

EURONET: "European networking in micro- and nanotechnologies - a bridge between East and West"

Casino Hall, Sinaia (Romania), 28 -29 September 2003

Summary. The workshop "EURONET: European networking in micro- and nanotechnologies - a bridge between East and West" took place in Sinaia, Romania, on 28-29 September 2003. The event was organized by the Romanian Consortium for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, the National Institute for Microtechnologies (IMT-Bucharest), iMediaSoft Group (France, UK, Romania), with the support of the European Commission and of the Ministry for Education, Research and Youth from Romania. Representatives of the European Commission for priorities 2 and 3 were invited to talk about the first call from FP6, with a particular emphasis on new instruments and on the results obtained of the candidate countries. Then, some proposals for networks of excellence with Romanian participation (from priority 2, IST: PATENT and AMICOM, from Priority 3. NMP: 4 M, NANOFUN-POLY, POLYSACCHARIDES) were presented by coordinators or by contact persons in Romania, followed by other presentations, such as Specific Support Actions related to the field. A panel discussion, with all speakers closed the workshop, which was attended by about 90 participants. They also visited an exhibition and attended demonstrations related to the Nanopolis initiative, presented by iMediaSoft.

EURONET started on the evening of 28th of September with the **EURONET Exhibition and computer demonstrations** comprising the "Nanopolis™ Exhibition - "NANOscale Science & Engineering Virtual POLE" - Distributed Knowledge Network e-Collaborating System - iMediasoft© 2003" and an exhibition with posters presenting some research labs and networks from Romania, including some scientific results as well.

The second day of the workshop (29 September), taking now place in the Casino Hall, Sinaia, was opened by Prof. Dan Dascalu (General Manager of IMT-Bucharest). The message of the Romanian Minister of Education, Research and Youth, was delivered by Dr. Rolanda Predescu.

Representatives of the European Commission presented invited talks with conclusions related to the first call in FP 6, with focus on new instruments and on the participation of the ACC:

- Dipl.-Eng Thomas J. Sommer, Principal Scientific Officer, DGT INFSO/C2: "IST and ACC countries" (see p. 2)
- Dr. Antoaneta Folea, NMP (priority 3): "6th Framework Programme - priority 3: results after the first call for proposals" (see p. 2)

General overviews of several proposals of networks in the field of micro- and nanotechnologies (to be financed in FP 6) were presented by the coordinators:

- Dr. Andrew Richardson, Lancaster University, United Kingdom - coordinator of the network PATENT: "Design for Micro- and Nanomanufacturing" (expected to be financed from FP 6, NoE in priority 2)
- Prof. Robert Plana, LAAS-CNRS, Toulouse, France - coordinator of the network AMICOM: "Advanced MEMS for RF and Millimeter Wave communications" (expected to be financed from FP 6, NoE in priority 2)
- Dr. Werner Brenner, Technical University Vienna, Austria - coordinator of the network ASSEMIC: "Advanced handling and assembly in microtechnology" (Research Training Network, Marie Curie actions)

Short presentations of other proposals of networks were given by the contact persons from Romania:

- Dr. Carmen Moldovan, IMT-Bucharest, Romania (on behalf of the project coordinator Prof. Stefan Dimov, Cardiff University) - 4M: "Multi-Material Micro Manufacture: Technologies and Applications" (proposal expected to be financed from FP 6, priority 3); the presentation was prepared by the coordinator.
- Prof. Bogdan Simionescu, Macromolecular Chemistry Institute "Petru Poni", Iasi, Romania (on behalf of the project coordinator) - POLYSACCHARIDES: "The European Polysaccharides Network" (proposal expected to be financed from FP 6, priority 3)
- Dr. Irina Kleps, IMT-Bucharest, Romania (on behalf of the project coordinator Prof. José M. Kenny, Italian Consortium for Science and Technology of Materials, Italy) - NANOFUN-POLY: "Nanostructured and Functional Polymer-Based Materials and Nanocomposites" (NoE in priority 3)

It was stressed that both NANOFUN-POLY and NANO2LIFE (another proposals involving Romania), will be presented by their coordinators at the NanoForum workshop planned in the same place (IMT-Bucharest is the local organizer) a few days later (5-7 October).

Prof. Dan Dascalu also presented an overview about "Networking in micro and nanotechnologies at the national and regional scale".

The second part was opened by **invited talks about European and Romanian initiatives in micro- and**



Dr. Robert Turner

nanotechnologies, namely:

"Launching the initiative (International CENTre for InnoVation and Education in NANOtechnologies)".

- Dr. Patric Salomon: "Infrastructure for a successful Micro Nano Technologies Development"
- Dr. Robert Turner: "Specific support actions NEXUSPLUS and BRIDGE in the benefit of ACC and SME"
- Dr. Dan Bog: Nanopolis™ - "NANOscale Science & Engineering Virtual POLE" based on the Distributed Knowledge Network e-Collaborating System of iMediasoft®
- Prof. Dan Dascalu, INCENTIVE: NANO



Prof. Dan Dascalu

The workshop ended with a **panel discussion**, moderated by Prof. Dan Dascalu, General Director of IMT-Bucharest. The topics discussed, with the participation of all the speakers were mainly related to the ACC participation in this call. The Romanian participants to the workshop raised a number of questions related to the difficulties of their participation to FP 6.

In reply it was shown that:

- *Most of the effort put in building up a complex project is of technical nature* (Andrew Richardson);
- *The financial procedures have been greatly simplified* (Robert Plana);
- *There is no discrimination of ACC with respect to MS participants* (Antoaneta Folea);
- *Full integration takes time, 10 years for Austria* (Werner Brenner);
- *The Romanian Government is taking steps in supporting Romanian participation* (Rolanda Predescu);
- *Romania has an excellent research base, but an additional infrastructure - combining education, research and commercialisation aspects - needs to be build to create economic value out of that* (Patric Salomon).

It was the general opinion that the lively debates taking place during this panel have been both interesting and useful.

It is worth to mention that the workshop EURONET was part of the "Decade of micro- and nanotechnologies" (28th of September to 7th of October 2003, Sinaia, Romania), including - among others - the 1st NanoForum and the IEEE event CAS, i.e. "International Semiconductor Conference" (26th edition, with many sessions related to micro and nanotechnologies). Posters from these "micro-nano" sessions were displayed in the above mentioned Exhibition, whereas many CAS participants attended the EURONET workshop.



Dr. Patric Salomon



Panel discussion