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WP8: Periodic Management Report - Year 1

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WP8: Periodic Management Report

1. Introduction

This report gives a summary of the management issues of each ASSYST work package, including an analysis of the progress against original objectives (both overall and specific WP objectives).

Workpackages 1 to 7 of ASSYST correspond to the stated objectives, and management issues relating to the workpackages will be reported in the context of the objectives. The objectives are defined by bullet points. Here a commentary will be given on how each WP is contributing to the stated objectives. Detailed achievements of each workpackage can be found in the Project Periodic Report.

2. Progress against objectives

Excellent progress and achievements:

Objective 1: To promote COSI-ICT and Complex Systems Science in Europe and Worldwide

- Communicating to non-academic policy makers and business people at national and international levels the achievements of Complex Systems Science so far by success stories and applications. These will be published and communicated in appropriate and attractive ways for non-specialists.

WP1.1 and WP1.2 have produced and published the first roadmap. A new version of the roadmap will be published, including a brochure for policy makers and business people

WP1.3 has published a number of success stories through the ASSYST Newsletter (WP7.2)

WP1.3 and WP8 are negotiating a book with Springer on success stories in CS science .

- Communicating to scientists and policy makers the state of the art including the European position at the cutting edge of the new science relative to the rest of the world, the potential of the new science, promoting particularly the work of the COSI-ICT IPs. A major vehicle for this objective is an authoritative and periodically revised roadmap.

WP1.1 and WP1.2 have produced and published the first roadmap.

WP1.2 and WP7.2 are publishing a Newsletter. This will be printed in colour and hard copy distributed at all meetings

WP1.4 has worked closely with Complexity-Net including it's €5m research call

WP1.4 has worked closely with Complexity-Net & GSD¹ to organise the BIGSTEP meeting in Brussels, 14-15 April 2010.

WP1.4 is working with PerAda to organise a school in Budapest in September 2010

WP1.4 is organising a meeting on Social Intelligence with Jeremy Pitt of PerAda at Imperial College in London on 3rd August 2010.

WP1.2 is organising a Roadmap meeting in Paris in July

WP1.5 Attended Complexity-2010 in Shanghai (no cost to ASSYST)

WP1.5 Visited Taiwan (no cost to ASSYST)

WP1.5 will attend Statistical Physics & Complexity meeting in Australia representing ASSYST

¹ GSD is the Global Systems Dynamics FET Coordination Action.

- To contact and network with funding agencies at national and international levels in and outside Europe in order to form a clear view of funding policies for R&D in Complex Systems Science and COSI-ICT

WP1.4 has worked closely with EPSRC and Complexity-Net on it's €5m research call Johnson was on the Scientific Council that evaluated the proposals

WP1.4 is working with Peter Richmond of COST

WP1.4 Johnson visited IIASA to discuss new research programme on extreme events

WP1.4 Johnson will visit Australia in July 2010

- To lobby for funding for Complex Systems Science and COSI-ICT at national and European levels. This includes active engagement with the European Commission and the FET unit, aimed at directing specific calls towards this area in FP7.

WP1.7 organised a CS funders open day at ECCS'09

WP1.4 distributed a questionnaire on a possible FET Proactive call for CS created by its project officer and edited the replies into an Expert Consultation report. On 25th March 2010 Wolfgang Boch announced a new Proactive call in 2011, DYM-CS (Dynamics of multilevel complex systems), as recommended in our report.

WP1.4 has worked with GSD to submit a new (successful) coordination action GSDP (Global System Dynamics and Policy) . Johnson (OU) has a small work package on education and training in partnership with Bishop (University College London). This related to the activities of WP3 & 4 (Public & Private Sectors) and WP6 (Education)

WP1.4 has supported the FuturICT FlagShip proposal, working closely with Dirk Helbing of ETH-Zurich and the GSD coordination action

Objective 2: To promote and support CS scientific interchange in Europe and worldwide

Good - Excellent progress and achievements for most WPs

- Organising scientific meetings in Europe, the new member states and candidate states in order to facilitate the exchange of research ideas for both senior and young researchers of the European CS & COSI-ICT research community.

WP2.1 Organised the meeting *Aesthetics at the Heart of Science* within the FET Conference *Science beyond Fiction*, 23rd April 2009.

WP1.4 Co-organised the BIGSTEP (Business, Industry and Government – Science and new Technology for Enhancing Policy) meeting in Brussels with GSD and ComplexityNet, 14-15-April-'10

WP2.1 Organised an exhibition on Art and Complex Systems Science at the BIGSTEP meeting in Brussels,.

WP2.2 has organised a meeting at the Institute of Applied Physics in Turunç, Turkey, Sept 2010 working with COST

WP2.6 to start planning for the meetings at the Para Limes Institute

- Organising scientific interaction with India and China, building on the India-China-Europe Triangle structure formed by previous projects.

WP2.3 will contribute to the BIGSTEP meeting

WP2.4 organised a summer school in China (at no cost to ASSYST this year)

- Organising scientific interaction with North and South America, and Japan building on existing networks and making new scientific networks.

WP2.5 has organised connections with young scientists in South America

WP5.3 supported a South American student to attend ECCS'09

- Setting up a UNESCO Chair to create a European-African network of research in CS and COSI-ICT.

WP2.5 has planned meetings at the Open University Development, Policy and Practice Group) and in Paris with UNESCO representative.

- To use the scientific meetings of ASSYST as a means of collecting information on the state of the art of CS and COSI-ICT in Europe and throughout the world to feed into a roadmap and to support Objective 1.

WP1.7 and WP2.7 organised the COSI-ICT meeting at ECCS'09

WP1.4: Johnson attended meetings in China and Taiwan

WP1.2 is organising a roadmap meeting in Paris in the summer

Objective 3. To create strong links between CS & COSI-ICT and the Private Sector

Good progress and achievements

- Creating business-science networks at national and international levels.
WP3 is organising a workshop on *Territorial Intelligence* (use of socially intelligent ICT to deliver information and services in the network economy) in Paris on 8th November 2010
WP3 is preparing two publication on cloud computing targeted at ACM and IEEE journals, and a white paper on Wicked Problems in Applying Complex Systems Thinking
WP3 is planning a meeting *Opening the Cloud* 1st June London. This is a scientific meeting to prepare for a later meeting on uses of the Cloud with business people.
- Informing the business community of the opportunities provided by CS and COSI-ICT science.
WP1.4 and WP3 attended meetings with the UK Institute of Practitioners in Advertising with follow up meetings taking place.
WP3 is planning a meeting on cloud computer for business
- Organising meetings between students and professional people in public and private sectors.
WP3 & WP4 are planning a meeting with the Complex Systems Society on the civil and industrial applications of CS science. Speakers will be people from the private and public sectors. This will be part of the CSS professional membership scheme.
- Facilitating contact between business with needs and scientists able to satisfy those needs.
WP1.4 made contact with Unilever for a live project that might use socially intelligent ICT

Objective 4. To create strong links between CS & COSI-ICT and the Public Sector

Good progress and achievements

- Creating policy-science networks at national (UK, France, Italy,...) & international (EU) level.
WP4 has a meeting organised for 11th May 2010 at in Torino at IRES to introduce ASSYST to local administrators. Epiworks (also based in Torino at ISI) will participate
WP4 has organised a Satellite Meeting at ECCS'10 in Sept 2010.

- Informing the public sector of the opportunities provided by CS and COSI-ICT science.
WP1.4 is organising scientific meetings of social intelligence to produce pedagogic materials to inform the public and private on what social intelligence is and how it can be used
- Organising meetings between students and professional people in public and private sectors.
WP3 & WP4 are planning a meeting with the Complex Systems Society on the civil and industrial applications of CS science. Speakers will be people from the private and public sectors. This will be part of the CSS professional membership scheme.
- Facilitating contact between public sector needs and scientists able to satisfy those needs.
WP1.4 has secured a small WP in the new GSDP coordination action, intended to provide courses on complex systems for
WP4 Plans a meeting on *Visualisation of public data*, March 2011
WP4 plans an event in Torino on Emergency Planning Event, Piemonte, Bulgaria & Member States, Torino. This event will involve the Sociological IP that is doing research in this area.

Objective 5. To provide conference support for CS and COSI-ICT research and dissemination

Good - excellent progress and achievements

- Support the European Conference on Complex Systems (ECCS).
Kitkilionis (WP1.7) was local organiser of ECCS'09, assisted by Johnson (WP1.4)
WP1.4 and WP7.2 suggested Lisbon for ECCS'10 & Vienna for 2010 to the ECCS Committee
WP5.1 Provided financial support for ECCS'09 as planned
- Support engagement with the European Social Simulation Society (ESSA) and its conference.
WP5.4 Funded a reception at ESSA '09 at the University of Surrey
WP5.4 Is discussing joint activities with ESSA '09, including having the ESSA president as an invited speaker at ECCS'10.
- Provide an international forum for CS and COSI-ICT projects.
WP1.4 and WP1.7 organised a COSI-ICT satellite meeting at ECCS'09
WP1.4 and WP1.7 plan a COSI-ICT satellite meeting at ECCS'10
- Support research on mathematics and statistics in CS and COSI-ICT.
WP5.2 with WP2.3 and WP1.4 have organised a meeting on Mathematics and Complex Systems Science at ISI in Torino, in preparation for a meeting at ECLT in Venice in Spring 2011. This first meeting is later than originally planned.
- Provide an international forum for FET to communicate with the CS & COSI-ICT community.
WP1.7 organised a CS funding day at ECCS'09 with FET a major presenter.
- Provide support for female scientists to attend conferences.
WP5.3 provided bursaries for 11 people to attend ECCS'09

Objective 6: Education

Good progress and achievements

- Providing postgraduate open educational resources across Europe for masters & PhD courses.
WP6.5 is delivering a mathematics course to 100+ students in Romania March-April 2010.
WP6.5 submitted the étoile proposal to FET (Enhanced Technology for Open Intelligent

Learning Environments). This was not successful because of questions about its research content. We were advised to resubmit as a Coordination Action and are submitting a new proposal to FET Open in July 2010 called **CASCADES-IDEAS (Computational Adaptive Systems for Coordinating and Disseminating Education and Scientific Ideas)**.

- Defining a core maths/stats/physics/computing curriculum for Complex Systems Science.
WP6.5 organised a curriculum meeting in Lisbon in December 2009.
WP6.2 has produced a draft curriculum for mathematics
WP6.3 has produced a draft curriculum for computing
WP6.4 has produced a draft curriculum for physics
- Providing residential schools on CS and COSI-ICT.
WP6.6. organised a summer school in Paris in 2009
WP7.2 organised a winter school in Lisbon in January 2010
- Delivering the European PhD in Complex Systems.
WP6.1 continues to work on the European PhD in complex systems, including supporting an Erasmus Mundus Masters programme between Ecole Polytechnique, Warwick, and Chalmers Universities and the CSS. European A Joint Doctoral Programme is currently submitted for further Erasmus Mundus funding, and if successful these students will study the CSS/ASSYST core curriculum and be eligible for the European PhD.

Objective 7. Provision of High Quality Web-based Information Services and Tools

Excellent progress and achievements

- Maintaining a web site providing services, news and information on events, schools, etc.
WP7.1 and WP7.2 have set up a hybrid wiki and conventional website, with the former used by scientists for collective working and the latter used by people wanting information.
- Wiki-based communication between members of the CS & COSI-ICT research community.
WP7.1 is supporting and developing the wiki site
- Coordinating publications on complex systems and COSI-ICT
WP7.2 published the proceeding of ECCS'09
- Collecting, editing and disseminating information & publicity: promoting CS in the EC.
WP7.2 collects and publishes a wide variety of information, disseminated through the website and the ASSYST newsletter.
- FlashMeeting videoconferencing system to facilitate virtual meetings and save on travel.
WP7.3 provides the FlashMeeting videoconferencing system that is used extensively for management and scientific meetings
- MyReview and other software for supporting conferences and journals.
WP7.1 supports the MyReview systems that was used for ECCS'09 and will be used for ECCS'10
- Repository for publications, data and tools for CS and COSI-ICT.
WP7.2 is creating a repository and plans to collect a lot more materials. We need to collect more publications and materials for the repository.

3. Conclusions

All the objectives of ASSYST are being addressed by one or more work packages. Some work packages are already producing excellent results, while others will deliver on a longer timescale. The overall position is as follows:

WP1: Kickoff, Roadmap & Promoting CS

Excellent Progress

WP2: Scientific Meetings

Good – Excellent Progress

Many meetings being organised
Para Limes Institute needs meeting dates

WP3: Private Sector

Good progress and good plans

WP4: Public Sector

Good progress and good plans

WP5: Conference

Good – Excellent progress

Excellent progress with ECCS, bursary support, and ESSA liaison.
First maths meeting later than planned

WP6: Education

Good progress

WP7: Internet coordination etc

Excellent progress

The management of the work packages is coordinated by the monthly FlashMeetings and many face-to-face meetings with partners. This seems to have worked well. Year 2 will see many activities come to fruition taking us a long way towards meeting all our objectives.