

ECCE Information Technology Task Force – Business Plan 2002/2003

Chairman: Stephen Vincent
Deputy Chairman: Rasso Steinmann

1. Background

For the past few years, ECCE has been an active contributor to discussions in Brussels about the application of IT in construction. In particular, this has involved the active participation of Diana Maxwell and David Leonard in many meetings, and the preparation of associated papers and comments.

Meanwhile, proposals by the Chairman of the IT Task Force, Stephen Vincent, to take a higher profile in the use and application of the Internet have not come to fruition. This is mainly due to a lack of time and resources to progress such initiatives, but also reflects a general change in international perception of the extent and speed with which the Internet will impact business and professional activities.

Construction is a highly competitive business, with little scope for speculative investment in research activities. The need for rapid and constructive returns on investment also limits opportunities to implement long term changes in working methods.

The Deputy Chairman of the Task Force, Rasso Steinman, is directly involved in current research activities in Europe, and well placed to assist in interaction with European IT research activities.

2. Activities 2002/2003

The activities planned for the ECCE IT Task Force for 2002/2003 are as follows:

- (i) To influence the work of the ROADCON project in EU5RTD in the vision and roadmap phase, and help the project to get inputs from the Civil Engineering and Construction Sector of EU. In future years the Task Force should help to disseminate the results of this project.
- (ii) To contribute to other ICT activities in EU (such as ICCI) where these activities may be of benefit to the Civil Engineering and Construction Sector. This will include:
 - Taking an active interest in the new EU Framework Programme and encouraging IT research activities which will benefit the Civil Engineering and Construction Sector.
 - Encouraging the exchange of experiences in the use of IT between different ECCE member organisations.
- (iii) Observe advances in the use of IT outside the EU, and where possible feed back to member organisations information about developments which could benefit the Civil Engineering and Construction Sector.

3. Resources

The shortage of time available to key individuals in this field to make contributions to the activities of the IT Task Force continues to be a problem. Two possible solutions will be explored, as resources permit:

- (i) Identify younger members of the profession who wish to actively participate in Task Force activities, and encourage and support them to assist with the work of the Task Force.
- (ii) Continue to watch for EU research resources which might be mobilised to pay for inputs by key specialists so that time can be made available to promote the activities of the Task Force.

ECCE Information Technology Task Force

Specific tasks agreed at Task Force meeting in Helsinki 7th June 2002

Task	Activity	Description
ITTF/2002/1	2(i)	Assist in obtaining response from ECCE Members to a questionnaire provided by Roadcon.
ITTF/2002/2	2(i)	Assist Roadcon in identifying relevant stakeholders.
ITTF/2002/3	2(i)	Circulate information provided in electronic form by Roadcon.
ITTF/2002/4	2(i)	Facilitate the consolidation of ECCE member opinions about future ICT research needs for civil engineers.
ITTF/2002/5	2(i)	Make a recommendation to EC suggesting measures that should accompany Roadcon to enhance long term feedback, revision and dissemination of Roadcon results.
ITTF/2002/6	2(ii)	Continue to participate in the work of the EU ICT for Competitiveness Working Group. This should include member feedback on proposals for research under Framework Plan 6.
ITTF/2002/7	2(ii)	Disseminate information about the results of the ICCI project, if suitable information is provided.
ITTF/2002/8	2(ii)	Assist in development of the ECCE web site, including providing opportunities to exchange knowledge between ECCE members.
ITTF/2002/9	2(ii)	Investigate opportunities for promoting the use of e-learning for civil engineers, and make specific recommendations
ITTF/2002/10	2(iii)	When advances in the use of IT outside the EU are identified, disseminate knowledge of this through the ECCE website.