



5th ICoSCIS MEETING -MINUTES

Project Name	"Interregional Cooperation at Scientific Computing in Interdisciplinary Science" (ICoSCIS)		
Programme	European Territorial Cooperation Programme "Greece-Bulgaria 2007-2013"		
Dates of Meetings	27-29.03.2013	Locations:	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Physics Department, Thessaloniki, Greece University of Macedonia, Department of Economics, Thessaloniki, Greece

Three meetings have been organized during these dates. A bilateral one between partners LP and P2 happened in the 27th, a second one in the 28th between P2 and P3, and a third one with all partners present happened in the 29th. The meetings were opened by Prof. Panos Argyrakis (project coordinator) along with Prof. Catherine Kyrtsov (meeting coordinating team) with a general overview of each meeting's agenda.

1. Other, overhead and travel related tasks

The very low amount of money being spent so far according to the original spending schedule has been thoroughly reported by Michael Maragakis. An analysis of project expenses on each Workpackage, action, and deliverable per partner was mentioned and delays in each case were examined in detail.

Especially concerning the overheads, no partner other than the LP - AUTH has spent any amount from this category. It was mentioned that if no partner uses this amount of money then



we must consider the possibility to shift such expenses to other categories where needs are present and higher rates of spending are seen already. SWU has mentioned that it has taken steps to proceed to overheads spending, and AUBG has promised to follow on SWU's steps.

The risk to lose the majority of this money should low spending continues, was mentioned by Michael Maragakis and all partners agreed that such a development must be avoided. Instead of losing this money, it was mentioned that all partners should prepare a list of possible additional (yet as minor as possible) changes they want, and shift money to other categories that they want. A new discussion on this issue will follow during the next meeting and a submission of additional changes (if any arise) will be done around June-July. A worst-case scenario that one partner will not be able to use some of his money was examined. In such a scenario it was agreed that it is best to shift the unusable amounts to another partner. All partners agreed to do this only in the case that the second partner will be in the same country (GR to GR and BG to BG).

2. Equipment procurement related tasks.

The second topic was examined on a similar note. It was mentioned that no other than the clusters of P2 - SWU and LP - AUTH equipment has been bought. The delay was attributed by partner P3 to the fact that the suggested changes to the JTS were not put into effect. Prof. Kyrtsov has promised to procure the equipment of P3 by May. Similarly, P4 has promised to proceed in the procurements by the next two months. SWU has also mentioned that the additional equipment of 7000 euro (non cluster related computers) will be shortly procured.

It was clarified to all partners that equipment procurement money not spent in the actual procurements will return to JTS and cannot be shifted to other categories.

On this topic, Anton Stoilov has brought up the issue of the cluster procurements in both countries. AUTH has mentioned that the procurement had recently finished and the equipment was delivered and it now up and running. SWU has finished with the selection procedure and is now in the process of receiving the equipment from the selected company. The payment details



will be handled within the next month or two depending on possible delays from the supplier and/or the appearance of objections from other contestants.

3. Courses related tasks.

Christina Mikropoulou has expressed the need to receive from P2 the complete list of people wishing to participate as trainees in the project along with the need to see the breakdown per course. Having such a list would enable all partners to examine the possibility to perform two courses in just one weekend should there be no or little overlapping. This need has arisen since the ending date for the courses currently is at 23 of June. Such a date is not convenient, since most of the students of SWU will have an examination period at that time and will be unable to attend most of these courses. The possibility to perform two courses in just one weekend will be possible for courses that are strongly unrelated to each other such as Econophysics, IT Research and language Evolution.

On this point the flexibility to change the dates of some courses was also brought up by several of the instructors due to the existence of other related events and other engagements. SWU has replied that provided there is an advance warning a change in the schedule would not be a problem.

SWU has reported that number of students in each course is approximately 40 and the total number of all the students is approximately 100. P2 has agreed to shortly provide detailed information about the interest, the level and the background of all the students

The courses already being held in Blagoevgrad, were evaluated with respect to the participants' level. According to the details presented by P2, the participants are students (BSc, MSc, PhDs). It was decided to proceed with the planning that was previously agreed, and separate them in two parts due to the highly increased (much more than anticipated) interest by students. The "student courses" (started on February 2013) will last until June 2013, and the "Staff courses" will be held as a second series of courses after the September of 2013.



The implementation of an additional course, suggested and materialized by AUBG, on Linux programming was reported by Volin Karagiozov. All partners praised AUBG's educational efforts that will assist in multiplying the knowledge gained by the trainees and agreed that this must be reported to JTS.

Finally, all partners agreed that a "Pass-Fail" evaluation examination should be organized for all trainees and a more complicated examination in order to establish an award to the best students. The award was decided to be an educational trip to the facilities of the LP and participation at the research entrepreneurship workshop. The latter is planned to be held in Thessaloniki at late 2013.

4. Workshop related tasks.

Action 2.4 that concerns the organization of a research entrepreneurship workshop was discussed in detail. UoM being in charge of this action, has presented some preparatory work that was done by Michael Maragakis under the guidance of Prof. Kyrtsov. A generic profile of the companies and industries that can be the target companies of such an action was presented. Overall, sectors that deal with consulting, social media applications and other software for mobile devices, as well companies that are on the lookout for innovative ideas (GIS apps etc) were estimated to be the best target companies for such an action.

All partners were asked to provide a list of such companies with an emphasis on those that are potentially interested in hiring personnel with Complex Science expertise.

Following the more than expected success of the publicity seminars, the option to organize two such workshops (one in Greece and another in Bulgaria) was explored. Such a development will also depend upon the willingness of Southern Bulgarian companies to participate in such an event at their own expense since no such costs can be covered for third parties. It was pointed out to the lead partner to explore such a possibility in contact with the project officer.



Possible dates and venues for the event(s) were explored. Should only one workshop occur (according to the AF and the current planning), it will be held in Thessaloniki during December 2013 in the premises of LP or P3. If a second one is to be held, it will be held at the same period (perhaps January 2014) in Blagoevgrad at the premises of P2. It was also mentioned that the companies that will participate in the workshop must be contacted not later than early to mid of June. Both Greek and Bulgarian companies will be called to attend the workshop(s).

5. Tasks Breakdown and assignment of duties.

A breakdown of the tasks of each partner for the following period was analytically presented by the LP with concern to the deliverables and their successful implementation. Detailed assignments of each partner concerning the course material were examined.

Following the very recent development of the acceptance of all suggested changes by the JTS, Michael Maragakis suggested to all partners to go through the changes of the application form and familiarize themselves with all of them. A short mentioning and a discussion of some of the most important ones followed.

6. Website related tasks

An issue that was commented by all partners was the educational aspect of the project's website. It was agreed by all partners that an individual page for each project should be created. As an example a case study of one course (introduction to Complex Science) was scrutinized as to what information should (or not) be included in the website. Presentations, exercises, additional teaching material were seen as the absolute minimum. It was also suggested by Prof. Kyrtsoy that we should include an extensive list of references and sources for other similar e-courses, as well as contact information of the course instructor. On this point it was decided that a common interface for all courses would facilitate the trainees into their use. All partners were asked to suggest a draft for a default course webpage.



In addition to these, AUBG (P4) proposed that an extra page under the title "GRID resources" would enrich the project's website, since it will host all the additional information about the Grid infrastructure (photos, specifications, tutorials, useful links, etc).

Finally, an important step to the projects publicity success would be an involvement of social media networks. A facebook group page related to the project is already created and it was decided to be used for ease of contact with the trainees.

7. Presentation and demonstration of the LP's equipment.

The new equipment at LP's facilities was presented and a thorough demonstration of the system's technical specifications was performed by Pashalis Corosoglou, member of LP's team. The entire high performance computing support team was introduced and their specialties of each individual were mentioned. Initial discussions concerning the cooperation of this team with the Bulgarian partners were also made.

8. Discussion on the project reports (responsibilities, deadlines, etc).

The recent excessive delay on the quarterly (and coincidentally yearly) progress report was discussed. The partners related to the delay have assumed responsibility and all partners agreed not to allow for such a situation to arise again.

Specifically it was mentioned that partners must fill in correctly and with care their own parts of the report (financial part), as well as provide information to the compiling team on the physical part.

Partners were asked to respect deadlines set by the person responsible for the reporting. i.e all partners were asked to send their own quarterly progress report by Monday 15/04/13.

Additionally, all partners were asked to send a financial report with their monthly and cumulative expenses to the LP at the end of each month.

For reporting purposes, and since JTS has requested this in the last report, all partners were instructed to create and maintain an electronic repository of the development in all



deliverables they are assigned. The repository must then be periodically (with every project report) sent to the LP who will maintain the sum of the projects progress.

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

The very low rates of spending were stressed once more by the LP. Specific examples were given and a comparison with the projection of expenses showed that all partners are behind on most categories.

Given a recent discussion with the project officer, the LP has analyzed in detail a very subtle point concerning the expenses of actions that have more than one deliverable from the same partner. An example is the last two (in order of numbering) deliverables of the project (5.4.4 and 5.4.5) which are both deliverables of action 5.4, and both belong to partner P4. Of course many more such cases exist and they were examined with care for each partner. Specifically for these deliverables a problem that might occur is in the breakdown of costs for each deliverables, i.e. one deliverable concerns the staff costs, and another the other expenses. Care must be taken to ensure that there is no mixup in declaring which costs belong to which deliverable.

As for the verifications, following a discussion on their progress, it was emphasized by the LP that all partners must send their verification certificates (as well as requests) to the lead partner so that he may forward this information to the JTS. This is necessary to speed up the process of cash inflow to the project from the funding agency.

10. AOB

The need for an official request of extension to the projects timeline was discussed. It was clarified that except the timeline of the financial part, we will request for an extension regarding the physical part of the project (for reporting purposes and such). The decision to request such an extension was unanimous. The lead partner will proceed to making such steps.



*"Interregional Cooperation at
Scientific Computing in
Interdisciplinary Science" – ICoSCIS
– B2- 3.3.*



The final issue discussed in the meeting was date and place of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held in Blagoevgrad and a tentative date was set at mid to late May. The coordinating team of this meeting will be SWU.

The project meetings were closed by Prof. Panos Argyrakis or Catherine Kyrtsov depending on the date of the meeting.



5th Meeting for ICoSCIS project Thessaloniki, Greece March 27-29, 2013

Wednesday, March 27 **Meeting Program (Participants: LP, P2)**

12:00 - 12:15: Arrival of participants

12:15 - 13:15: Other expenses and travel related tasks

13:15 - 14:15: Break

14:15 - 15:00: Courses related tasks

15:00 - 16:00: Tasks Breakdown and assignment of duties.

16:00 - 16:30: Equipment procurement related tasks.

16:30 - 17:30: Presentation and demonstration of the equipment purchased by the LP.

17:30 - 18:00: AOB (any other business)

18:00: End of Meeting

Thursday, March 28 **Meeting Program (Participants: P2, P3)**

11:00 - 11:15: Arrival of participants

11:15 - 13:30: Workshop related tasks.

13:30 - 14:30: Break.

14:30 - 15:30: Courses related tasks



*"Interregional Cooperation at
Scientific Computing in
Interdisciplinary Science" – ICoSCIS
– B2- 3.3.*



15:30 - 16:30: Tasks Breakdown and assignment of duties.

16:30 - 17:00: AOB (any other business)

17:00: End of Meeting

Friday, March 29
Meeting Program (Participants: LP, P2, P3, P4)

10:45 - 11:00: Arrival of participants

11:00 - 12:30: Discussion on the project reports (responsibilities, deadlines, etc)

12:30 - 13:30: Current status and progress on the logistics of the project.

13:30 - 14:30: Break.

14:30 - 15:30: Courses related tasks

15:30 - 16:30: Website related tasks

16:30 - 17:00: AOB (any other business)

17:00: End of Meeting



Cumulative list of Participants:

	Name	Organisation
1.	Radoslav Mavrevski	SWU
2.	Panos Argyrakis	AUTH
3.	Michael Maragakis	UoM
4.	Christina Mikropoulou	UoM
5.	Paraskevas Giazitzidis	AUTH
6.	Anton Stoilov	SWU
7.	Kyrtsou Catherine	UoM
8.	Nikolaos Bastas	AUTH
9.	John Galletly	AUBG
10	Volin Karagiozov	AUBG
11	Stoyan Bonev	AUBG
12	Dimitar Christozov	AUBG

European Territorial Cooperation Programme
Greece - Bulgaria 2007 - 2013

This Project is co-funded by the European Union (ERDF)
and National Funds of Greece and Bulgaria



Project ICoSCIS: Interregional Cooperation at Scientific Computing in Interdisciplinary Science



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