next year. In this way we hope to better connect this community of users with those in academic science.

Activity: In March 2010 we had discussions with Margaret Ellis of Socionical to discuss her interests in collaborating with ASSYST. Of many possibilities we discussed the possibility of applications of COSI-ICT for disabled and elderly people, an area in which she has considerable expertise having worked on evidence-based analysis, for a possible co-ordinated European approach to web accessibility.

Activity: In July 2009 we attended a meeting on Dynamics and Policy at the House of Lords in London organised by GSD. We are working with GSD towards providing education and training in complex systems for senior British civil servants. We are helped in this by Professor Julian Hunt who is a peer in the Upper House of the British Parliament.

Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned with WP4

[Repeating the comments for WP3] We see WP3 and WP4 as the most challenging and highest risk for the ASSYST project. We have had intense discussions on how we might best proceed, the WPs have produced coordinated plans of activities for the next year. We have opened up many possible ways forward. The lesson to be drawn from the review is that in 2010 we must move into a phase where we begin to execute our plans and begin to make tangible progress. Both WPs have husbanded their resources to date, but it is expected that they draw on these to support their activities, some of which will involve significant expense.

WP5: Conference Support

WP5.1 European Conference on Complex Systems: COSI-ICT showcase

Activity: Organised ECCS'09 at Warwick University. 450delegates.

Activity: Planned ECCS'10 for Lisbon University.

Activity: Began planning for ECCS'11 in Vienna

Activity: Used ASSYST MyReview systems for managing the conference paper submission & proceedings

WP5.2 Workshop on Mathematics in the Science of Complex Systems

Activity: Workshop planned for July 2010

Activity: Workshops planned for the 2011 and 2012 meetings in Venice (WP5.2).

WP5.4 Coordinating female Scientists and Minorities to attend ECC

Activity: sponsored reception at ESSA held its conference at Surrey University in September 2009.

Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned with WP5

WP5 has been very successful. The main problem was the delay to the MITSOCs Mathematics workshop - now scheduled to be held in Paris in July. The lesson to be learned from the WP is that all events must be planned and organised in detail as soon as possible, including ensuring the availability of key speakers.

WP6. Education

WP1.6: European PhD and Masters in Complex Systems

Activity: Worked with Ecole Polytechnique, Chalmers, Gottenborg and Warwick Universities on Marie Curie proposal.

WP6.2 Coordinating discussion & publication of core mathematics curriculum

Activity: Various meetings and discussion

Activity: Draft curriculum published on the ASSYST web site;

WP6.3 Coordinating discussion & publication of core computing and simulation curriculum

Activity: Various meetings and discussion

Activity: Draft curriculum published on the ASSYST web site;

WP6.4 Coordinating discussion & publication of core physics curriculum

Activity: Various meetings and discussion

Activity: Draft curriculum published on the ASSYST web site;

WP6.5 Sharing educational resources across Europe

Activity: Submitted *étoile* proposal to FET (Enhanced Technology for Open Intelligent Learning Environments). Not successful – will try again.

Activity: Mathematics course being web-delivered to 100+ students in Bucharest, March-April 2010

WP6.6 Organising Residential Schools

Activity: Delivered a major summer school in Paris and ran many other courses at ISC-PIF.

Activity: A major Winter School was also run in Lisbon.

Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned with WP6

There have been no major problems with WP6. It has been realised that producing the core curriculum and getting it approved by the complex systems community is a very challenging task. The major lesson learned for this work package is that the curricula will probably have different levels, from remedial education to fill in gaps across the domains to advanced and more specialised knowledge. Another lesson is that we must engage with students and run courses in order to understand better what they know and what they feel they need to know. The web-based mathematics course being delivered to students in Romania is a very good start in this direction, but we need to follow this up with other courses, especially in computing and physics.

WP7. Internet Coordination of the CS Community and CCS Information Services

WP7.1 WIKI web infrastructure & IT tools

Activity: Developed wiki-based web infrastructure

Activity: Developed the MyReview conference support system

Activity: Developed dual wiki-conventional web sites - several face to face meetings to discuss technical and design details with WP7.2

WP7.2 CSS web site content, news, events, CS & COSI-ICT publications

Activity: Edited and published the ASSYST newsletter

Activity: Developed ASSYST conventional web site

Activity: Published ASSYST documents and videos

Activity: Developed dual wiki-conventional web sites - several face to face meetings to discuss technical and design details with WP7.1

WP7.3 ASSYST meeting coordination, information synthesis & publication

Activity: Many FlashMeeting organised and documented.

Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned with WP7

Our design for a dual conventional and wiki web site structure could have been problematic or even chaotic with the two halves duplicating some thing and not doing others. One of the major lessons learned during the year is the importance of the close relationship between the partners in Lisbon and Paris, and a clear division of responsibilities. Fortunately these partners have worked together in an exemplary way and the result has been excellent. Through its conventional web site, ASSYST presents an attractive and accessible portal to our work and a growing database of videos and documents. Through its wiki site, ASSYST has supported its scientists and work package (e.g. the education WP uses a Wiki site to disseminate its materials and interact with students. Another lesson learned for this WP is that we must proactively collect everything we can to publish on the site, and we are getting to be quite good at this (we have over 100 videos on the site).

WP8. Management

Activity: General management and liaison with Brussels

Activity: Hold monthly management meetings

List of project meetings, dates and venues;

27-28 February 2009	Kickoff Meeting
1st June 2009	Management Flash Meeting
6 th July 2009	Management Flash Meeting
3 rd August 2009	Management Flash Meeting
7 th September	Management Flash Meeting
20 th September 2009	Management Meeting at ECCS'09, Warwick
5 th October 2009	Management Flash Meeting
2 nd November 2009	Management Flash Meeting
7 th December 2009	Management Flash Meeting
4 th January 2010	Management Flash Meeting

1st February 2010 Management Flash Meeting

Activity: End of Year Reporting

Activity: Financial Management

Problems Encountered and Lessons Learned with WP8

Overall ASSYST has gone very well in its first year and it is well positioned to continue to be very productive with many new activities planned for the next year.

The main lesson for WP8 is to improve our reporting. This includes giving clear instructions to the WP leaders for what is required of them for reporting, and ensuring that they deliver it in a timely way. It also includes ensuring that the documents have the required structure and content.

Appendix – A: Meetings attended by WP8 Leader

Date	Event	Place	WP
01/01/09	ASSYST Starts		
14-15/01/09	Complexity-Net Workshop –	Chantilly	WP1
28/01/09	Institute of Advertising Practitioners Digital Economies	London	WP3
11/02/09	CyberEmotions Kickoff	Warsaw	WP1
23-25/02/09	Complex'2009	Shanghai	WP1
27-28/02/09	Kickoff Meeting	Paris	WP1
29/02/09	Roadmap Meeting	Paris	WP1
16-17/03/09	Local and Regional Sustainability Workshop	Odense	WP4
24/03/09	Energy & Climate Change: Contribution of Complexity Science	London	WP4
20/04/09	Presentation of ASSYST Education	Vienna	WP6
21-23/04/09	Science Beyond Fiction – Aesthetics at the Heart of Science	Prague	WP2
07/05/09	Meeting with Milton Keynes Council	MK	WP4
20-21/05/09	DSTL Shrivenham	Shrivenham	WP4
28-29/05/09	Complexity-Net Brokerage Event	Brussels	WP1
01/06/09	First ASSYST Management FlashMeeting	UK,F,I,P,Il	WP7
10/06/09	Complexity in Business, Cranfield University	Cranfield	WP1
30/06/09	Institute of Advertising Practitioners Network Event	London	WP3
01/07/09	Meeting with Prof Chris Barrett, Virginia Tech	London	WP1
02/07/09	GSD conference 2009: 'Dynamics for Policy', House of Lords	London	WP1
03-04/07/09	CyberEmotions Meetings, Jacobs University Bremen	Bremen	WP1
07/09	ASSYST Summer School	Paris	WP6
07/07/09	ASSYST Monthly Management FlashMeeting	UK,F,I,P,Il	WP7
06-12/08/09	BrightGreenYouth Climate Change Camp	Sønderborg	WP4
07/09/09	ASSYST Monthly Management FlashMeeting	UK,F,I,P,Il	WP7
15/09/09	ESSA Reception	Guildford	WP5
20-25/09/09	ECCS'09	Warwick	WP5
05/10/09	ASSYST Monthly Management FlashMeeting	UK,F,I,P,Il	WP7
22-23/10/09	The Future of the Humanities and Social Sciences	Brussels	WP4
02/11/09	ASSYST Monthly Management FlashMeeting	UK,F,I,P,Il	WP7
06/11/09	ESRC Complexity-Policy Meeting	Lancaster	WP4
12-13/11/09	Agent Based Modelling in Social Systems	Tapia	WP1
19-20/11/09	ASSYST IT Infrastructure Planning Meeting	Liso	WP7
25-27/11/09	RNSC Conference: Causality in Complex Systems		
01/12/09	EPSRC-Complexity-Net-ASSYST Planning Meeting – Big-Step	Swndon	WP1
04/12/09	EPSRC-Complexity-Net-ASSYST Planning Meeting – Big-Step	London	WP1
07/12/09	ASSYST Monthly Management FlashMeeting	UK,F,I,P,Il	WP7
07/12/09	Embracing Complexity in Design – Royal Inst of British Architects	London	WP1
15-16/12/09	GSD Complexity-Policy Brainstorming Meeting	Brussels	WP1
04/01/10	ASSYST Monthly Management FlashMeeting	UK,F,I,P,Il	WP7
08-09/01/10	GSDP Meeting – Science and Policy	Potsdam	WP1
11-16/01/10	Lisbon Winter Complexity School	Lisbon	WP6
21-23/01/10	CyberEmotions Workshp	Wolverhampton	WP1
22/01/10	FET FlagShip Open Day	Brussels	WP1
14-15/02/10	FuturIcT FET FagShip Workshop	Zurich	WP1
25/02/10	Design-Complexity Workshop	London	WP3
09-12/03/10	French Roadmap Meeting, Cagene	Corsica	WP1
09/03/10	SIONICAL Meeting	London	WP4
16/03/10	Complexity Net Scientific Board – Award Project Funding	Hook - Holland	WP1
23/03/10	ASSYST Review	Brussels	WP8
25/03/10	COSI-ICT Day	Brussels	Wp1