



# UPDATE No. 40

December 2001 - For SPICE / ICECE Members only

Including:

- *Results of the 79<sup>th</sup> SPICE Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*
- *Check [www.spicegroup.de](http://www.spicegroup.de)*

Dear SPICE Member,

So many things have been postponed for the time “after SPICA Directory” that now, as this time began, there is no time either. This means, again here comes a **“flash UPDATE”** only. But I believe you are interested in the outcome of recent events and what comes next – even without photos illustrating the reports.

The **WCBI in Rio de Janeiro** (October 23 – 26) attracted more than 600 participants from around the world. Naturally with the majority from South America. **Luis Bermudes** with the support from IASP, **Luis Sanz**; NBIA, **Dinah Adkins**, SPICE Group and other national associations succeeded making this venture an extraordinary experience (certainly the venue, the conference hotel right on Copacabana) contributed to this experience. Obviously Luis Bermudes even has good contacts with the “higher authorities”: During the conference the weather was partly cloudy, sometimes a little windy and even something like raindrops could be experienced. Sunny beach weather became available after the conference...

The high level presentations of the conference offered new perspectives on business incubation activities all over the World. The potential for new contacts was almost too much and evaluating the new information will need time. The conference material – provided on a CD to ease the load for the travelers – will help not to forget important details. All in all this conference was an important step on the way to linking the national business incubation industries better and establishing more intensive exchange of experience, flow of information and cooperation. **SPI-CA Directory** was presented at WCBI and found much interest.. After the conference, and this lasts until now, the SPICE Secretariats are busy with getting the ordered directories mailed.

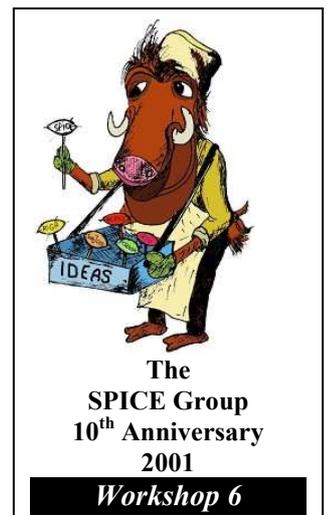
## The 79<sup>th</sup> SPICE Group Meeting

was held in the VIP room of the WCBI and focussed on three topics

### 1. Establishment of a “formal SPICE”

The SPICE Meeting in Poznan already decided that establishing a “formal SPICE association” would be a positive step. However, not surprisingly, other members have different views. Therefore an intense discussion of the “pros and cons” took place - despite of the view on the terrace overlooking Copacabana. Important considerations are

- SPICE could loose its personal and direct character – without doubt one of the most important components for this network. On the other hand this matter more depends on the individual activity of members, less on “formal or not”.
- SPICE could waste too much time (and money) for formalities, required for operating a formal association. Of course, resources will be needed for formalities – even according to the not very strong requirements according to German law for associations. However this is not too much of a burden if handled properly and the registered regulations of the association are limited to the legal minimum.
- SPICE could become a competitor for its members when bidding for projects. Until now the members (or groups of members) are / can be competitors. The new quality would be that “SPICE as such” could bid for projects. To avoid potential conflicts from this situation would need carefully defined procedures.
- SPICE has a potential for acquiring projects. Projects could help financing the secretariats (as it was practiced until now). However, some potential contracting partners are not willing / able to work with an informal, legally not existing network. Even the project money which came into SPICE Group until now is based on personal contacts and goodwill of partners in Ministries, foundations etc. If the persons in such partner institutions change, this source of finance will dry out.



- SPICE without projects would have to raise member fees to finance the infrastructure (secretariat). This is not depending on “formal or not” because the existing infrastructure, at least for the time being, is sufficient.. With the secretariat in Poznan, the basic requirements can be covered. However the expenses of the basic infrastructure are not covered by the “coordination fees”. Income from projects fills the gap. Referring to this, it was proposed to raise the fees to the amount necessary for covering cost. This would enable SPICE Group to operate without acquiring projects and maintain the actual independent network. Possibly additional, volunteer contributions from members who acquired projects with the help of SPICE could help financing the network. However there are questions to be answered to take the right decision
  - What is the necessary “basic infrastructure” and how much does it cost?
  - How to define the “appropriate portion” members should give to SPICE of projects acquired ?
  - How to reflect the different situations of members (related to the economic situation in the countries)? Member fees calculated on the basis of “purchasing power” of the national currencies?

To establish a better basis for the financial part of the discussion we will prepare an overview describing the “basic infrastructure and cost involved. From that basis the fees needed easily can be calculated.

**Establishment of a formal association again was approved by the members under the condition that clear and transparent procedures are defined for how to deal with project acquisitions.**

## 2. Growth of SPICE Group

Another topic concerning the future of SPICE was the question of growth. Is SPICE Group aimed at growing or is SPICE Group a “Closed Shop”- exclusively for those who are in now? This question can be answered from the actual Aims & Organization” document already: SPICE Group is aimed at growing by including countries not yet represented in the network. The number of members per country should not exceed three – of course with exceptions for large countries and/or very active (potential) members.. More members from countries already represented in SPICE Group can join on the already defined requirements: Active involvement and personal engagement. But the aim is not growth, the aim is maintain quality. The “trial phase” ICECE offers an appropriate instrument for securing the quality.

## 3. The SPICE Group Homepage

The draft for a **SPICE Group Internet presentation**, developed by SPICE Member (ICECE) **Ivan Ivanov**, Bulgaria was again presented and approved.(as already by the members attending the SPICE meeting in Poznan) – of course with some corrections in wording, spelling etc. Now a testing version is available. Check [www.spicegroup.de](http://www.spicegroup.de) (Yes! This is without the “minus” between “spice” and “group”) and send your comments. The idea of this homepage is to become a working tool serving the needs of members. And this only can develop, if you articulate your needs.

A future step will be the “SPICA Directory Online” This could become an important part of this web site. However, the new IASP Internet presentation provides features of what should be in “SPICA Directory Online”. Therefore, before next steps are taken, the potential for cooperation with ISAP in this matter will be checked.



**Did you already order your copies of SPICA Directory ?  
The special low price for SPICE Member still is available  
until December 30, 2001 – see answer form.**

### The Future of SPICE

Questions discussed at the  
79<sup>th</sup> SPICE Meeting in Rio de Janeiro

**A formal Association will strengthen  
the network**

**OR**

**SPICE Group will loose its personal  
character and flexibility**

**Acquire projects to finance the  
SPICE infrastructure**

**OR**

**Raise the fees and  
maintain independence**

**Fixed annual fees,  
the same for every member**

**OR**

**Different fees based on the purchas-  
ing power of national currencies?**

**Is SPICE Group a “closed shop” for  
those who are in**

**OR**

**is the network aimed at growing?**

## *What happened recently?*

**Kiev, Ukraine**, November 16-18, 2001

The OE Paton Institute for Electrical Welding is one of the World leading institutes in welding, material and surface technologies. Around the experience and network of this institute, the "First German – Ukrainian Innovation Seminar" was held to encourage international (business and research) cooperation. This event was following an idea and concept of SPICE Group, **Heinz Fiedler**. It was initiated and financially supported by the "IB" International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, **Dr. Jörn Sonnenburg** and organized by AiF, the "Federation of German Industrial Research Associations". Part of this was a special workshop "Experience from International Innovation and Cooperation Projects", prepared and moderated by SPICE Group under contract with the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). Partner on the Ukrainian side was **George Marynsky**, Technology Park of the Paton Institute. Participants from Ukraine and Germany (with a special guest, **Krzysztof Zasiadly**, from Poland) represented the research sector as well as businesses with concrete cooperation experience. The results of the workshop will be used by BMBF to find and evaluate possibilities form promoting international business / research cooperation. SPICE members interested, may ask for a copy of the workshop report.

### **Historical Date: November 21**

Ten years ago, November 21, 1991, the first meeting of ICECE Work Group took place in the BIG, Berlin Center for Innovation and New Enterprises in Berlin, This first German business incubator was eight years old. It opened in November 1983 in buildings which again hundred years earlier were the birthplace of a company which became one of the large players in electric/electronic technologies: AEG, Allgemeine Deutsche Elektrizitätswerke. This company started with technical innovation: electric lightning of streets. Later AEG developed the first subway, became a global player – and began to go out of business the time when BIG was established. Making room for new technology based start-ups. These buildings are a place for innovation. November 21, 1991 the solid brick walls housed a special round-table of people from many Central and East European countries as well as from the "rest of the world". This was the beginning of a network of enthusiasts of "Innovation Centers in Eastern and Central Europe (ICECE)" – the foundation of a global network for entrepreneurship, innovation and technology transfer: SPICE Group.



**Vincovci, Croatia**, November 22 –24, 2001

A series of qualification seminars (in Ukraine, Russia and Slovakia) for people supporting international business cooperation of innovative SMEs was held as part of a program of the German Federal Ministry for Economy and Technology. This program is aimed at improving the support infrastructure for small companies going international. These seminars were organized by ADT, German Association of Business Incubators and Technology Centers in cooperation with SPICE Group. The **first Qualification Seminar in Croatia** to train (potential) supporters for international business cooperation of small and medium enterprises was held in a Croatian area which suffered much from the war in this region. Close to the border with Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, this region was much destroyed. Although houses have been reconstructed, there still is no work. Companies did not (yet?) return and (would-be) start-ups lack the necessary resources.. International business cooperation, with the immediate neighbors as well as other countries, therefore has greatest importance (and potential) in this area. Participants were invited from business incubators, technology/innovation centers, Chambers of Trade and Industry, Economic Development Agencies and companies. No surprise, the majority of the 19 participants was representing companies. Under the joint moderation of SPICE Boys **Karl-Heinz Klinger** and **Heinz Fiedler**, with organizational support of **Larisa Brovarska**, the seminar did not only help to better understand the mechanisms and instruments of international B2B cooperation, but also brought a number of concrete ideas and proposals for such collaboration. The local partner for preparing and organizing the event was **Zvonimir Cordasic**, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Vukovar region. He is an important promoter of business development in the region and an excellent partner for those looking for business contacts. Not to forget: **Mirta Strk**. She works with the Chamber of Commerce and helped making the seminar a success. In this region much work to be done. SPICE group is preparing for the next activities in Croatia – if possible including the Vukovar region – in the coming year.

## What comes next?

There have been more events on the SPICE agenda for 2001: **Paris** and **Budapest**. However the “European Forum on Business Incubation” in Paris has been postponed to March 21 – 22, 2002 and the “VSSE Very Special SPICE Event, scheduled for December 28, 2001 to January 3, 2002 seems to become a VSSSE – a Very **small** Special SPICE Event”. The holiday season does not seem to be the best time for traveling. But there will be something spicy happening in Budapest. What? Come and see. There still is time to register for this first-time-in-SPICE-history-event.

For next year many activities are in preparation. For example a German- Croatian Workshop on Technology Transfer.. SPICE Group already was active in this field, for example with events in Romania (the NATO seminars in Sinaia and Bucharest or Latvia (the Innovation Policy Workshop at the BALTIC DYNAMICS in Riga). The workshop in Croatia is intended to also integrate the business side by involving small technology companies interested in technology transfer between the two countries. Like for the event in Riga, the Croatian initiative is planned in cooperation and with support of the German Federal ;Ministry for Education and Research. The partner on the Croatian side is the Ministry for Science and technology, where **Jadranka Svarc** is the person in charge. **Nikola Ruzinski**, Center for Technology Transfer in Zagreb is involved as well in preparing this event. As soon as financial support is approved, concrete preparation can begin.

The next SPICE meeting season will begin with the event in.....? See SPICE Calendar on page 5 this of issue of SPICE UPDATE. As you can see, there are some interesting events on the agenda already. And this leads to an urgent request to you: Please **inform the SPICE Secretariats about the events you are planning**. And do this **NOW**.

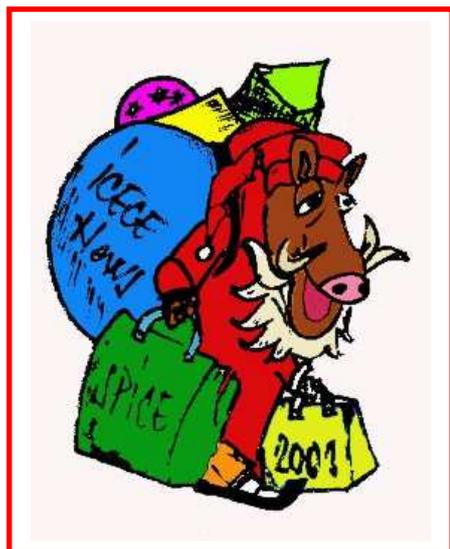
### About People

**Jana Klementova** and **Jan Naxera** could celebrate a success: November 15, 2001 the **Technological Center** of BIC Pilsen was opened with a festive ceremony. One more step on the way from an incubator to a technology park. The Technological Center is aimed at supporting the technology transfer and commercialization of R&D results and complements the existing activities in business incubation.

**Mircea Slanina**, succeeded getting finance for a technology park project in Iasi, Romania. This project will be started soon and certainly will have an important impact on the economic development of the region. And – hopefully – provide opportunities for further developing cooperation with Romania

### And finally...

Even the last SPICE UPDATE of the year 2001 is a **Flash** UPDATE “only”. There simply is no time to process the photos and get them properly placed in the UPDATE. But there always is hope for the future. Maybe next year will provide a chance to update you with photos. There are so many of them (and some are even really nice) that you must see them.



For the coming holiday season we wish you a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas with family and friends – you deserve a rest after the dynamic and spicy year – which provided some bad surprises, we never will forget. September 11, 2001 will remain in our thoughts forever. This is easily said. But this event and its consequences – still not possible to evaluate, still not calculable - beyond doubt will effect our future. Looking at SPICE, this date one more time and in an extremely dramatic way shows the importance of our work to develop, support and maintain mutual understanding and trust throughout the world, throughout the cultures.

For the New Year we wish that some of your dreams come true. And most importantly: good health, good luck, good friends and time to enjoy life

Hoping to see you soon personally, healthy and happy at one of the SPICE events

*Larisa Brovarska & Heinz Fiedler*

## ***This was the Agenda for 2001***



Events without a box are not yet finally fixed as a SPICE event or are important conferences – even without a SPICE meeting. Further proposals for events are invited.

Status:

		12/31/2008					
	Ijmuiden, Netherlands March, 3 - 6 2001	67	Lviv, Ukraine March 2 – 5, 2001	68	Almaty, Kazakhstan April 24 – 27, 2001	69	Chicago, USA April 25 – 28, 2001
70	Budapest, Hungary April 27 – 28, 2001	71	Itzehoe, Germany May 13 - 16, 2001	72	San Jose, California, USA May 20 – 24, 2001	73	Bilbao, Spain June 11 – 13, 2001
	St. Petersburg, Russia June 12- 16, 2001	74	Tallinn, Estonia June 16 - 19, 2001		Poznan, Poland June 18 - 21, 2001		Gabrovo, Bulgaria June 22 - 24, 2001
	Moscow, Russia July 22 – 26, 2001		Tampere, Finland August 29 - 31, 2001	75	Riga, Latvia September 14 - 16 2001		Tver, Russia September 20-21, 2001
76	Lviv, Ukraine September 27–29, 2001	77	Bucharest, Romania September 23-24, 2001	78	Poznan / Kiekrz, Poland October 11 –14, 2001	79	Kiev, Ukraine November 16-18, 2001
	Vincovci, Croatia November 22 –24, 2001		Budapest Hungary December. 28, 2001 – January 02, 2002	The first VSSE <b>Very Special SPICE Event</b> for celebrating New Year in a spic(e)y way will not take place. With a small group of members only.			

## **The (beginning of the) SPICE Agenda 2002**

- Tucson, Arizona**  
U.S.A.  
January 17 – 18, 2002
- 83 **Welikij Novgorod**  
Russia  
February 7-10, 2001
- 84 **Paris**  
France  
March. 21 – 23, 2001
- Heraklion**  
Greece  
March / April 2002
- Toronto**  
Canada  
April, 28 – May 1 2002
- Coburg**  
Germany  
May 5 - 7
- Almaty**  
Kazakhstan  
Early May, 2002
- Tallinn**  
Estonia  
June 9 – 11, 2002
- Quebec**  
Canada  
September 3 – 6, 2002
- Tartu**  
Estonia  
October, 2002
- Freiburg**  
Germany  
End of October, 2002
- The **AURRP Winter Conference** “Planning & Financing” will be held in the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort – not a bad place, especially for this time of the year... more information is available on the web site: [aurrp.net](http://aurrp.net)
- German – Russian Business-to-Business meeting** in a series of events (e.g. Nishny Novgorod, Samara, St. Petersburg, Moscow) to promote international business and development cooperation of small and medium enterprises. Email: [adt@adt-online.de](mailto:adt@adt-online.de)
- First European Forum on Business Incubation.** This event is the first one, SPICE Group helps to organize in France. Workshops on different parts of Europe are part of the program as well as a special SPICE meeting. . Email: [adt@adt-online.de](mailto:adt@adt-online.de)
- For the time being this still is an intention. However get prepared for the first **SPICE meeting** in Greece. The s & t parks in Greece have developed rapidly and the one in Heraklion, Crete is the leading one. Contact: Artemis Saitakis, email [saitakis@stepc.gr](mailto:saitakis@stepc.gr).
- The 16<sup>th</sup> **Annual NBIA Conference** will be held first time in a foreign country: Toronto, Canada is the venue of this event, organized together with the CABI, the Canadian Association of Business Incubators. Contact: [info@nbia.org](mailto:info@nbia.org)
- The **ADT Spring Conference** will be held in Southern Germany. Two different business incubators (specialized in I&T technologies and design respectively) will be integrated in the program. Info: [adt@adt-online.de](mailto:adt@adt-online.de)
- The **annual conference of KABICA**, the Kazakhstan Association of Business Incubators and Innovation Centers will present and discuss progress in business incubation in the country as well as internationally. Contact: [tbincubator@pochtamt.ru](mailto:tbincubator@pochtamt.ru)
- The **European Conference of IASP** (International Science Park Association) will be held in Estonia’s Capital: “Serving the Companies: enlarging the Market of Business Communities in and around Science Parks”. Contact: [iasp@iaspworld.org](mailto:iasp@iaspworld.org)
- IASP will hold the 14<sup>th</sup> **World Conference on Science Parks**: “Toward a New Agenda. Business, Social and Urban Development Impacts” is the title.  
Contact: <http://www.iaspquebec2002.com>
- The **BATLIC DYNAMICS 2002** will be held in the Tartu, home of one of the oldest universities in Europe and place of the first Estonian technology park, which will vcelebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the conference. Info: [raivot@edu.ttu.ee](mailto:raivot@edu.ttu.ee)
- The **Annual ADT Conference** will have an international part and a technological focus on bio technologies. The Freiburg region is integrated in an international “Bio Region” with partners in neighboring countries. Info: [adt@adt-online.de](mailto:adt@adt-online.de)

# Answer Form for SPICE UPDATE No 27

Please send your answer to the SPICE Secretariat Berlin  
 Fax: +49 – 30 –264 70733 or email [spice@spice-group.de](mailto:spice@spice-group.de)



## **Special Members Price**

*The special price for SPICA Directory still is available for orders until December 30, 2001. Think about it. SPICE Directory makes a perfect gift for your business partners.*

<b>Absolutely for Members only</b>	<b><i>Herewith I order</i></b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b><i>My personal copy of SPICA Directory at the special price of EURO 25,00</i></b> <input type="radio"/> <i>for personal delivery at the next meeting</i> <input type="radio"/> <i>for delivery by mail (in Europe add EURO 6 to the price)</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b><i>_____ copies* of SPICA Directory at the price of EURO 40,00</i></b> <input type="radio"/> <i>for personal delivery at the next meeting</i> <input type="radio"/> <i>for delivery by mail (transportation charged extra)</i>
<b><i>Offer / prices only for orders arriving until December 30, 2001</i></b> <b><i>* minimum order: 10 copies</i></b>		

**Yes,** I want to receive a copy of the report on the Special Workshop on “Experience from International Innovation and Cooperation Projects” in Kiev.

**Yes, I want to attend the following events**

<b>Budapest</b> <b>Hungary</b> Dec. 28 2001 – Jan 2, 2002
---

- Yes,** I will attend the Special SPICE Workshop in Paris, France
- Maybe,** I can attend this SPICE/ICECE Meeting  **Please send more information**
- No,** I cannot attend this SPICE/ICECE Meeting

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Place, Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature