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Draft Minutes of the kick-off meeting COST Action IC0702

Action IC0702: Combining Soft Computing Techniques and Statistical Methods to Improve Data Analysis Solutions Monday, March 31th 2008, Brussels

1. Welcome

The participants of the inaugural meeting of COST Action IC0702 were welcomed by Dr. Maggio, the responsible Science Officer for the Action. The first part of the meeting was chaired by Dr. Maggio, including the election of a Chairperson for the Action, which was carried out under agenda item 8.

2. Approval of agenda

The draft agenda for the kick-off meeting was adopted (Annex 1).

3. General information on COST mechanism and the Annual Grant Scheme

Dr. Maggio gave a brief orientation on the COST mechanism presenting the general framework created to promote the scientific and technical co-operation in Europe (Annex 4). Relevant information can be found on the COST website at: <http://www.cost.esf.org/>

The participants were informed about COST and the current situation in general and the COST Actions in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The Science Officer informed the delegates about the principles and procedures related to the COST Actions and about the possibilities of getting activities funded from the COST budget. Dr. Maggio informed about the reimbursement rules and regulations as well as the process. The following relevant documents can be found at the official COST website:

- Rules and procedures for implementing COST Actions
- Financing of COST activities from the COST budget
- Information Guide for the implementation of Short Term Scientific Missions in the COST Framework

4. Presentation of the delegations



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The delegates presented themselves in a “tour de table”. (Annex 2)

5. Status of the Cost Action

CSO Approval: 16/11/2007

Entry into force: 10/01/2008

End of Action: 30/03/2012.

Total number of accepting Parties at date: 10

6. Agreement on the internal rules of procedure for the Management Committee of the COST Action

The Rules of Procedure for the Management Committee (Annex 3) were discussed and agreed upon.

7. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Management Committee

Dr. Borgelt and Prof. Klawonn were unanimously elected respectively Chair and Vice-Chair for the Management Committee of the COST Action.

Dr. Maggio passed the presidency of the meeting to Dr. Borgelt.

8. Election of the Grant Holder Institution & 2 Financial Rapporteurs

Grant-holder: Prof. Borgelt proposed the Fundacion para el Progreso del Soft Computing - European Centre for Soft Computing (ES) as Grant Holder for the Action, with Dr. Raul del Coso as representative, which was unanimously approved. Dr. Raul del Coso also accepted the responsibility of Secretary, again with unanimous approval.

Dr. Kaymac and Prof. Martin volunteered for the role of Action Financial Rapporteurs.

9. Working plan for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding

(Presentation of the Action by the proponent and new Chair – Annex 5)

a. Objectives and working programme

- Dr. Borgelt and Dr. del Coso gave a presentation of the objectives and the working programme of the Action.

b. Working method, organization, and management

- The leaders for the three working groups were approved by consensus:
Working Group A. Model selection and validation: Dr. Verleysen
Working Group B. Evolutionary algorithms: Dr. Sousa
Working Group C. Fuzzy statistics and interpretability: Dr. Gil



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- The titles and topics of the WGs will be refined during the following weeks.
- Initial list of members of the WGs:
 - WG A: Dr. Verleysen, Dr. Klawonn, Dr. Kruse, Dr. Naes, Dr. Kaymak, Dr. Guarracino, Dr. Borgelt
 - WG B: Dr. Sousa, Dr. Kacprzyk, Dr. Kontoghiorghes, Dr. Klawonn
 - WG C: Dr. Gil, Dr. Borgelt, Dr. Verleysen, Dr. Kruse, Dr. Naes, Dr. Kaymak, Dr. Guarracino, Dr. Sousa, Dr. Kacprzyk, Dr. Kontoghiorghes, Dr. Denoeux, Dr. Fodor, Dr. Martin
- The website of this COST action will be soon available at <http://www.costic0702.com> and <http://www.costsoftstat.com>

c. Distribution of tasks

- The WG leaders will refine the title, topics and composition of the WGs.
- The “First Workshop of the ERCIM Working Group on Computing & Statistics” to be hold on 19-21 June 2008 in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, will incorporate three special sessions directly related to the WGs of this Action. They will be managed by some MC members and will be organized as the Action’s first activity (Start-up open conference). The kick-off meetings of the Action’s WGs will be held in parallel with this workshop.
- The Short Term Scientific Missions Assessment Committee was chosen. Its initial members are: Dr. Borgelt, Dr. Guarracino and Dr. Denoeux.

d. Time-table and Budget

The budget and workplan for 2008 and 2009 will be drafted by Dr. Borgelt and Dr. del Coso. It will be amended and voted electronically by the MC members.

10. Open technical discussion

The topics of the WGs and, in particular, the expansion of WG B were discussed.

11. Place and Date of next meeting

The first WGs meeting will be held on 19 June in Neufchâtel (CH), in conjunction with the “First Workshop of the ERCIM Working Group on Computing & Statistics”. The MC agreed that the next MC meeting will take place in Warsaw, PL, tentatively on 20 October 2008. Dr. del Coso will organize an e-vote soon to confirm the date.

12. Closing

Dr. Christian Borgelt concluded the meeting by thanking the participants and the ICT team.