Project ICoSCIS:
Interregional Cooperation
at Scientific Computing in
Interdisciplinary Science

European Territorial Cooperation Programme
Greece-Bulgaria 2007-2013
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

3RD ICOSCIS MEETING
MINUTES

Project Name	"Interregional Cooperation at Scientific Computing in Interdisciplinary Science" (ICoSCIS)		
Programme	European Territorial Cooperation Programme "Greece-Bulgaria 2007-2013"		
Date of Meeting	24.09.2012	Location:	South-West University main campus, Blagoevgrad, BULGARIA

Date: 24/09/2012 (Monday)

The meeting was opened by Prof. Peter Milanov (coordinator for the Bulgarian side) with a general overview of the agenda, followed by the welcome speech of the project coordinator Prof. Panos Argyrakis and Dr. Michael Maragakis.

1. Current status and progress on the logistics of the project

The current status and progress on the logistics of the project was discussed in detail. All partners have received some funding to start the project expenses and actual expenses have already started. Issues concerning the verification and the speed up of expenses (both paid out and verified) where discussed in detail. Specifically, the need for verifications within 2012 was stressed due to the consortium's obligation to achieve the target of 20% expenses within this year. Each partner's obligation to send in time on a monthly basis the financial progress was also mentioned. A short discussion was also centred on the fact that there is a delay in the progress of expenses and the reasons for that. These delays in expenses were accredited to salaries and equipment. No hiring was possible for the Greek partners due to changes in the law, therefore only permanent staff was being paid and no additional personnel was hired. This, in the case of the Greek partners is about 90% of the staff costs.

European Territorial Cooperation Progamme
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2. Website related activities

Paraskevas Giazitzidis (member of the AUTH team) presented the web-site of the project - http://icoscis.physics.auth.gr/ and also showed the additions/updates during the last 3 months. AUBG has also shown the final version of the Bulgarian translation of the website. Assist. Prof. Anton Stoilov from SWU has created a webpage, which will be linked to the main project website, specifically focused on the declaration of interest to the courses provided throughout the project. The registration form will allow the user to provide feedback to all partners concerning the content of the courses. Therefore, it will lead to a better programming of the courses educational material. UoM, AUTh and AUBG provided some comments to improve the registration form. Finally, AUBG requested a method of being automatically informed of changes in the English version of the website.

3. Program and material for the courses

The program and materials for the courses was discussed by all partners. An issue concerning the intensity of knowledge transferred through these introductory courses was mentioned. The need to supply participants of the courses with the required knowledge (and not overburden them with too much information) was agreed upon by all partners. Concerning the program, the most convenient days for all partners were agreed to be the weekends, while the start date of the courses will be at early November, dependant on the participation. A deadline for the declaration of interest for the participation to the courses was defined as mid October. AUBG has raised the issue of the actual lecture halls that will be used for the courses, and SWU has offered to check their own facilities for availability. The final decision for the exact location will be on participation and availability. The duration of each course was also discussed in detail and it was decided that most courses will have a duration of around 12 academic hours.

4. Hardware procurement and possible solutions for the clusters

After the lunch break, the hardware procurement procedures and the reasons for the delay in the entire procedure were discussed in detail. AUTH has explained the reasons for the delay in its part (a failed hardware procurement about the GPU computing units, due to low interest from potential suppliers and unexpected delays attributed to national law). AUTH has also explained that the GPU computing procurement has now finished and that we are in the process of making the necessary CPU-GPU performance comparison tests. SWU has expressed again the willingness to procure CPU computing clusters based on current requirements. SWU also further specified hardware details to increased computing power with 4GB per core and expressed low interest in increased bandwidth and storage, based on estimates of their projected scientific needs.

5. Possible solutions addressing the problems encountered so far

The first problem that was addressed was related to expenses and verifications and the hardware procurement. Planning of the procurement has resulted with the following: The study concerning the best choice of hardware is due in October by AUTH. The result of this study will help finalize the specifications for the hardware needed by both partners. The procurement process will start in November by both AUTH and SWU and the actual bidding will be done (according to national law in each side) early to mid December. This means the delivery of the hardware as well as the payment of the supplier will happen either late December or early January. The overall result of these delays will be that the verification for the hardware will not happen within 2012.

The next subject was a minor correction in the partnership agreement which most be done to add/change personnel. It was agreed that a new partnership agreement would be signed shortly by all partners. In addition to this, and concerning managerial problems, we have discussed on changes on the Justification of Budget and the Application form. AUTH and UoM have proposed changes in the timetable and budget of the Application form as well as minor corrections in the Justification of Budget and the Bulgarian partners have agreed to prepare their own suggestions on the subject.

Concerning problems with the educational aspect of the project we have discussed on the following: In order to achieve and if possible overcome the result indicators set for this project (80 people benefiting from this project), we constructed two main attendance scenarios. The low and the high attendance scenarios. The first one would mean that more publicity would be required, and a simplification of the courses material would be required in order to draw more prospective students for the next round of courses. The second one requires additional care, since it may become necessary to increase the classes per course, or even use stricter rules (in the form of placement tests) to accept only the most qualified students and those that fit according to the subjects of the courses. Finally, concerning the content of the courses it was suggested by UoM and AUTH to encourage the prospective attendees to suggest their own courses. SWU, having had also similar ideas had already incorporated a similar notion in the webpage where people would declare interest for specific subjects.

6. Tasks Breakdown and assignment of duties

The task breakdown and the assignment of the duties were presented by Dr. Michael Maragakis (UoM). A general overview of the tasks was given and focus was mainly on the tasks of each partner until the next meeting. AUTH will prepare the study for the comparison of CPU versus GPU computing, SWU along with AUTH will then define the hardware requirements for the clusters. AUBG, which will be the first one to start teaching, will begin the actual content of the courses for programming.

7. AOB

The date and place for the next meeting was set. The next meeting will be held in Thessaloniki and a tentative date was set at mid to late November, subject to changes according to the interest expressed for the courses.

The Seminar was closed by Prof. Peter Milanov.

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3rd Meeting for **ICoSCIS** project
Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
September 24-25, 2012

Monday, September 24
Meeting Program

11:00 Arrival of participants
11:15 - 12:00: Current status and progress on the logistics of the project.
12:00 - 12:30: Website related activities
12:30 - 13:00: Program and material for the courses.

13:00 - 14:00: Lunch break

14:00 - 14:30: Hardware procurement and possible solutions for the clusters.
14:30 - 15:30: Possible solutions addressing the problems encountered so far.
15:30 - 16:30: Tasks Breakdown and assignment of duties.
16:30 - 17:00: AOB (any other business)
17:00: End of Meeting

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List of Participants:

	Name	Organisation
1.	Peter Milanov	SWU
2.	Panos Argyrakis	AUTH
3.	Michael Maragakis	UoM
4.	Christina Mikropoulou	UoM
5.	Paraskevas Giazitzidis	AUTH
6.	Anton Stoilov	SWU
7.	John Galletly	AUBG
8.	Stoyan Bonev	AUBG
9.	Volin Karagiozov	AUBG
10.	Dimitar Christozov	AUBG
11.	Ivan Trenchev	SWU
12.	Pavlina Sheytanska	SWU
13.	Radoslav Mavrevski	SWU
14.	Ivan Todorin	SWU
15.	Nevena Pencheva	SWU
16.	Tina Satieva	SWU

These minutes have been approved by all partners after sufficient deliberations and are signed by the Scientific Coordinator, Prof. Panos Argyrakis of AUTh.

P. Argyrakis,

Scientific Coordinator of project ICoSCIS