

The General Assembly of ENVITECH-Net Members combined with thematic workshops focused on development of the ENVITECH-Net Strategic Research Agenda took place in Ustroń, Poland, in the days of 11-12 June 2007.

The agenda of the meeting is attached.

The Thematic Workshops

Day one of the meeting was focused on facilitating development of the Strategic Research Agenda of ENVITECH-Net. The purpose of this document is twofold:

- serve as a background for initiating joint scientific projects among ENVITECH-Net Members,
- contribute to the development of the Strategic Research Agenda of the Polish Platform for Environmental Technologies.

For that purpose 4 working groups have been established (as indicated in the agenda) and moderated discussions were carried out to work out strategic research areas in each group. They were preceded by an introductory session on the Environment Action Plan, European Environmental Technologies Action Plan, Polish Platform for Environmental Technologies and an introduction to the workshops concerning methodology and expected outcomes.

As background for the discussions, short presentations on the activities and strategic research areas proposals prepared by the group members were used.

At least 5 strategic research areas were expected to be identified in each working group, 3 of which defined as priority and at least one described in details including proposed research topics, types of projects to realise them, potential scientific and industrial partners, supporting activities etc.

Presentations and results of the workshops will be available on the Network webpage by the end of June.

The General Assembly

The number of the event's participants was 42 from 28 organisations. The number of persons eligible for voting was 28 of total 67 eligible organisations. Although the requirement of quorum for voting has not been fulfilled, based on Clause 7.2 of ENVITECH-Net Internal Regulations (being in force until 12th June 2007; since the amendments were adopted on 12th June it is Clause 7.4), the Coordinator of the Network has the right to re-summon the Assembly for the next available date and time. Upon re-summoning of the Assembly, binding decisions are made regardless of the number of Members eligible for voting present at the second assembly. After a short break the Assembly was re-summoned.

During the General Assembly the following was presented, discussed and agreed:

1) Spanish Member of ENVITECH-Net - Fundación CARTIF - delivered a presentation on the scope of their activities and invited ENVITECH-Net Members for cooperation (presentation attached).

It was discussed and agreed with Fundacion CARTIF that there will be a facilitated exchange of Expressions of Interest between Fundacion CARTIF and other Spanish research organisations cooperating with CARTIF and Polish research organisations especially in view of upcoming autumn INTERREG, LIFE+ and FP7 calls. ENVITECH-Net and CARTIF will also facilitate establishing bilateral project proposals for submission to the Polish-Spanish Bilateral Scientific Cooperation Programme to be opened later this year (co-ordinated by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW) and Spanish Ministry for Science and Education (MEC)). Funding available under this programme allows not only to cover the scientific exchange but personal costs of project staff as well.

2) Voting on the changes in the ENVITECH-Net Regulations

The ENVITECH-Net regulations have been modified in some points. The introduced changes were primarily aimed at improving the management and activities of the Network. The changes were approved by all Members with no votes against or abstains. The approved modified regulations are attached.

3) Activities of ENVITECH-Net in the year 2006 have been reported and summarised (presentations attached in Polish and English)

4) Action Plan and priorities for 2007 have been presented and discussed, including:

▪ ENVITECH-Net Strategic Research Agenda

The workshops provided an interesting background for the Agenda. Once the material is elaborated in a form of a report it will be presented on the web page for downloading with a request for further comments and supplementing. The deadline will be provided. It is planned to have the draft final SRA ready for presenting at POLEKO 2007 International Ecological Fair (Poznań, Poland, Nov 2007).

▪ ongoing and planned activities to develop the ENVITECH-Net service and information system on research potential of the Network Members.

All ENVITECH-Net Member organisations have been invited to cooperate with the Coordination Office on the development and implementation of the internet service. The invitation remains open for others who would like to join. So far the following organisations expressed interest and established a Working Group KOMAG, IPIS PAN, AGH, IETU, CARTIF.

Meeting of this Group took place on 11 June in the evening. During the meeting it was decided, that the priority action will focus on developing two key elements of the system:

- web page with an improvement content management that would allow ENVITECH-Net Members disseminate information via this service and become information providers. That refers to information on conferences, events, interesting projects, reports etc.
- database of the research potential focused on providing information relevant both for research as well as businesses. Here the critical issues are the characterisation parameters and their hierarchy.

It has been decided that the research potential characteristics should be focused on presenting the capacities of the research teams and laboratories within organisations, including their staff, research infrastructure, accredited laboratories and methods, patents and technologies offered, experience in projects, relevant literature, etc. It is planned that the database and the web page should be developed by the end of the year.

KOMAG offered assistance and execution of the service programming based on a free of charge Content Management System CMS (distributed under General Public License). As it has been agreed during the General Assembly at POLEKO 2006, the execution of the system will be subcontracted and the costs of the system execution will be covered from the membership fees reserved for that purpose.

▪ ENVITECH-Net peer-reviewed publication

All Members approved the offer to publish the next publication from the series "Environmental technologies in research and in practice" as a special issue of the periodical "Archives of Environmental Protection" which is published by IPIS PAN and is on the Philadelphia list (ISI Master Journal List, citations in BIOSIS Previews and Biological Abstracts databases; <http://scientific.thomson.com/mjl/>, ISSN: 0324-8461). The entire issue will be composed of about 15 research articles in composed in sections corresponding to the 5 research fields of ENVITECH-Net. The Publication will be in English.

IMPORTANT: we invite all authors interested to publish their articles are kindly requested to submit abstracts of the articles in English by e-mail to the ENVITECH-Net coordination office as soon as possible, preferably by the end of June 2007.

- discussion over organisation of an international **scientific conference in 2008** - thematic scope, establishing a Scientific Committee

The proposed topic agreed and discussed during the Assembly is

Environmental Technologies : a challenge and an opportunity for Europe.

Invitation to provide candidates for the Scientific Committee has been opened. ENVITECH-Net Members are kindly requested to provide their candidates to the Coordination Office by the end of June 2007.

Location and dates of the conference have been discussed as well. It has been agreed that the conference will take place in autumn of 2008. Organisation of the event during POLEKO was considered but many Members expressed their concern that when organised as a POLEKO event, the impact of the conference will be diminished. The Conference will be organised either in Katowice or in Warsaw.

- discussion over a strategy for **acquiring new international Members**

It was proposed and agreed that each ENVITECH-Net Member will provide the Coordination Office with contact details to their foreign partner organisations. Coordination Office will use these contacts to extend invitations to these organisations to joint ENVITECH-Net. Contact details should be sent by e-mail to the end of June 2007.

- presentation of ideas for exhibition of the Network during **POLEKO2007 Fairs**

It was agreed that during POLEKO 2007 ENVITECH-Net will contribute to the organisation of the exhibition "Science for the Environment" by co-organising with POLEKO management a brokering event combined with a publication of a "List of offers" on CD's. In 2007 it is planned to withdraw from the idea of organising a poster session for the benefit of facilitating individual and topic specific brokering meetings. These could be organised either on the exhibitors' stands or at ENVITECH-Net stand. The brokering meetings could be organised between business and research partners as well as between research partners in view of establishing cooperation for research projects. It is planned to coordinate this activity with the activities of NCP and BMBF in order to avoid duplication and overlapping of events and initiatives during POLEKO. Instead of posters and a catalogue of profiles and offers of RTD units it is planned to be developed and published on a CD. It could be disseminated also during other events like POLLUTEC or Entsorga Fairs.

Again the costs for a non-ENVITECH-Net Member would be 122 PLN per profile/offer, for ENVITECH-Net Members the cost of one entry to the CD catalogue will be paid from ENVITECH-Net resources, more profiles/offers of ENVITECH-Net must be covered by themselves.

In addition it is also planned to organise a conference or a seminar, possibly with the publisher of "European Funds" bi-monthly, that would be aimed at presenting the available funding sources for development and implementation of environmental technologies alongside with the Strategic Research Agenda of ENVITECH-Net as a databank of potential collaboration topics. Further details of the conference need to be discussed with the publisher and POLEKO management.