



MINUTES
General Assembly of the ENVITECH-Net Members
13th of December 2004
Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas,
6 Kossutha Street, Katowice, Poland

Participants: List of participants was provided as attachment (Attachment 1).

Apart from participants mentioned in the List the following individuals took part in the meeting:

Dr. Maria Antosiewicz – FP6 Thematic Priority 1.6.3 Co-ordinator, National Contact Point, Warsaw

Izabela Ratman-Kłosińska, M.A. – Network Co-ordination Office, IETU

Mirosława Cyrana-Szram, M.A. – International Business Officer, IETU (minutes)

Marcin Kelm, M.A. – International Business Officer, IETU (assistant)

Agenda – attached (Attachment 2).

1. The meeting was opened by Dr. Jan Skowronek who welcomed everybody and announced that the General Assembly met formal requirements and was capable of adopting resolutions.
2. Having presented the agenda, which was accepted by consensus, Dr. Skowronek invited Prof. Jacek Łączny from the Central Institute of Mining in Katowice to present a report on ENVITECH-Net activity in 2002-2004. Prof. Łączny started his presentation from reminding that the Scientific Thematic Network for Environmental Technologies ENVITECH-Net had been established in 2002 and at the very beginning consisted of 67 members. The main objective of the Network was consolidation of Polish and foreign RTD potential in order to integrate applied research with the needs of industry and development of innovative environmental technologies. The Network activity in 2002 focused on defining thematic areas of the Network, initiating a database on RTD works carried out by the Network members, supporting participation of ENVITECH-Net members in 6 EU FP consortia, legislative work and acquisition of funds for the Network activity (State Committee for Scientific Research). The year 2003 was the year of active participation of ENVITECH-Net members in projects realised under EU Framework Programmes, undertaking first actions to change ENVITECH-Net into an international Network and development of the database on RTD works in the field of innovative environmental technologies. In 2003 results and practical applications of the Network research activity were presented and promoted at the Sixth International Symposium and Exhibition on Environmental Contamination in Central & Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States – PRAGUE'2003". In the second quarter of the year a workshop on applying for integrated licence in the context of implementation of the 96/61/EC Directive into Polish Law on Environmental Protection was organised. The Network activity in 2004 focused on organising the first thematic conference of ENVITECH-Net: "Bank of Environmental Technology Problems", sending invitations to foreign RTD units (31 new applications for membership received), concluding an agreement on merging with INCREASE, establishing co-operation with Polish-German Co-

operation Fund, undertaking further steps towards developing a map of the Network RTD potential, establishing contacts with a Co-ordination Office of Environmental Technologies Action Plan in DG Environment, preparing an application to the State Committee for Scientific Research with the Network Activity Plan for 2005-2008, development of the Network research plan and identification of 5 research fields (I-Water resources protection, II-Development of technologies for global climate change prevention, III-Development of technologies for sustainable production and consumption, IV-Development of soil protection technologies, V-Development of cross-cutting technologies covering the above-mentioned research fields), development and distribution of a questionnaire among the Network members which aimed at identification of the Network RTD potential and presentation of the obtained data on the ENVITECH-Net website. Prof. Łączny reported on the very little response to the questionnaire, which did not provide sufficient data to identify research teams and their leaders (only 20 members from 67 responded to the questionnaire). At the end of his presentation Prof. Łączny concluded that the only chance for the Network was active integration with the European Research Area and changing ENVITECH-Net into an international Network.

3. Dr. Skowronek thanked Prof. Łączny for his presentation and since there were no questions he proceeded to the next item of the agenda, which was a presentation of the ENVITECH-Net Action Plan for 2005-2008 made by Ms. Izabela Ratman-Kłosińska from the Network Co-ordination Office. Ms. Ratman-Kłosińska started her presentation from describing the main objectives of the Network, which are: consolidation of scientific and research potential represented by Polish RTD units and their foreign partners in order to support international co-operation and integration of research in the field of environmental technologies, promotion of innovative achievements in the field of environmental technologies and in particular – promotion of solutions worked out with participation of Polish research teams, establishing a forum for identification of problems, exchange of information and dissemination of results of RTD projects concerning innovative environmental technologies. Then she went on to presenting measurable objectives of the Network. These include: development and realisation of a program for promotion and dissemination of information on international scientific and research potential of the Network, organisation and realisation of the “Bank of Environmental Technology Problems” as an initiative supporting the establishment of the Polish Environmental Technology Platform, supporting participation of the Network members in international programs and projects, particularly those financed from foreign non-returnable financial sources. Under the first measurable objective the following actions were planned: development of a strategy and plan for Network promotion and dissemination of information on its potential and activity, development and publication of promotion materials such as CD-ROM, newsletter and posters, designing and starting a multi-functional ENVITECH-Net Internet service, development of a map of scientific and research potential of the Network and an electronic database on its members. The second measurable objective will be achieved by supporting partnership of Polish and foreign scientific teams with industry to develop and implement the latest environmental technologies according to Polish, European and global market demand, consolidating international scientific teams and technology users to support mutual participation in RTD, demonstration and implementation programs focused on environmental

protection, promoting Polish know-how and innovative technological solutions worked out by Polish RTD teams in co-operation with foreign partners under EU research programs and EC initiatives, organising a series of events as a forum for exchange of information and establishing co-operation among all actors of the technological platform, as well as taking actions to initiate the Polish Environmental Technology Platform. This would include identification of national industrial leaders in the environmental technology sector and establishing a Supporting Group, defining focus areas as a basis for the development of a Strategic Research Program and establishing co-operation with technological platforms under the 6th EU Framework Program. As far as the third objective is concerned this would be realised by identification and establishing co-operation with technological platforms, Networks, centres of excellence, technology transfer centres, centres of advanced technologies, technology parks, organisational structures established under RIS, National Innovation System, (KSI), Technology Foresight and structural funds acting in environmental technology sector both in Poland and abroad. The establishment of this co-operation would facilitate activating infrastructure and research potential of the Network with regard to participation of the Network members in projects realised under UE framework programs and EC initiatives (e.g. LIFE, INTERREG), launching Network own initiatives in the field of establishing national and regional technology platforms, fostering entrepreneurship, promoting ecology-oriented solutions and taking actions aimed at supporting complementarity of research works carried out by experts in particular fields (e.g. COST, ERA-Net), The third objective would be realised also by supporting integration of ENVITECH-Net with foreign teams by introducing a system of grants for the participation of Network members in conferences and seminars. According to the proposed system the maximum grant a Network member can apply for is 1500 PLN (application can be submitted only once a year) and it cannot exceed 50% of the actually incurred travel and accommodation costs. Applications for grants will be evaluated quarterly by a specially appointed board. The total annual pool of grants will be 20.000 PLN. Having presented the main objectives of the Network for the years 2005-2008 Ms. Ratman-Kłosińska went to management issues. At this level the following actions were planned: working out reports (including financial reports) to organisations financing ENVITECH-Net activity, preparing applications for co-financing the Network activity, identifying sponsors, developing and monitoring the events schedule under the “Bank of Environmental Technology Problems”, developing and co-ordinating the mutual Network research plan in 5 research fields. The speech delivered by Ms. Ratman-Kłosińska ended up with a presentation of four work packages (WP1 – “Promotion and dissemination of information on ENVITECH-Net and its potential”, “WP2 – Bank of Environmental Technology Problems” – aimed at supporting the establishment of the technology platform, WP3 – “Internal integration” – aimed at internal strengthening the Network potential by supporting its integration within research fields, WP4 – “External integration” – aimed at strengthening the Network position in Poland and abroad, WP5 – “Network management” – aimed at co-ordination and management of the Network as a project and according to the Internal Regulations, as well as supporting the realisation of other work packages.

The Action Plan proposed by Ms. Izabela Ratman-Kłosińska was adopted by consensus. The only crucial remark, made by Mr. Malinowski, was that there was no time schedule for the presented actions. Ms. Ratman-Kłosińska explained that it was not necessary for submitting an application to the Ministry and could be discussed and defined later, in an electronic form, for internal needs of the Network. It was also agreed that the presented Action Plan would be distributed by e-mail among all Network members.

4. The next item on the agenda was a presentation of a new version of the Internal Regulations of ENVITECH-Net. The most important changes included: introduction of an annual membership fee in the amount of 100 EUR, more detailed identification of the Network research fields, defining a new composition of the Steering Committee, increasing the competence of the Steering Committee as a body responsible for accepting new members and simplifying the procedures connected with the General Assembly and its capability of adopting resolutions. The proposed changes were discussed, modified and adopted unanimously. It was also agreed that the Network Co-ordination Office would make the necessary stylistic corrections without changing the content of the adopted Regulations and publish the document on the ENVITECH-Net webpage. The final version of the new ENVITECH-NET Internal Regulations is attached to the Minutes (to be downloaded from the webpage <http://www.ietu.katowice.pl/envitech-net/>).
5. After voting the new version of the Internal Regulations Dr. Skowronek gave floor again to Ms. Izabela Ratman-Kłosińska, who presented new candidates for membership in the Network. The new members (31) were accepted unanimously.
6. The last item on the agenda was a presentation prepared by Dr. Maria Antosiewicz from the National Contact Point in Warsaw concerning the advancement of works on the 4th Call for Proposals in Priority 1.6.3 - Global Changes and Ecosystems. In her presentation Dr. Antosiewicz encouraged the participants to make some contribution to the final version of the document, pointing out that the changes and corrections had to introduce a new aspect of the problem, which had not been properly stressed or presented in the previous documents.
7. Since there were no further comments Dr. Jan Skowronek thanked everybody for their participation and closed the meeting.

Attachments:

1. List of participants
2. Agenda
3. Presentation of Prof. Jacek Łączny
4. Presentation of Ms. Izabela Ratman-Kłosińska
5. ENVITECH-Net Internal Regulations
6. List of ENVITECH-Net new members
7. Presentation of Dr. Maria Antosiewicz