

Editor's Corner

Welcome to the AMI@Work Communities Newsletter.

As previously announced in the last MOSAIC newsletter, the COMIST project is taking over the support of the AMI@Work Communities, including the regular newsletter. Instead to identify it as the "COMIST Newsletter" and to have to change it every time a new project is taking over this role, we thought it makes more sense to name it "AMI@Work Communities Newsletter" whatever is the supporting project.

Inside this issue you will find introductory articles about the COMIST project and its media presence. Then, there is one article relating progress regarding the Logistics@Work community. The following article is presenting another COMIST task, which is dedicated to the setting-up of an open consortium-building infrastructure. Event reporting articles and next coming events are becoming regular sections of this newsletter. Something new that should also become a regular section is to invite articles about other related projects like the WearIT@Work project article in this issue. For sure, all other related projects are also kindly invited to contribute to the next newsletters. Finally, we are providing few words about the new website that is fully dedicated to the AMI@Work Communities and its members, which is going to be announced during the Industry Forum and COMIST workshop that will be held in Rome on 5 and 6 December 2005. See you there!

*Marc Pallot, EsoCE-Net
Newsletter Editor*

October 2005

Newsletter n°1

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Coordinator's Message

COMIST started several months ago on the 1st of February 2005.

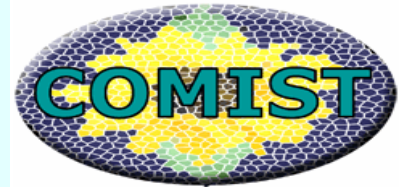
The COMIST project is giving us an opportunity until the end of 2006 to catalyse new pan-European Innovation cycles through the engagement and involvement of people from the NMAS countries in our European Ambient Intelligence at work (AMI@Work) family of communities. The COMIST main objective is to stimulate, encourage and facilitate NMAS research organisations and SMEs' participation into European Union IST research activities. The project focus is on strengthening the NMAS innovation system in the area of New Work and Business Environments and building strong integrative networking relations with IST.

The AMI communities facilitate innovation at the crossroads of the technology push characterising Knowledge@Work, Collaboration@Work, Mobility@Work and SEEM@Work communities with the application pull characterised by Media@Work, Logistics@Work, Engineering@Work, Well-Being-Services@Work and Rural@Work. In order to fully address the Pan-European interests, COMIST already succeeded in expanding the set of communities by introducing the Logistics@Work community. People based interaction strategy is at the core of our approach to achieve our objectives. You can meet experts, exchange ideas and get inspired. COMIST has conducted several networking events, Budapest in May, Munich and Warsaw in June, and Vilnius in October which gave the opportunity to many participants from the NMAS research organisations to identify new initiatives for participating in proposals for the 5th call and beyond.

Now it is the time for all of us to get involved in setting a strategic positioning for the AMI family of communities in light of the new i2010 Policy initiative and the upcoming challenging 7th Framework Programme. You can participate by accessing the [discussion folder](#) launched in the occasion of the e-challenges 2005 conference in Ljubljana on October 20th (for registered community members).

I look forward to meeting you at our next events.

***Roberto Santoro, EsoCE-Net, COMIST Project Coordinator
Chair of the AMI@Work communities***



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Integrating NMAS organisations within IST eWork innovation networks

At A Glance: *COMIST*

Full Title

AMI@Work Communities stimulating the participation of NMS and ACC organisations in eWork and eBusiness Related IST Activities

Project Coordinator

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<http://www.mosaic-network.org/comist>

Partners from: Italy, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, England, Germany, Netherlands, Finland.

Partners: ESoCE-Net (IT), CELA (HU), ITTI (PL), ZRS-RAS (SI), VIRTECH (BU), ISDC (LT), EUC (UK), FIT (DE), UNIMO (IT), Telematica (NL), CKIR (FI)

Duration: Feb. 2005 – Dec. 2006

Further Information

- **IST Research: Applications and services for the mobile user and worker, Networked businesses and governments**

DG Information Society & Media

Unit F4 New Working Environments

Email: Olavi.Luotonen@cec.eu.int

<http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ework/index.html>

- **Europe's Information Society Thematic Portal:**

http://europa.eu.int/information_society

- **New AMI@Work Communities Portal:**

<http://www.ami-communities.net>

COMIST objective is to stimulate, encourage and facilitate NMAS research organisations and SMEs' participation into European Union IST research activities, through their engagement and involvement in existing European Ambient Intelligence at work (AMI@Work) family of communities.



Creating an effective European Research (and Innovation) Area “ER(I)A” is a major objective of the Commission, and at the same time a major challenge. The main issues currently faced by the European countries are the fragmentation of research communities, both on national and on EU levels, and the insufficient links between academic and business worlds. The recent addition of 10 new member states has worsened both the issues. The COMIST project aims to increase the participation of NMAS organisations in IST activities according to a systemic innovation approach. The project focus is on strengthening the NMAS innovation system in the area of New Work and Business Environments and building strong integrative networking relations with IST.



Addressing pan-European Innovation cycles through the AMI@Work communities

The working method of the COMIST project is explicitly inspired to that initiated by the MOSAIC project in the constitution, launch and operation of the AMI@Work family of communities. These communities act as breeding grounds for innovation in bringing together the relevant organisations and stakeholders for the purpose of starting up “innovation cycles”. The COMIST targets are NMAS SMEs acting in the manufacturing, agro-food and logistics sectors. The AMI communities facilitate innovation at the crossroads of the technology push and application pull. In order to fully address the Pan-European interests, COMIST expanded the set of AMI communities by introducing the Logistics@Work community and reinforced the agri-food component of Rural@Work. The Community involvement method to increase the participation of NMAS organisations in

IST activities implies the completion of the following four main activities:

Aligning the role of NMAS organisations in Innovation Networks

The project pursues a strategy of strengthening the position of NMAS organisations in innovation networks, focusing on collaborative work and business in selected sectors of crucial importance for NMAS. Focus is on systemic innovation as innovation requires not just technological innovation but organisational, structural and policy innovation as well. To this purpose, a wide investigation of real needs and research potential is required through general and specific actions and through bringing together the relevant interests and actors. General actions concern identification of key actors in systemic innovation, mapping of competencies, classification of innovation perspectives, and identifying the prospects of alignment of IST with national research programmes. Specific actions concern best practice analysis in the intended sectors, study of interesting scenarios, and definition of requirements for the future research projects.

Building a Network of Communities

The project realises a network functioning as “breeding ground” for innovation and collaboration. These communities represent extensions of the ones currently constituting the AMI@Work family, so as to take full advantage of the AMI Communities launch work carried out so far. However, in order to put NMAS organisations in the condition to be prime actors in the communities (and not feel as second-class members), an intense preparation work is foreseen for them together with the possibility to introduce community specialisations on geographic or sectoral basis. Also, easy and effective collaboration tools are made available to favour discussions and exchanges of viewpoints and knowledge, and to build consensus concerning innovation strategies and possible directions for collaboration.

Communication, awareness, event organisation

Effectiveness of communities is proportional to the number of experts, professionals and stakeholders the actually involve, and to the degree of knowledge sharing about the opportunities offered by European and national research programmes. In order to pursue both these goals, it is necessary to activate communication channels and organise initiatives and events to reach the widest audience

and bring together all relevant stakeholders. Specific solutions must be studied, with the support of SME associations, to increase awareness and involvement of small companies who, normally, are quite resistant to dissemination actions because of their habits and cultural limitations.

Establishing a consortium-building infrastructure

The fourth operational objective is to provide the widest population of interested organisations, no matter if they are active community members or not, with a suitable infrastructure to match collaboration demand and offer, and help constituting consortia for the preparation of research projects at any scales. By this infrastructure every organisation can express its own competence and availability, establish contacts and negotiate collaboration conditions. It is much more than a simple database since its core function is an eRegistry/Repository structure applying an easy and light standard classification method. While communities involve individuals and facilitate discussions and information exchange, the consortium-building infrastructure involves organisations and is explicitly addressed to guide them to set-up joint projects. The infrastructure implements the functional specifications defined within the SEEMseed project.

The COMIST consortium

COMIST has brought together a core team with strong track record in community building, mobile working and networked businesses RTD for both New Member States-Associated Candidate Countries (NMAS) and other Member States. Partners have coordinated and are participating to a series of roadmap projects and network activities under FP5 and FP6.

Additionally, this approach is supported by all AMI@Work communities elected chair and vice-chair acting as Associated Members to contribute as facilitators to the various communities’ activities. The strength of the consortium lies also in partners’ ability to link up with and bring together important players and communities from a number of FP5 and FP6 projects, roadmap projects, thematic networks and networks of excellence, and to link with national initiatives for collaboration.



COMIST goes to the movies!

by Paul Ormerod



EUconnect Ltd, one of the COMIST project partners, will be creating a number of short films for the project over the next 12 months. One of these will concentrate on explaining the 'vision' of Ambient Intelligence and Mobility in the Workplace, particularly looking at the opportunity and the impact in the new member and accession states (NMAS).

Pervasive computing devices and communications will underwrite a revolution in the ways in which we will all use information and knowledge and apply them at work in the next decade. EUconnect is well placed to explore this emerging technological driven space, and its social impact, having made a large number of films before for the European Commission on subjects as diverse

as grid computing, ambient intelligence communities, entrepreneurship and innovation.

In addition eUconnect is developing a multimedia workshop toolkit to help those who are wondering whether they should be involved in the EC R&D Framework programmes to make a better informed decision, and to get 'plugged in' to the system. Using new technologies the COMIST project will be bringing news of these workshops and other project achievements to your email with video newsletters produced by eUconnect during 2006.

So it's Lights – Camera – Action for COMIST.



COMIST Media presence

by Paul Ormerod

The first video digest was presented during the COMIST Tutoring day, Budapest, May.2005

EUconnect role in COMIST is to produce a variety of Communications media formats, namely a visions video, describing the project in overview; and other material that have been discussed within the project consortium in order to generate the best possible impact.

In a general sense EUconnect is not primarily a publishing concept that pushes out information. It is an idea and people brokering service that uses storytelling in its broadest sense to encourage

communities to grow by talking with each other in more humanistic ways, teasing out *'the personality'* of the work and capturing the energy of the debate. EUconnect provides a kind of 'dialogue toolbox' that uses all the senses and allows any kind of partnership to use the tools, in any order, at any time and in any environment.

Establishing the Logistics@Work Community

by Tünde Kallai, Paola Monari & Kulwant Pawar

What is the role of logistics in a global economy? How does it vary for a specific sector or a region or society or organisation? What is the impact of logistics on our contemporary economy?

These are fairly fundamental yet important questions which we all face in our respective disciplines or organisations. To address some of these and many other similar questions or issues the Logistics@Work community was established. This community was created in December 2004 and was formalised under the umbrella of the AMI@Work family Communities during the Creation Strategy workshop of 4-5 February 2005 in Brussels. During this workshop a first visionary paper, called Position Paper of Logistics@work community was created and finalised. It was uploaded onto BSCW server of AMI@work family of communities. Logistics@work .This position paper for iEurope2010, was prepared by: Tünde Kallai and Paul Vanmaldeghem.

The Logistics@work community aims to provide useful answers to industry on challenges like: Global competition; Variable and changing customer demand; strategies for meeting immediate and personalized customer needs; Maximisation of value creation, and minimization of total cost.

AMI@Work Spring Event

“Innovation, Creativity and Inclusion at Work Empowering, Person-centric Collaborative Working Environments”, Budapest, 19-20 May 2005.

This event brought together people from various disciplines and the prime purpose was providing linkage between communities and explores possibilities for potential research proposals. The participants worked on the open call for proposals during the communities’ sessions.

A thought provoking presentation on “Future visions of Logistic@work community; Implications of outsourcing on supply chains to India & China” was prepared by Professor Kulwant S Pawar, Chair of Logistics@Work and was presented by Ms Tünde Kallai, Vice-chair of the Logistics@work community.

The prime objectives of this session were: To identify ‘hot’ issues which the community needs to address in future (Issues like – organisational, research, communication platform and a process necessary to achieve this aim/goal); Prioritise these issues which we wish to pursue in future as a community; Develop mechanisms for realising agreed priorities; Identify ‘champions’ for each priority etc.

Each champion to present their ideas and plans during ICE2005, Munich, 20-22 June 2005

AMI@Work Forum Day

“Towards Ambient Intelligence at Work, Vision 2010” in Munich 22nd of June, 2005. Munich. This event was organised in conjunction with the ICE'2005 conference in Munich from 20 to 22 June 2005. The 3rd day of the ICE conference was dedicated to the AMI@Work Forum Day. All the logistical aspects of the event, including the registration, were provided by the ICE conference platform. The 2nd day of the ICE conference was devoted to 4 specific workshops, one of these was organised by the MOSAIC project in order to provide a bridge between the ICE community and AMI@Work communities. The session of Logistics@work was lead by Prof. Kulwant Pawar, University of Nottingham, and chair of the Logistics@work community

All submitted papers addressed communities' topics and was reviewed and selected by the members of the Programme Committee. The accepted papers were presented during the

Logistics@work session. Papers and presentations are available on the web portal. All papers are also published in the Forum proceedings.

This session was entitled: “Evolutions in Logistics” included three presentations. Firstly, a paper by Reka Moksony, REGENS, HU on Mobility in Logistics from the service provider point of view. This was followed by paper from Paola Monari, SATA, IT, vice chair of the Logistics@work community on Web-based ICT tools to support industrial district logistics management; the third paper was presented by Jesus Herrero, ROBOTIKER, on Decentralized biometric-based authentication system for mobile terminals. There was lively debate at the end of the session.

About the Logistics@Work community

There are around 60 participants in this self-organizing community and include members from academia, industry, research and technology centers and ICT providers.

Major ICT vendors are represented (for example IBM), as well as public administrations (such as the Transport and Logistics Department of the Emilia-Romagna Regional Government) and territorial development agency (e.g. Turku Area Development Centre). The New Members and Associated states are well represented, especially Hungary and Bulgaria.

The members of the community prepared and submitted two RTD proposals for the calls which closed in September 2005. This illustrates that the community members have come together in a short space of time to undertake joint research initiatives. The proposals submitted were:

- VALIS, submitted to the IST 5th call, Strategic Objective “ICT for Networked Business”. The project aims at designing and developing an open platform and adequate information technologies, tools, protocols and mechanisms to support the virtual enterprise (VE) concept

in agribusiness, with particular attention to the external and internal logistic processes, and to provide the end-users with technological solutions for their problems in order to increase their ability to run their businesses better, faster, and at far less cost. During the construction process of the platform needs such as those listed below will be taken into consideration: (i) the need to integrate all members composing the food supply-chain agents, taking advantage of ambient intelligence, advanced user interfaces, and open architectures and systems; (ii) the need for a platform with intrinsic openness property; (iii) the need for advanced emergent concepts able to improve agribusiness and agro-logistics competitiveness. The Consortium includes Community members from Portugal, Hungary, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

- ESPOIR, submitted to the NMP STREP call, Theme “New processes for global delivery). The ultimate aim is empowering the SMEs that lead production and distribution processes in their ability to design, plan and operate efficient interlinked logistic networks. In particular, the project intends to study, implement and experiment the models and services that can enable manufacturing companies and logistic operators to easily build or participate in logistic networks, with special attention to SMEs. Such logistic networks include all procurement, transportation, production and distribution processes from the supplier of raw materials to the end customer. Companies in supply chains have to perform operational, tactical and strategic planning tasks. Depending on the nature of the task and the form of network organization, these tasks are handled locally or globally. There has been little research so far on the organization of logistic network design, planning, operation and control. The Consortium includes Community members from Spain, Hungary, Germany, Italy, and UK

An easy and open Consortium-building infrastructure

by Paola Monari & Fabio Bonfatti

The ultimate aim of the COMIST project is supporting and implementing a general collaboration environment where experts and stakeholders, in particular from NMAS organisations, can discuss and exchange knowledge and viewpoints about innovation strategies and collaborations opportunities. This is done through the instrument of networked communities, according to the AMI@Work model, and the provision of easy and effective collaboration tools to enable a continuous and rich interaction up to the reciprocal involvement into joint initiatives and RTD projects.

The so-called “consortium-building infrastructure” is one of the intended tools. It is set up and experimented by the COMIST project and then made available after project completion as a permanent support to collaboration in the enlarged EU. In this article we briefly justify its role, explain its functionality and present the work plan for its implementation and use.

Why a consortium-building infrastructure

The role to be played by the consortium-building infrastructure is helping and guiding the constitution of consortia for the preparation of research and innovation proposals. More precisely, it covers and supports the activities that come after the discussion of experts about research themes and collaboration opportunities and before starting the final project proposal writing phase.

The consortium-building infrastructure addresses two main requirements that are normally neglected or poorly satisfied by present solutions:

- Give visibility to a wide number and variety of organisations potentially interested to take active part in RTD projects, with special attention to newcomers from NMAS, so that they can be searched and found by other

organisations leading the preparation of proposals.

- Assure a disciplined interaction between organisations in the consortium-building phase by supporting an easy concertation method derived from real life experience to mirror the typical behaviour of leading and candidate (invited) organisations in that phase.

The consortium-building infrastructure complements the collaboration functions (BSCW, WIKI) that are instead conceived to support discussions, exchange of knowledge and viewpoints, definition of research directions and the like:

- It addresses organisations, rather than individuals, and requires their acceptance of formalised, although easy, classification method for profiles, competences, experiences, practices and availability, and the successive concertation method.
- Its structure is orthogonal to that of communities since every registered organisation is classified by its nature, size, and mission instead of the discussion themes. Moreover it is unified and steady in time, while communities can evolve, split, join, and so on.
- It provides a map of self-defined profiles and competences of (hopefully) thousands of organisations, even if not represented in the discussion communities, thus contributing to implement the recommendations from the ISTAG group Europe Wide Initiative.

- **The eRegistry functionality**

Every interested organisation, independently of its nature, size or location, can register (and update later on) its own profile, competence and availability into an eRegistry structure. Small companies and newcomers will likely be supported in this activity by mediators, that is, entrepreneurial associations, chambers of commerce, local development agencies and the like.

The information to be provided by the registering organisation is basically subdivided into four parts, as depicted in the scheme of Figure 1:

- The general organisation profile includes key attributes (legal name, acronym), classification attributes, geographic indication of the main markets (nations, regions), and a list of reference persons.
- Organisation skills and experience are represented by a classification of its products and/or services according to one or more standards, and the indication of the main customer types (large companies, SMEs, public administration, etc.).

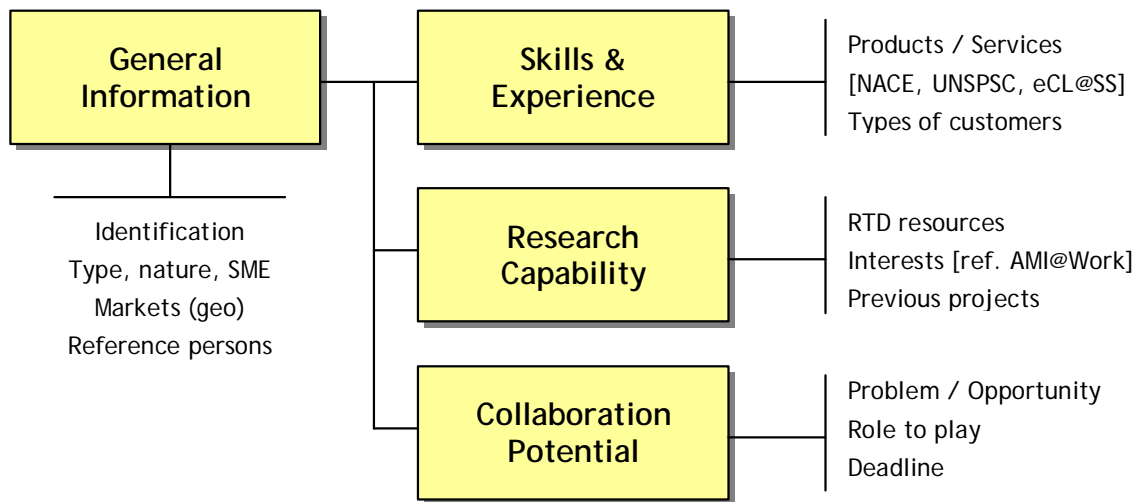


Figure 1 - Characterisation of registered organisations

The research capability of the organisation is represented by the allocated RTD resources (employees, budget), a list of interests with respect to the AMI@Work communities and their discussion themes, and a list of previous RTD projects.

- The collaboration potential is represented by a list of possible research themes of direct interest for such organisation demand), the role it could play in facing them (RTD performer, developer, user, etc.), and the time by which the solution should be found.

All data are given in English as it is accepted as *lingua franca* by the research environment. In order to complete and detail its presentation, the

organisation is free to upload an open number of files and documents.

The concertation functionality

The concertation functionality helps matching collaboration demand and offer and lead to the constitution of the consortium that will eventually prepare the project proposal. According to the schema reported in Figure 2, representing the viewpoint of the leading (proposing) organisation, the concertation process is based on five main steps:

- The leading organisation consults the concertation functionality and finds out a programme and an open call suited to host the envisaged proposal.
- Linking to the identified call, it sketches the proposal by developing one or more of the following data: title and acronym, abstract, general objectives, tentative work plan, rough budget and funding, preferred number of partners, and the like.
- Then it starts searching for suited partners in the eRegistry. Candidate partners are selected on the basis of the self-presentations they autonomously registered and updated up to the current time.
- Candidate partners are invited to participate in the proposal preparation. The invitation includes the role the candidate partner is expected to play, the effort it should make available and the corresponding budget and funding, and is asked to provide some data and contributions.
- Taking into account the answers coming from the invited partners the process enters (1) in a closer discussion and negotiation, or (2) it requires searches for further candidates or even (3) a deep revision of the proposal, and in some cases (4) a different positioning of the proposal with respect to the open calls.

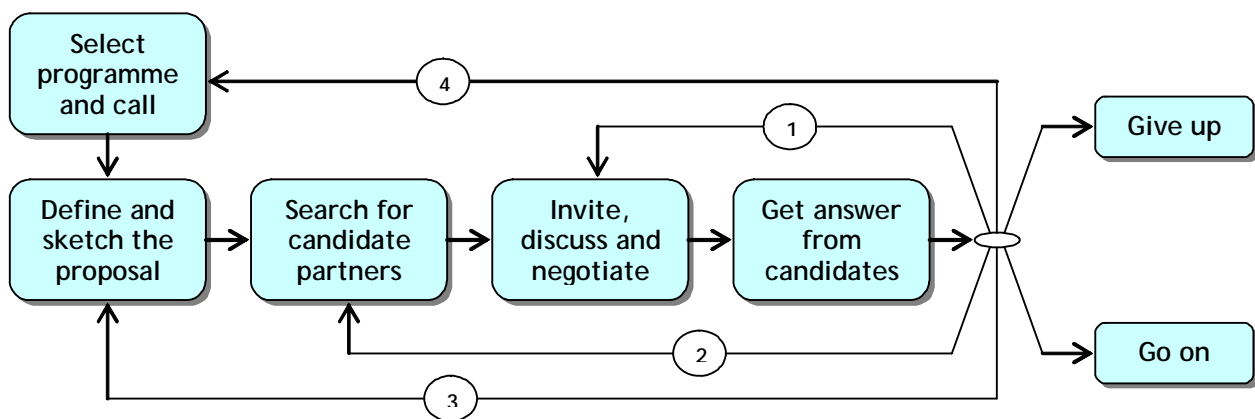


Figure 2 - The concertation process

The concertation process is concluded with the renounce to prosecute or with the decision to continue working on the final proposal preparation. The concertation functionality tracks all the events occurred in these steps and makes available to the next stage the documents uploaded and exchanged by participants.

Work plan for implementation and use

The consortium-building infrastructure is presently under development, and it will be implemented and used in accordance to the work plan:

- Delivery of release 1.0 by December 2005 with a first set of organisations already coded in the eRegistry for testing purposes, and some previous proposals reconstructed in terms of

their concertation process to be used as living cases for training purposes.

- Training of interested organisations by simulation, taking advantage of the release 1.0 functionality and the preliminary data available. In this phase the role of mediators (associations, agencies and the like) is very critical for the success of the operation.
- Use of the consortium-building infrastructure since January 2006 to register new organisations, on the basis of proper guidelines issued in the meanwhile, and to support real concertation processes for the open calls of FP6 and other programmes.

- Delivery of a new consortium-building infrastructure release by April 2006, with the improvements and extensions suggested by its initial usage, and automatic migration toward it of the already coded information and documents.
- Prosecution of its use as a steady infrastructure made openly available to the wide population of interested organisations, especially in NMAS, for registering and preparing proposals to be submitted to European, national and regional RTD programmes.

The consortium-building infrastructure will cooperate with the collaboration environment set up to support discussions and information exchanges within in the AMI@Work communities. Individuals acting in communities will be favoured in coding their own organisations into the eRegistry and use the concertation functionality. Similarly, organisations in the eRegistry will be asked to make their representatives become active in communities.

AMI@Work family of communities Spring Event and COMIST Tutoring Day

by Tünde Kallai

This two day event has been organised by the COMIST Project, AMI@Work communities with the local support of CEIA – Central and Southeast European Innovation Area Association, the working team of Mr. Jozsef Veress, political state secretary of National Development Office within Prime Minister’s Office, and Budapest University of Technology and Economics.

This AMI@Work Spring event has been held in Budapest on 19 May 2005 and the COMIST Tutoring Day on 20 May 2005. The first day of this 2 days events was dedicated to linking European policy, research proposals and communities on "Innovation, Creativity and Inclusion at Work Empowering, Person-centric Collaborative Working Environments".

Beside the plenary session in the morning, several parallel communities' sessions have been organised in the afternoon. This event is intended to give an overview about the IST Research programme and next call-for-proposals, and explain the support provided by the AMI@Work communities and its on-line shared workspaces of BSCW for developing in cooperation successful project proposals. The AMI Family Leaders who attended the AMI spring event in Budapest were invited to participate to a leadership group meeting. The meeting was held as

also one of the afternoon parallel sessions, on the 19th of May 2005 with the following Agenda: AMI family contribution to i2010 initiative, AMI family as a Virtual Living Lab, Ideas for a SSA proposal.

The second day focused on the involvement of participants from the EU New Member States and Associated Candidate Countries. On this day, the COMIST Tutorial Day, a live demonstration was given by two Swedish participants from the University of Luleo, on how to successfully cooperate for developing research project proposals. It was an example on how to use online tools for project development including live video-conferences – on Marratech.com site. There was also a brokerage session dedicated to the



presentation of project ideas for the 5th IST call-for-proposals as well as presentation of organisations looking for joining existing consortia already working on IST project proposals.

During the last session, COMIST Tutors were available within pre-booked peer-to-peer meetings for participants seeking advices, to discuss their ideas and asked for guidance in their approach of the IST Research Programme. This event was concluded by a networking dinner providing more opportunities to meet together with participants from New Member States.

AMI@Work Communities Forum Day

by Marc Pallot



AMI'2005, the first AMI@Work Communities Forum Day has been held in Munich on 22 June 2005. This event, jointly organised during the third day of the annual ICE Conference whose organisation is led every year since 1994 by EsoCE-Net, has attracted about 160 participants from representatives of major research centres and individuals from around the world. This Forum event has mainly been organised by EsoCE-Net in collaboration with the ICE'2005 organising committee and with the European Commission, Information Society DG. The COMIST project has also actively supported this event and all AMI@Work communities leaders were acting as members of the programme committee.

The opening plenary session was featuring 3 keynote speeches: Olavi Luotonen "Collaborative Working Environments – Linking European Policy and Research"; Maarten Botterman "From Telecommuting to AMI@Work: three decades of changes in the workplace concept"; Roberto Santoro "Towards Ambient Intelligence at Work, Vision 2010".

Altogether, 20 papers were presented, during this forum day, which are included in the AMI@Work

Communities Forum Day proceedings. These have been organised and conveniently split into sections according to the topics addressed during the forum day: Collaborative Workplaces; Collaboration Strategies & Changes; Mobile Collaborative Work for Health and Well-Being; Supporting and Experimenting Value Creation Networks; Collaboration and Mobility in Logistics.

After the papers sessions, a Munich traditional beer garden has been improvised as a relaxing and friendly atmosphere to openly discuss about specific subjects. The organising team would like to take this opportunity to express his sincere thanks to all the presenters, session chairmen, delegates, papers reviewers, programme committee members and guest speakers for their absorbing and valued contributions. Our special gratitude goes to many people for their support and assistance given throughout the entire planning, preparation and organisation of this first edition of the AMI@Work Forum Day, especially to the sponsoring organisations.



COMIST Tutorial Day June 28th, 2005, Warsaw

by Adam Turowiec



COMIST has organised a tutorial day in Warsaw on the 28th of June 2005. This event theme was "How to increase participation of entities from New Member States in the FP6/FP7, i2010 vision towards Ambient Intelligence at Work." It has attracted about 60 attendees plus speakers and organizers. Among them there were representatives of SMEs, public institutions and academia. The programme of this event and all presentations are available on the websites mentioned below:

The conference was fully supported by the Polish National Contact Point. The main objectives of COMIST project as well as AMI@Work communities were presented and there was seen an interest in this activities. There were also presented the following tools supporting the online collaboration:

- DOKEOS, by Tünde Kallai, CEIA

<http://www.itti.com.pl/i2010>

<http://www.mosaic-network.org/news/events/050628-i2010Vision.html>

- MOSAIC platform, by Rudolf Ruland, Fraunhofer-FIT

At the end of the conference the attendees were asked to fill in the evaluation form about the event, and the average result was almost 4 in a scale from 1 to 5 that demonstrate a good level of participants' satisfaction. A panel discussion was also arranged with 10 persons having experience in IST research projects to share their knowledge with participants. The discussion among panellists

and participants was facilitated by Hans Schaffers from Telematica Institutes and the discussion synthesis constituted a good contribution to the COMIST white paper preparation. In conclusion, this COMIST event has shown a real interest on IST projects in Poland and we see it as a success

for its contribution to the COMIST project. The conclusions from panel discussion are also an interesting material for further works.



Workshop “Participation in IST at the edge of 6th and 7th Framework Programmes”

by Adam Turowiec



COMIST took part in the international conference “Evolving Mobile Europe” held in Vilnius, Lithuania from 24 to 25 October 2005. The conference was organised by INFOBALT, the association of IT, telecommunications and office equipment of Lithuania, with VITP, Visorai Information Technology Park, and gathered about 150 participants.

In parallel to the conference, together with another FP6 project, IST4Balt, COMIST run a workshop entitled “Participation in IST at the Edge of 6th and 7th Framework Programmes”. It was attended by about 40 participants who represented companies, policy makers, research institutes and industry associations.

Within the workshop’s plenary session both organising projects were presented by their representatives: Dr. Alexander Beriozko and Adam Turowiec. Further sessions were the following: Baltic States in IST – current situation, trends and shortcomings, moderated by Ms. Tünde Kallai, where representatives of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland participated. Fostering instruments: networks, communities and tools, moderated by Mr. Hans Schaffers, where the AMI@Work Family of Communities and on-line

collaborative platforms, including BSCW, have been presented. Upcoming calls for proposals: practical issues and chances in FP6 and FP7, moderated by Mr. Jose M. Cavanillas, encompassing FP7 perspectives for NMS, and European Technology Platforms. Fostering instruments: networks, communities and tools, moderated by Dr. Alexander Beriozko, where a set of Special Support Actions aiming at facilitating participation of NMS and SMEs in European research were presented: IST-World, EPRI-START, PRO-NMS, STAR-NET, EPIST and ORGANIC.



The two-day workshop was summarised by the last session, being actually a round table discussion facilitated by Hans Schaffers, dedicated to the key issues related to the alignment of NMAS to IST. The workshop’s main conclusion was that no other project is building a strategic agenda for aligning NMAS countries to IST, and no other project is looking at the emerging value networks and the role of IST priorities for strengthening the national systems of innovation. It is worth mentioning that several participants expressed their interest to work with COMIST to develop a policy white paper aimed at influencing strategies and priorities regarding the role of IST in strengthening innovation systems.

The conference’s webpage is available at: <http://www.infobalt.lt/konferencija/2005/?l=en>.



WearIT@Work – The largest project world- wide in wearable computing

by Michael Lawo, Prof.Dr., Technical manager of wearIT@work

wearIT@work was set up by the European Commission as an Integrated Project to investigate “Wearable Computing” as a technology dealing with **computer systems integrated in clothing**. The project has 36 partners, among them EADS, HP, Microsoft, SAP, Sony, Siemens, and Zeiss. The partners come from 14 different countries. With a project volume of about 23.7 million € and a funding of about 14.6 million € under contract no. 004216, **wearIT@work** is the largest project world-wide in wearable computing. The project started in June 2004 with duration of 4.5 years. The **TZI** is one of the University of Bremen research centres and co-ordinates this key project of the “Bremen Mobile Research Centre”. - **wearIT@work** contributes to the shaping of today’s most challenging computer applications.



wearIT@work is to prove the applicability of computer systems integrated to clothes, the so-called wearables, in various industrial environments. These novel computer systems support their users or groups of users in an unobtrusive way e.g. wearing them as a computer-belt. This allows them to perform their primary task without distracting their attention enabling computer applications in novel fields. Interaction with wearables by the user must be minimal to realize optimal system behaviour. For this reason a

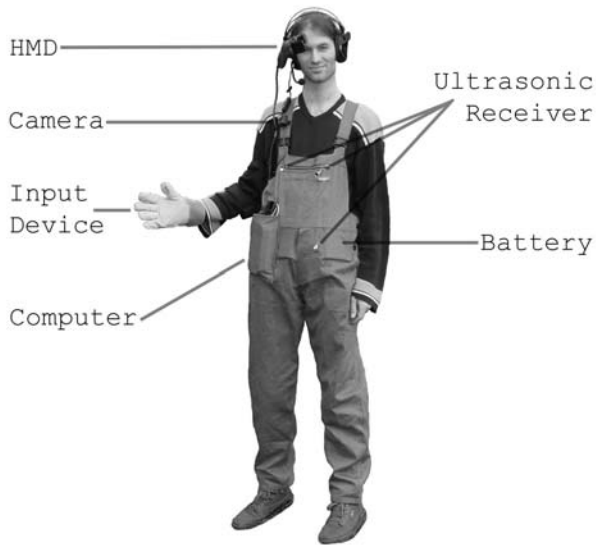
wearable computer recognizes by integrated sensors the current work progress of a user. Based on the work context detected the system pushes useful information to its user, e.g. how to proceed with the work. Apart from speech output, media could be optical systems presenting the information, e.g. via semitransparent glasses within the workers visual field. Output devices for tactile feedback will be applicable, too.



One of the major goals of wearIT@work is to investigate the **user acceptance** of wearables. Furthermore methods for user interaction and processes suited to wearables in industry will be identified. Four industrial pilot applications namely variant production, the clinical pathway, maintenance, and emergency are addressed. In **variant production** the challenge will be the *information integration and the intelligent information presentation*. For the **clinical pathway** the focus will be on *intelligent information logistics and context aware collaboration*. The **maintenance** scenario will have its focal point on *context detection and intelligent manuals*. The focus of the **emergency** activity field will be the *collaborative planning and interaction using wearable devices*.

Beside the application oriented interaction with the end users of the project a lot of effort is put into a common understanding of wearable computing taking first steps towards a common wearable computing platform and framework. A hardware platform consisting of a core wearable computing unit, input and output devices, general peripherals, and sensor and communication subsystems was defined. One of the challenges is the necessity to

provide the end-user with a seamless access to heterogeneous networks. This reflects the general wearIT@work architecture as well as the communication service module architecture. The idea of creating a common software framework based on a common hardware platform is from the perspective of the project as well as beyond of great importance.



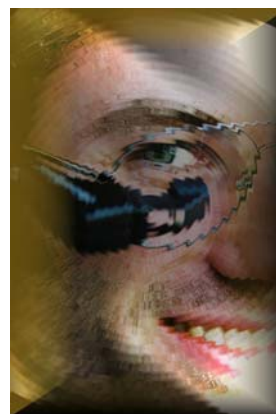
Only in case we are successful with this process a remarkable impact is achieved for the exploitation of wearable computing solutions. In this case not only the four within the project addressed application domains but also other application domains and in case the addressed standardization push is successful also the developers of devices, components and solutions can benefit from the result.

The general structure of the software framework covers beside a service registry and high level services core services like context awareness, communication, I/O, and security.

Beside these core services domain specific services of the same structure exist. The idea is to integrate services of common use within the application domains of the project into the core services. The advantage of this approach is that with increasing and/or changing requirements the general structure remains valid. Context detection is as mentioned above one of the essential success factors of wearable computing. Only in case using

sensors a context can be detected with high reliability the cognitive load of the end-user can be managed in a successful manner. This is seen as one of the most scientifically challenging topics of the project. Other challenges like the always outside the lab in the real world required robustness are more relevant for producers and developers of devices. To master the context detection problem a general approach was agreed and is suitable for extension and adaptation. It is foreseen to perform with the end-users series of tests with existing sensor subsystems that are still basically in a prototype stage. These end-user tests are necessary to decide on which sensor subsystems further research and development work is necessary to achieve a performance accepted by the end-users.

The first year of the project brought already some remarkable results. There are still nearly four years of research to be done and it is still some way to the end but the fundamental steps towards a user centred design approach, a hardware framework and software platform were done. With the creation of the Open Wearable Computing Group and organising annually the International Forum



on Applied wearable Computing a community building process in industry and science has been initiated. It is the intention of the project and the accompanying activities to understand the project not as a tree bringing us the fruits but a seed for wearable computing. Miniaturisation

and low power computing devices are still a challenge as well as ubiquitous wireless communication. A wide spectrum of innovative solutions is necessary to achieve wearable computing anytime at any place, and in any situation.

COMIST in the Media

by Tünde Kallai



AMI@Work and COMIST in the Hungarian Printed and Electronic Media, May 2005

- Published in the Hungarian Press Agency, written by Mrs. Erzsebet PEKAR
- INNOVATION – a Monthly newspaper in the Hungarian Innovation Association, published by Janos, Garay-Toth
- KLIKK, IT monthly newspaper of Miskolc city of County Rank.
- TV-interview by MTV 2, with Jozsef Veress, Tunde Kallai, Olavi Luotonen
- Interview in the Radio Economy – privat radio station with Tunde Kallai

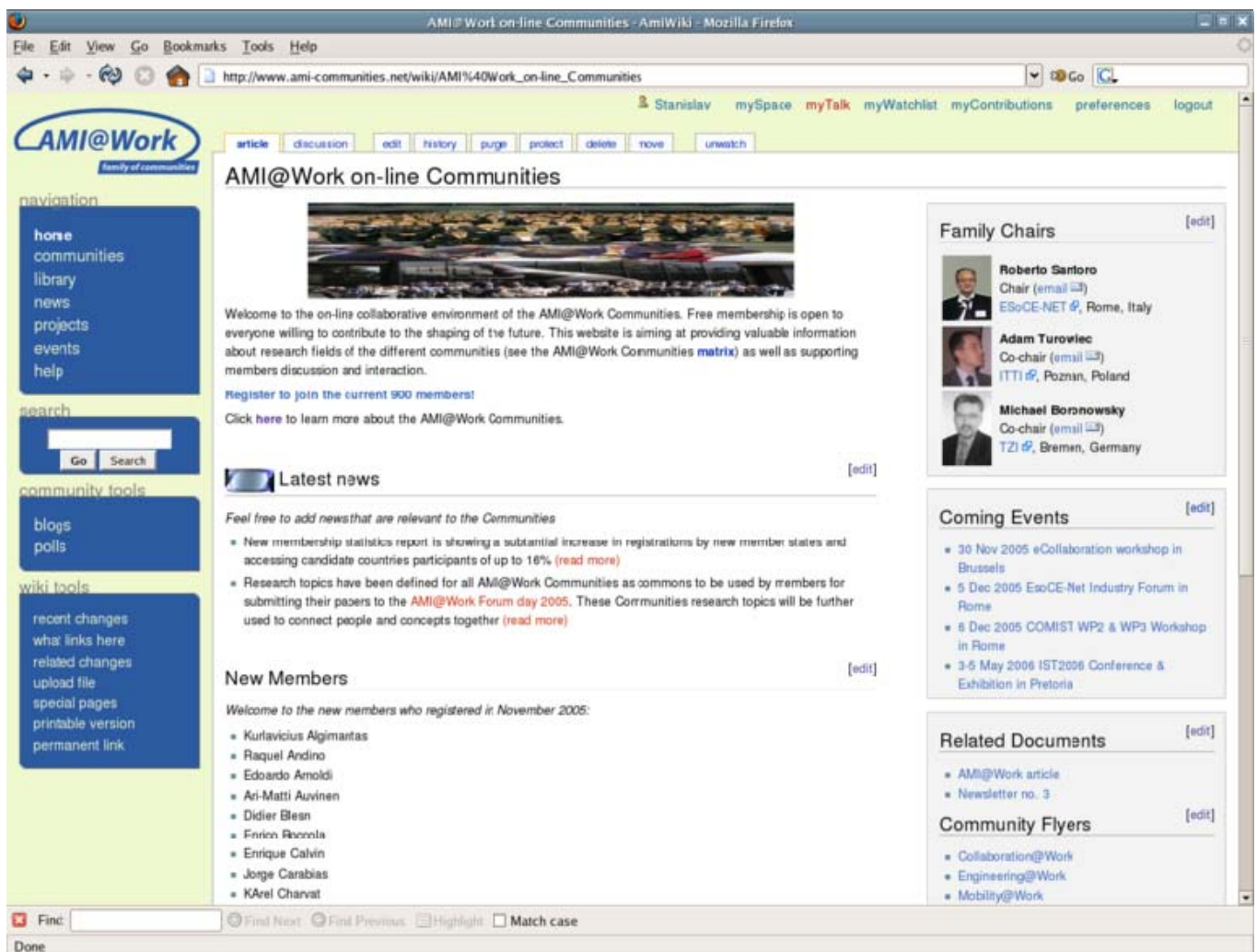
 <p>Magyar innovatív vállalkozások kapcsolódhatnak európai programokhoz 2005. május 8. 08:07</p> <p>A Közép- és Dél-Kelet-Európai Innovációs Térség Egyesület (CEIA) segíteni szeretné a magyar innovatív cégeket, köztük a kis- és középvállalkozásokat abban, hogy bekapcsolódjanak az Európai Unió "Intelligens hálózatok a munkában" (AMI@Work) elnevezésű önszerveződő innovációs hálózatának programjaiba - mondta Veress József, a MEH politikai és CEIA tanácsadó testületének elnöke.</p>  <p>Május 19-20-án Budapesten, a Műszaki Akadémia konferenciáján lehet majd megkezdni a bekapcsolódásra is.</p>	 <p>VÁLLALKOZÓI NEGYED</p> <p>Európai kapcsolat innovatív vállalkozásoknak /An European connection to the innovative enterprises 2005. május 9., 12:51</p> <p>A Közép- és Dél-Kelet-Európai Innovációs Térség Egyesület (CEIA) segíteni szeretné a magyar innovatív kis- és középvállalkozásokat abban, hogy bekapcsolódjanak az Európai Unió "Intelligens hálózatok a munkában" (AMI@Work) elnevezésű programba - mondta Veress József, a MEH politikai államtitkára, a CEIA tanácsadó testületének elnöke az MTI-nek.</p>
 <p>Intelligens hálózatok az unióban (Intelligent networks in the EU) 2005. július 31. 11:20</p>	 <p>Galvács L.</p> <p>Májusban Budapesten üléseztek az Európai Unió "Intelligens hálózatok" (Ambient Intelligence - AMI@Work) programjának munkaközösségei. Ez a konferencia számos tekintetben meghatározó az "Intelligens hálózatok" jövőbeni fejlődését, illetve az abban történő aktívabb magyar részvételt</p>
 <p>Hálózatok az innovációért (Networks for innovations)</p> <p>Célorientált kutatás-fejlesztés, innováció az európai versenyképesség szolgálatában. Ennek eléréséért két éve dolgozik a több mint 500 tagot számláló Intelligens hálózatok a munkában (AMI@Work) nevű tömörülés, amely a minap Budapesten tartotta munkakonferenciáját. Mint Veress József államtitkár, a hálózat vezetésének magyar tagja lapunknak elmondta, az EU tagállamaiban sürgető szükség van a lisszaboni stratégia tényleges megvalósítására, mert a globális cégek Európában rendre gyengébbnek bizonyulnak, mint amerikai versenytársaik. Újszerű és széles körű fejlesztések eredménye, hogy az élenjáróknál a termékek 60 százaléka háromévesnél fiatalabb (a finn Nokianak például nincs háromévesnél idősebb terméke), és Helsinkiben van olyan lakónegyed, amelynek lakói kizárólag a legeslegújabb termékeket, szolgáltatásokat használják a mindennapokban.</p>	 <p>Közép- és Délkelet-európai Innovációs Térség</p> <p>A CEIA (Közép- és Dél-Kelet-Európai Innovációs Térség) társ pályázókkal együtt elnyerte a COMIST – EU FP6 IST SSA projektet.</p> <p>A projekt teljes címe: Az új tagországok és a csatlakozó államok innovációs szervezetek részvételével az eMunkára és az eÜzletre épülő info-kommunikációs kutatási-fejlesztési tevékenységekben az AMI@work közösségek ösztönzésével</p>

A new Web Site fully dedicated to the AMI@Work Communities

by Marc Pallot, Rudolf Ruland and Stanislav Traykov

You have probably and hopefully been used to visit the MOSAIC website that is providing the AMI@Work communities shared workspaces and lot of valuable information to its 900 members.

website will provide you with all the information you have been used to find in the MOSAIC website. But in a more dynamic way as all communities leaders and members will have an



The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the AMI@Work on-line Communities website. The page title is "AMI@Work on-line Communities - AmiWiki - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "http://www.ami-communities.net/wiki/AMI%40Work_on-line_Communities". The page features a navigation menu on the left with links for home, communities, library, news, projects, events, and help. The main content area is titled "AMI@Work on-line Communities" and includes a welcome message, a registration link, and a "Latest news" section. The sidebar contains several widgets: "Family Chairs" listing Roberto Santoro, Adam Turowlec, and Michael Boronowsky; "Coming Events" listing various workshops and conferences; and "Related Documents" and "Community Flyers" sections.

Since February 2005, when the COMIST project started we have initiated a task force to develop the new website fully dedicated to the AMI@Work communities that could provide more collaboration opportunities, better support to members' interactions and more visibility of active members as shown in the following webpage prototype view. First of all, this new

website will provide you with all the information you have been used to find in the MOSAIC website. But in a more dynamic way as all communities leaders and members will have an easy access to the editing of the web pages information. Secondly, all research topics, which have been defined by the AMI@Work communities and used for classifying papers submitted to the AMI@Work Forum Day, will be included within each member's profile and linked to the WikiTopics part of the new website where each research topic will have to be described. It

means we should be able to connect communities' members through the concepts they are using, which will open a new world of collaboration opportunities to explore. We are already excited by seeing where it will lead us.

Thirdly, there will be community tools such as blogs and polls but also new tools to explore potential connections that could lead to stimulate creativity and innovation.

We do plan to present and discuss this new website, fully dedicated to the AMI@Work Communities, during the COMIST workshop to be held in Rome on 6 December 2005 and to announce it during the annual EsoCE-Net Industry Forum, that will be held also in Rome the

day before on 5 December 2005 (see the Next Coming Events section), as we see it as one of the on-line instruments that could increase significantly interpersonal productivity. We do believe it could also stimulate creativity and innovation among communities members as well through the "people-concepts networking"-centric approach as soon as we will have the "topics-map" navigation instrument illustrating navigation principles within connections among people through the concepts they are using. For sure, we still have some more work to carry on for the new website to be complete but at the same time this is very exciting and stimulating to explore this new world of on-line collaborative creativity and innovation.

Next Coming Events



Further information about the **"Rural Areas as Engines for Implementing the Renewed Lisbon Strategy" Conference** with special focus on Enlarged Europe, a follow up to the European @rural Conference

To be held in Brussels on 29 November 2005, Conference Centre Albert Borschette, Rue Joseph II, 30

<http://www.mosaic-network.org/news/events/051129-rural-areas.html>



Further information about the **EsoCE-Net Industry Forum**, whose discussion theme is “Enhancing Creativity and Productivity of Knowledge Workers within the Collaborative Business Ecosystem”, is available at the following URL:

<http://www.mosaic-network.org/news/events/051205-IndustrialForum.html>

This newsletter is open to your contribution either in the form of articles, short papers or reports concerning your own research work and AMI@Work community meeting reports or other documents that community groups or research projects would like to disseminate through this Newsletter. Please, send your contribution to the editorial coordinator email address mentioned below



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