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***EVALUATION OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION AND OF THE EXISTING INFORMATION OF THE GDS
THAT MIGHT BE RELEVANT
IN THE TERRITORIAL INTELLIGENCE FIELD.
COORDINATION GROUP WP4P “PROJECTS” OF CAENTI***

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Abstract: This communication makes a state of the activities carried out by the WP4P coordination group of the 4th work package “Fundamental methods” of the CAENTI, Coordination Action of the European Network of Territorial Intelligence. The WP4P concerns a technical issue, the evaluation of projects funded by the European Commission and of the existing information of the GDs that might be relevant in the territorial intelligence field. The first six months of the CAENTI were mainly devoted to the projects selection. A first task consisted in identifying the projects which are funded by the European Union and that can be considered as belonging to the territorial intelligence field. A first group of keywords was suggested to select them. The first selection essentially underlines projects that are linked to governance. We need to enlarge key words to make a new selection. The objective for 2007 is to organize a seminar that will gather the projects leaders of the most relevant projects about territorial action and the CAENTI territorial actors to deepen the principles and the practice of territorial intelligence with them. The identification of the information that the GD owns and that is relevant for territorial intelligence will be made in collaboration with the WP4I group that leads research activities about territorial information (WP4I), before making a survey of the GDs. During this conference, the WP4P should define and program its prospects.

Keywords: Territorial intelligence, Projects of territorial development, Governance, Knowledge-based society.

EVALUATION OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND OF THE EXISTING INFORMATION OF THE GDS THAT MIGHT BE RELEVANT IN THE TERRITORIAL INTELLIGENCE FIELD.

COORDINATION GROUP WP4P “PROJECTS” OF CAENTI

INTRODUCTION

The coordination research activity **WP4P [Projects]** relates to the evaluation of projects funded by the European Commission and of the existing information of the GDs that might be relevant in the territorial intelligence field.

It is a technical sub-activity of the work package 4 (WP4) of CAENTI. The WP4 concerns the spreading of fundamental methods and research design in territorial information analysis within the social sciences and humanities. The CAENTI, Coordination Action of the European Network of Territorial Intelligence, is a project funded by the 6th research framework-programme of the European Union, from March 2007 to February 2009.

It is a specific activity, insofar as it corresponds to a suggestion of the CAENTI project evaluators. It was integrated in the WP4 because this work package includes a coordination activity linked to territorial information and because most of the concerned projects *a priori* seemed to be research projects. Thus, the WP4P coordination group mainly contributes to the second objective of the work package 4: increasing the territorial information use.

During the first six months of the CAENTI activity, the group was organized. It defined a plan of work. It selected a set of key-words that allows organizing the search and the identification of relevant projects and information in the territorial intelligence field. A first selection of projects drafted from the European directories of research projects showed that this set of key-words must be widened because this selection only focused on six projects.

During the conference, the WP4P coordination group also defined an activities plan.

1. ORGANIZATION, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE “Projects” COORDINATION GROUP.

During the Kick-off meeting in BESANÇON, on March 23rd-24th 2006, the representatives of the participants debated the consortium agreement and the composition of the coordination groups, and in particular of the WP4P “Projects”. For the year 2006, the coordination group was composed by eight skilled and experienced researchers who have a good knowledge of the European projects. They work in different parts of the European territory, what allows identifying projects in the main linguistic regions, and contacting their responsible.

During the meeting of the coordination groups leaders of the work package 4 in BESANÇON, on June, the 7th 2006, the WP4P group objectives were formulated under the form of two questions:

1. Among the projects that were supported by the European Commission, which of them have an object corresponding to the questionings of the territorial intelligence?
2. Which relevant information for territorial intelligence the General Directions of the European Commission have, in addition to those that are published on the official websites?

A first strategy was defined:

1. Identifying the projects that belong to the territorial intelligence field and dividing them according to large European regions between the members of the group so as they make a first evaluation report on the base of a frame established by the group. These evaluation reports are compared within the group.
2. Asking the general directions so as to identify the information they have, that have interest for territorial intelligence and that complete the territorial information that are identified by the WP4I group in the European data bases, especially on Internet.

In order to organize the complementarity of the WP4P and WP4I groups on the theme of the relevant information, we decided to organize a coordination meeting of the WP4I and WP4P after the coordination seminar of the work package 6 "Tools for actors" that was planned on June, the 29th in DURBUY, near to LIEGE, in Belgium, insofar as the WP4I is coordinated by the University of LIEGE and most of the members of the two groups will attend the WP6 coordination meeting.

Amélie BICHET-MIÑARO, as graduate in Political Sciences and Public Law, was in charge of a first identification of projects in the prospect of this meeting, in particular by exploiting the main projects books that are financially supported by the European Commission and the CORDIS website.

She presented a first selection of research projects at the time of the coordination meeting of the WP4I and WP4P groups in LIEGE on June, the 30th 2006.

This first identification of the research projects used the following sources:

- European Union-supported research in social sciences and humanities 1998-2005, briefing papers, European Commission, Community research
- Social sciences and humanities in FP6, Projects' synopses all calls, Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society, Community research
- European Research, A guide to successful communications, General information, European Commission, Community research
- Assessing the Social and Environmental impacts of European research, report, European Commission, Community research
- Broadsheet 2005-2006 ICCR IFS CIR
- CLORA, FP internet web sites

The projects that started before 1998 were rejected.

This identification of relevant projects was made by using a first series of key-words:

- Territorial development
- Sustainable development
- Governance
- Knowledge-based society

It proved itself to be too selective, insofar as it only isolated three projects, mainly within two important groups of projects that are linked on the one hand to governance and on the other hand to social inclusion.

The WP4I group presented the first results about the inventory of the territorial information from European statistic bases and sites and national sites of the countries that are members of the European Union.

As regards the projects identification, the coordination group debated the opportunity to widen:

- The canvassing field to all the funding, beyond the research activity, or
- The key-words used to identify projects, especially by adding:
- Territory, and
- Communication and information technologies.

The debate insisted on the complexity of the identification of action projects. If each one wanted to integrate action projects, the prospect of widening of the canvassing field faced three difficulties:

- The importance of the number of concerned projects of action;
- The fact that, in opposition to the research projects, the action projects are not managed by the European Commission but by national or regional relays;
- Their inventory is often incomplete or disparate but there is one, because of the previous reasons.

It did not seem appropriate to work according to the funds, as the European Social Fund, the European Fund of Economic and Regional Development, but rather by programmes that have their own management; The funds define sets that are too broad and extremely diversified of ground projects. Firstly, we should rather identify programmes such as EQUAL to make the selection within more homogenous sets of projects. On the other hand, the access to projects repertories and the description of these projects are very unequal according to the programmes. An inventory of the programmes will remain to be established so as to valueate their interest in relation with territorial intelligence and the possibility to ask projects repertories.

The group eventually chose to work again on the selection of research projects with these new two key-words before widening the projects identification to all the general directions, after the selection procedure will be satisfying as regards the research projects and the repertories of action projects will have been identified.

A debate took place about the opportunity to integrate other key-words, but most of the suggested key-words, as participation, were rejected because they are in many projects and they have a different meaning according to the project. They are not selective, neither from a quantitative nor from a qualitative point of view because of their polysemy. Consequently, we should try to find key-words which meaning is relatively objective and does not vary much, otherwise many projects are identified, but few are conserved after having read its summary once.

The debates also concerned the projects evaluation, after they have been selected. The group insisted on the need to ask the projects responsables, and even to meet them.

As regards the information that are available at the GDs level, the group decided to wait for the WP4I to have finished the general inventory that was started at the territorial information level, at the end of 2006, before making a survey by asking the general directions, so as to be able to specify the information we looked for and above all to make the difference with the ones we could identify by ourselves.

We suggest a new selection of projects that remains limited to five projects:

- Achieving Sustainable and Innovative Policies through Participatory Governance in a Multi-Level Context

- EXSPRO: Social Exclusion and Social Protection – the Future Role for the EU

- G-FORS : Governance for sustainability

Neighbourhood Govern : Neighbourhood : Governance-Capacity for Social Integration

- REGIONET: Strategies for Regional Sustainable Development: An Integrated Approach Beyond Best Practice

The inventory of the action programmes was postponed because it implied to get more information from the general directions, what we

planned to do about the information, at the beginning of the second period.

2. PROSPECTS

This part was updated according to debated that took place in ALBA IULIA.

So as to widen the first selection of research projects, we suggest making a new definition of the key-words that are used to identify projects.

This proposal goes together with the proposal of diversify the research modes by using the classic search engines on Internet, as well as repertories, data bases or European websites that were identified in advance.

The direct use of the Internet search engines is able to identify as action projects as research ones. It gives a bonus to the projects that have a good visibility on Internet, without prejudice of their local visibility. It also implies the research actions are made in several languages.

Consequently it implies a more important mobilisation of the work group and the reinforcement of its coordination because:

- It decentralises the identification of the projects according to a linguistic logic

- The members of the group will also inherit the charge to locate data bases and repertories of action projects which management is often divided by countries or by countries groups.

- The coordination group implies a more regular use of the cooperative workspace CooSpace, to animate the exchanges.

As a consequence we decided a coordination meeting would take place soon to organise the activity of the coordination group. It will particularly be used to widen the list of key-words, in accordance with the specificities of the direct seek on Internet, on the base of suggestions that will be centralised on CooSpace. It will have to concretely organise the prospects on the longer term.

When the projects will have been isolated by the means of key-words, they will be divided at the geographical-linguistic level so as the members of the group contact the projects responsables, to be sure they still exist and to confirm they belong to

the territorial intelligence field. They will draft an evaluation report for each of the “confirmed” projects.

Then, the sets of projects will be evaluated by the coordination group on the base of these reports, so as to make a general evaluation report.

The ten most relevant projects will be invited to an evaluation seminar with the members of the coordination group and with the CAENTI actors.

CONCLUSION

During the six first months of the CAENTI action, we firstly concentrated on the projects.

Indeed, we wanted to wait for the results of the first research activities of the WP4I group about territorial information and indicators. This group started a state of the art of the territorial information that are available on Internet and on the European websites that were supplied with the European Commission.

We identified the relevant research projects thanks to a set of key words that remains open. Our first selection emphasized the great number of projects about governance and social exclusion. Nevertheless, they were only five projects that belonged to the territorial intelligence field.

The coordination team will now work to:

- Make a definitive definition of the criteria to be used for a direct research on Internet, as well as in the European on lines data bases or directories.
- Find new sources, directly or by asking general directorates, in order to explore action projects,
- Confirm the relevance of each selected project;
- Evaluate the selected projects, with an interview of their responsible of projects;
- Globally value the selected projects, through the coordination group work and a seminar.

In 2007, the objective is to organize a seminar with the project leaders of the relevant projects of territorial action and with the CAENTI territorial actors, so as to study together the territorial intelligence principles and practice.

The identification of the GD information that is relevant as regards territorial intelligence will be led in close cooperation with the WP4I group, which makes research activity about territorial information.

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