

Prof. Paolo Manzelli
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LETTER OF INTENT

Dear Professor Manzelli,

The Institute of Mathematical Machines (IMM - Instytut Maszyn Matematycznych) , Warsaw, Poland, declares interest in participation as a partner in your intended Integrated Project “Mental Change” under FP6-2002-Citizens-3 call.

IMM is a state-owned R&D institution, founded 45 years ago, staffed by 70 persons, working on the field of dedicated computer systems for management, security, and learning. We develop also research in the area of description and modelling of information processes occurring in industrial and natural environments, and their computer simulation as distributed systems. We have a training centre and provide training for computer users.

Development of the Information Society, formation of the Knowledge Based Economy blended into the cyberspace, will cause bigger and bigger importance of virtual/cyber communities. E-business, e-learning, e-government, e-democracy, more and more functions and activities realised in the cyberspace will be conducive to formation of communities just based on functions and activities independently of territorial location of a community members. This phenomenon is strongly related to mental changes both caused by new forms of social organisation, and necessary for these changes’ realisation.

We propose to include research on mental changes connected with development of cyber-communities into the Mental Change IP. We are interested in organisation of such multidisciplinary research, and in participation in it as a member with expertise in ICT and cyberspace.

We form a research group - and a core of the Polish NIG - together with the Silesian University, Faculty of Ethnology and Education Sciences, Department of Education in Informatics.

The objective of the research it’ll be recognition of a reach and mental characteristics of cyber-communities, and relating it to issues of competitiveness, regional development and economic and social cohesion.

The scope of the research conducted by Polish national group will include:

- recognition of cyber-communities in Poland;
- specifying factors of characteristics of a cyber-community, particularly taking into account how that characteristics affect the potential of innovation and economic development;
- comparative research of cyber-communities;
- drawing conclusions and an attempt at formulation of characteristics related to innovativeness, knowledge-absorption and pro-developmental abilities of cyber-communities; planning the second phase of the research.

We are of the opinion, that the matter of characteristics and role of cyber-communities in the development of the knowledge based economy of the Information Society ought to be a subject of interest of other regional/national groups in the Mental Change Project as well, so an adequate workpackage in the whole Project should be considered. This would enable to do genuinely comparative research across Europe in the Project framework..

Andrzej Kaczmarczyk

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