



UPDATE No. 48

May 2003 - For SPICE / ICECE Members only

In this UPDATE:

- CABIN new network in Central Asia
- Amendment to the "A & O"
- Special Software Seminars
- 7th World Summit
- SPICE Meetings in Vilnius, Richmond and Lisbon

Dear Reader,

The focus of this UPDATE is to prepare coming meetings of SPICE Group by providing proposals as a basis further discussion. As already described in the recent UPDATE, the aim of this process is to amend the "A&O" document and thereby strengthen the basis of the network for future activities.

Besides, of course, the matters of "SPICE History" and coming events will also be reflected in this newsletter with pictures taken at earlier events with participation of SPICE Group. Maybe these impressions will serve as appetizer to attend the coming meetings and to participate actively in the discussion and cooperation process within the network.

The Future of the SPICE A & O

"To be or not to be" is not the question. Of course, we all know that SPICE Group has a brilliant future. However, we need to get a topic pending and discussed quite a long time to a good result. One question is: *"to formalize or not to formalize"*. Another topic: *"how to secure transparency?"* And finally: *"Who pays for all that?"* These matter has not only been discussed at a number of SPICE Meetings (beginning in Poznan and Rio de Janeiro), but also in-between and later at numerous occasions. In the following an attempt to summarize the actual status of this process.

After, in Poznan, the members present at the meeting already voted to formalize, the following meetings brought other views and some concerns. It turned out that one important strength of SPICE Group is its informality, its legal non-existence. This offers possibilities for many individuals to cooperate who could – for different reason – not join a formal association. This global network of individuals is linking a significant number of associations – basically all leading ones. Without being an "association of associations" and the organizational, financial and "political" implications such an association would necessarily have, SPICE Group can contribute to strengthen the international exchange of information as well as cooperation between regional, national and international associations. This advantage would be put at stake when formalizing this network. At the same time the informality is a weakness of the network if it comes to financial matters. SPICE Group cannot apply for projects, cannot be partner in any kind of partnerships or cooperation which need a legal basis. But, possibly, this weakness could be turned into being a strength as well. The very small overhead of the network, the low cost approach combined with the readiness of the members to cooperate provides a flexible and fast operation basis. The almost 800 grams of global incubation information called "SPICA Directory" is a good example for this kind of cooperation. SPICA Directory Online, the global business incubation information system is the actual development in this direction. And projects can be carried out by (groups of) individual members having the necessary infrastructure. The only matter to be solved in this respect is the use of the "SPICE Group label". And, if this label is used, if, how and how much SPICE Group should participate in the project funding. As members suggested, this question can be answered quite easily by adopting a "Charter of SPICE Group" (or by integrating such matters into the "A&O" document) – simply by describing under which conditions members can use the "SPICE label" and how much this would "cost".

Amendment to the document "Aims & Organization" Pragmatically as usual with this UPDATE (page 4) comes a first draft (not more than that) for such a new part in the "Aims & Organization" document – a revised "Article 7". This proposal will be discussed at the coming meetings and finally may lead to amending the "A&O".

As far as the ***financing of the SPICE network coordination*** is concerned, there are a few words to say: SPICE Group is based on the concept to avoid an expensive overhead. The annual coordination fees and voluntary contributions from projects acquired with support of the network are the sources of income to finance the minimal infrastructure – the Secretariat in Poznan and the support work provided in Berlin. Experience from recent years – unsurprisingly - shows that the coordination fees are not sufficient to cover these expenses. Results of the first two years of operation of our Secretariats shows that approx. 40 per cent of the annual cost of EURO 24.000 (mainly for rent, salaries, telecommunication – not including any travel or conference expenses) is covered by income from coordination fees. The gap in recent years was covered by small projects acquired by the president and partly by donations (income from projects "channeled" to SPICE). On this background it is obvious that for future development of the network it is important to establish a financial basis less vulnerable than the actual one. Some thoughts about the possible strategies are summarized on page 5 of this UPDATE.

Chapters of SPICE 2002 History:

PICTURES from Kiev, Ukraine, 90th SPICE Meeting, September 25 - 27, 2002



↑ the conference hotel ↑

↙ the 90th SPICE Meeting with Members and Guests – with work and pleasure ↘



The UBICA Conference: the Ukrainian Innovation Scene and International Guests



... and than the conference party can begin....↓



Our hosts: **Nicolay Paal** and his wife Nataliya... ↓ **Nataliya Kozhevina** ↓ (UBICA President) and V. Gorbunov



The 90th SPICE Meeting – in a somewhat unusual situation and environment.. The story of the broken foot began



What has happened recently

In **Warnemünde**, Germany the first **Special Software Seminars** was held. This is part of the activities to contribute to the improvement of business incubator services by providing efficient tools.

The program of the Special Seminar included topics like: Business Assessment Criteria, Business Purpose, Promises and Vision, Monitoring of Client Businesses, Business Needs Analysis, Client Selection, and Services Effectiveness Measurement. Practical training how to use the software developed by QUATEL Business Solutions in New Zealand enable them to take advantage of this tool in their daily work after the seminar. In the coming weeks participants will gain experience from using the software and feed this experience into the development process further adapting this tool to the needs of business incubator managers.

Another issue of the seminar is using the software for assessing the incubators themselves. This results into profiles of incubators which are stored in an international database. This will develop to become an information basis on incubator performance and provide support for further developing the quality of incubator services.

The next seminar will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania and at the World Summit in Richmond first experience and results from these seminar will be presented.

New members

Amin Salari, Member of the Board & Technomarket Manager of Pardis Technology Park in Teheran, **Iran**, has joined the network in ICECE status. Amin Salari was President of "Technology Studies Center", Sharif University of Technology (2001), Worked as analyst and manager of "Aerospace Group", ITAN (Iran Technology Analysts Network) (2000-2001), was manager of "Aviation group", Technology studies center, Sharif University (1998-2001) and was active in the management of conferences, seminars and technology exhibitions like: " Pardis Technology Park: A new horizon on synergism between university & industry", or " 1st international and 3rd bi-annual conference of Iranian Aerospace society". Contact: salari@techpark.ir

Peter Westaway, XXXXX of QUATEL Business Solution Ltd., **New Zealand**, since May 2003 is member of the network (ICECE status). Peter gathered very wide experience from working in international marketing .for products in agricultural and pharmaceutical products before joining QUATEL and thereby entering the software industry. He has worked several years in other countries (for example Czech Republic and Slovakia). He attended a number of technology park and business incubation conferences throughout the world an established many personal contacts. Within SPOICE Group his first activity are zthe software seminars in Warnemünde and Vilnius. Contact: peter@qlbs.com

About Projects in the Network

SPICA Directory Online - the Global Information System on Business Incubators and Technology Parks–

Is developing further, meanwhile profiles of most incubators and parks in the world are t be found in the system and work to actualize this information has begun. In parallel cooperation between iDISC and SPICE Directory has been established to make the information about associations also available through the iDISC Homepage.

Coming SPICE events

Not yet registered for the **BALTIC DYNAMICS 2003?** Now it is "last minute" not to miss this important event this year held in Lithuania's Capital Vilnius. A SPICE Meeting will take place just before the conference begins. For more information and a link to registration go to www.spice-group.net/events

Not yet registered for the **NBIA Conference?** Not to miss this important event this year held in Richmond, Virginia it is time to register. For more information and registration go to www.nbia.org The day before the NBIA conference the next International Summit of Associations will meet and SPICE Group will meet during the first conference day.

7th International Summit of Business Incubation and Technology Park Associations scheduled for May 18, 2003 in Richmond, Virginia, USA at the **NBIA Conference** is another important event on the Calendar. This Summit will focus on an important "leftover" from the Dortmund Summit: The Definitions. But this, of course, is not all. Other issues on the agenda are the "Quality of Incubator Services" and the "Global Information System on Business Incubation". For more information about the past Summits and some discussion material you may also check www.spice-group.net/summit

At the **IASP Conference in Lisbon** "Habitats of Excellence, Managing and Promoting Innovation" (more details at iasplis-boa2003@taguspark.pt) a **SPICE Meeting** is planned to be held. Most likely we will organize this meeting for Sunday, June 01, 2003, however the exact time and date is not yet set. Therefore please indicate your interest in case you plan to attend and inform us if you will be available for this meeting on Sunday afternoon. As soon as possible we will reply with the tentative program and more details concerning the time and place of the meeting.

If you are interested in coming events, look at www.spice-group.net/events or contact spice@spice-group.de

Information, Facts & Views



Central Asian Business Incubator Network

Formed by business incubators in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as their associations, the Central Asian Business Incubator Network has held its second meeting in April this year in Shymkent. The next is scheduled for June in Tashkent. With the aim to improve cooperation between incubators in both countries CABIN is preparing a number of activities. A web site already is available (soon in English as well), a business incubators survey has begun and projects to support small business in international marketing are in preparation.

For more information contact: Elena Pereverzeva (ntal@tkt.uz) in Uzbekistan or Kairat Sugurbekov (sodbi@mail.ru) in Shymkent. <http://fursat.freenet.uz> or have a look at SPICA Directory Online: www.spica-directory.net

Iran Pardis Technology Park

The establishment of Pardis Technology Park, as an "advanced technology development center", is based on the strategic vision that it will result in significant impacts in industrialization process of Iran through effective cooperation in research and development.

The idea of establishing this park was first introduced in the year 2000 as the first initiative of its kind in Iran. The unique scientific, economic and technologic potentials existing in Tehran is an excellent basis for this park which will offer a model for other technology park projects in Iran. Another aim is to develop the fairly new experience of Iran in exchanging technology with other countries.

Based on these considerations, in 2001 Pardis Technology Park came under operation under the efforts of the Technology Cooperation Office of Presidency and Sharif University of Technology. Pardis Technology Park will be an intellectual family whose members will be known, in the first place, by their family culture. This culture, which represents the members' "collective identity", will be shaped upon their most fundamental common values that they all will be committed to. Firms established in this park, knowing their unique role in accelerating radical innovations, accept the following charter of common visions and values as an agreement, and by signing it they promise to consider it in their individual and cooperative efforts.

The new Pardis town is located 20 km. north east of Tehran on the hilltops overlooking the town of Bumeheh, and temperature difference to Tehran is around 4-5 degrees centigrade which makes this environment. Since the beginning of the town's development, around 3,500 housing units have been constructed where by nearly 15,000 inhabitants are living there. By the year 2020, it is expected to hold 200,000 inhabitants in an area of 2000 hectares of land. The management of the Pardis town have agreed to provide the infrastructure facilities of the park including, water, electricity, telecommunication, sewage systems and access routes many of which have already reached to park.

More information: www.hitechpark.com – www.iransiliconvalley.com



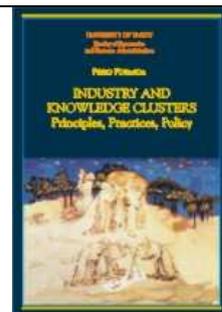
Visions of Pardis Technology Park

SPICE Boy **Piero Formica** has published a new book: **Industry and Knowledge Clusters - Principles, Practices, Policy** -

In 1890 Alfred Marshall published his "Principles of Economics" in which he included a chapter on "industrial districts", as he defined the geographic concentrations of specialised industries. After the Second World War the term "industrial district" has been applied to the emergence of economic specialisation in specific communities in Italy, mostly in the northeast regions of the country. A century later from Marshall's book, Michael Porter's neo-Marshallian cluster concept has burst on the scene through a series of seminal articles.

Tartu University Press 2003, 297 pp. 14,5 x 21 cm. 15 EUR, ISBN 9985-56-724-2. To order online:

<http://www.tyk.ut.ee>



More about the Front Page Issues:

Proposed new wording for the A & O Document:

Article 7: Projects

SPICE Group supports projects *in all areas related with business incubation, entrepreneurship support, technology transfer, innovation and regional economic development. This namely includes the following activities:*

- *collection and distribution of printed or electronically distributed information, for example by newsletters (e.g. ICECE News, SPICE UPDATE) or collections of information (e.g. SPICA Directory, the Directory of Science Park and Innovation Center Associations, and SPICA Directory Online)*
- *Development of and support to „International Training Initiatives“ aimed at combining national training initiatives for mutual benefit.*
- *Improvement of Electronic Communication between innovation centers and their associations including the creation and operation of an Interactive Information and Training System.*
- *information about the project development and result is made available to other SPICE members as far as no limitation for publication is defined by the project financiers*
- *If other members already earlier decided to apply for the same project, and informed the SPICE Secretariat a mutual understanding has to be found.*

SPICE members may establish any kind of project oriented or general formal or informal organizations using the name “SPICE Group” with a supplement describing the character of this organization (e.g. geographical or content) if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- *the SPICE Board (by information sent to the SPICE Secretariat) has been informed about the intention to use the name “SPICE Group” for such organization and within two months from receiving such information has approved or not articulated any objections or concerns*
- *membership is this “SPICE substructure” is admitted for SPICE or ICECE members only*
- *all members or shareholders of the “SPICE substructure” are paying members of SPICE Group*

Finance

There are different possibilities to establish a more stable basis for financing the SPICE Group network coordination.

Some thoughts about these possibilities:

1. **Increase the Coordination Fees.** As the “to formalize or not to formalize discussion showed, this option has the important advantage of securing total independence from institutional influences. However, to close the financial gap coordination fees have to be doubled. Not a realistic approach.
2. **Increase the number of Members.** There is interest and potential. However, similar to the situation concerning the fees, the number of members would have to be more than doubled – putting one of the most important components of the network at stake – the personal links and engagement. In earlier discussions members agreed to secure this component with highest priority and therefore develop the network the same way as up to now.
3. **Acquire projects.** To do this, SPICE Group would need to be formalized and may begin to compete for projects with its members. Therefore this option was excluded already in earlier discussions. Eventually the proposed A & O amendment can be the needed compromise.

Most likely a combination of all the above mentioned options (or another brilliant proposal form on of the SPICE Members?) can be the solution. Collection of views and proposals from members and discussion within the network will lead to the needed result sooner or later...

And finally...

This UPDATE contains more letters and less pictures, more formal matters and less gossip than usual. Most likely you will find it more “dry” and more difficult to read than other issues. But although we keep the formalities and administration low, it seems to be unavoidable, even for an informal network, to deal with formalities from time to time. No doubt that with the “Spirit of SPICE” these matters soon will be settled and we can return to normal work and pleasure. The sooner you (as all other members) contribute to the necessary discussion with your views, the sooner these topics will disappear from our agendas.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon or, the better option, meeting with you personally

Heinz Fiedler

The SPICE Calendar 2003



Events without a box are not yet finally fixed a SPICE event or are other important conferences.
Status: 12/31/2008

Warnemünde, Germany
May 10, 2003

For up-to-date information check the web site: www.spice-group.net/events

Vilnius, Lithuania, May 15, 2003: Special Software Seminar and Training spice@spice-group.net

Vilnius, Lithuania, May 15 - 17, 2003 **BALTIC DYNAMICS 2002** p.milius@kct.lt

Richmond, Virginia, May 18, 2003 **7th International Summit of Associations**. www.nbia.org

Richmond, Virginia, May 19-22, 2003 **Annual NBIA Conference**. www.nbia.org

Lisbon, Portugal, June 1-4, 2003 **Annual IASP Conference** iasplisboa2003@taguspark.pt

Berlin, Germany, September 28-30, 2003, Annual ADT Conference, adt@adt-online.de

Answer Form for SPICE UPDATE No 48

Please send your answer to Fax: +49 – 30 –264 70733 or email spice@spice-group.de

SPICE Homepage

This is an old matter, but not all members have answered yet. Please check www.spice-group.net/members and inform us if you want your email and homepage links activated.

Yes, I want my email and homepage links on the SPICE Group Homepage to be active. These links should lead to
(a) for email:

(b) for homepage:

Please, send my **password** for SPICA Directory Online and the “PUMBAA pages”

Yes, I am interested in the 7th World Summit in Richmond USA, May 18, 2003
I have the following proposals for the agenda of the summit:

Yes, I am interested in the Lisbon SPICE Meeting, June 01, 2003

Please send more information about the agenda

I have the following proposals for the agenda of the summit:

«city», Date

Signature

«Vorname» «Name»