



UPDATE No. 67

Special

June 2006

SPICE Art Ball 2006

... and some "business as usual"

Dear Member,

This Update provides information about the creation process of the "SPICE Art Ball 2006", presents the (draft) triangles designed so far, and includes a summary description of the recent events (more details in next Update) and the SPICE meetings to come.

This SPICE initiative found much interest far beyond the network of members and gained much attention at recent conferences. The presentation of the finalized SPICE Art Ball at the end of this year / beginning of 2007 is planned to become an important event. A number of ideas for the place and time as well as for the content of this event (besides the SPICE Art Ball) already have been generated. Further suggestions are welcome.

Meanwhile the "mother project" the "Ball o nations" for the FiFa World Cup 2006 is ready and exhibited in the History Museum in Hannover, Germany. SPICE Members from Australia, Croatia, and Korea succeeded finding a national artist for this project. Here we show a picture of that Art Ball. You can see more on the website www.art-ball.net



The Process of creating the SPICE Art Ball 2006



Snub Cuboctahedron ↑
Test installation of the raw SPICE Art Ball ↓



Step 1

To develop the raw Art Ball turned out to be more difficult than expected. The initial simple idea was to "copy" the Ball of Nations and add a few more pentagons or hexagons for allowing space for all member countries. However, to make the pentagons and hexagons just smaller and thereby add more of those to provide sufficient spaces for all SPICE member countries on this art ball did not work. We had to learn that Archimedes and Plato already began to work on this issue and later generations of mathematicians devoted much time on the question how to divide a ball into (equal or similar) geometrical parts.

Interesting solutions got names like "Icosidodecahedron", "Rhombicosidodecahedron", or "Rhombitruncated Icosidodecahedron". Not to forget the "Truncated Icosahedron" – better known as the soccer ball. Or the "Snub Cuboctahedron" – in future better know as the SPICE Art Ball:

On the website of WOLFRAM Research/mathworld (see: <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/SnubCube.html>) you find following information: *The snub cube, also called the cubus simus (Kepler 1619, Weissbach and Martini 2002) or snub cuboctahedron, is an Archimedean solid having 38 faces (32 triangular and 6 square), 60 edges, and 24 vertices. It is a chiral solid, and hence has two enantiomorphous forms known as laevo (left-handed) and dextro (right-handed).* And you also can find the formula $V = \frac{1}{3}(32 + 6) \cdot 1 + 24$. Surprisingly it is not yet mentioned that this the SPICE Art Ball In any case, our art ball is an **Archimedean Solid**, a uniform polyhedraon, and Wenniger model., uniform polyhedron, and Wenninger model. It has Schäfli symbol and Wythoff symbol. Surprisingly, the tribonacci constant is intimately related to the metric properties of the snub cube. It can be constructed by snubification of a unit cube with outward offset.

In case this is not enough to know, please check the website given

Maybe important to finish with: *The 13 Archimedean solids are the convex polyhedra that have a similar arrangement of nonintersecting regular convex polygons of two or more different types arranged in the same way about each vertex with all sides the same length (Cromwell 1997, pp. 91-92).*

Now that you know something about the theory, we can provide information how this project developed. During recent weeks there SPICE Art Ball already visited three continents: North America, Asia, and Europe.

So much about the "Art ball Theory. On following pages you will get an impression of the real development of this second artistic project in SPICE Group

Step 2: Kicking off the SPICE Art Ball in St. Louis, USA at the NBIA conference – 120th SPICE Meeting

We already reported on this event (see SPICE Update No. 66). Here you can see the drafts from nine countries (Armenia, China, Germany, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, and Sweden) already created at this meeting for the SPICE Art Ball.



Armenia China Germany Japan Korea New Zealand Poland South Africa Sweden

These “National Triangles” are drafts only – designed during the SPICE meeting in St. Louis by members and friends attending this event. Meanwhile the work continues at home and new ideas were generated in a number of countries. As we receive information about this process we try to make it “visible” on the art ball website; http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball.php

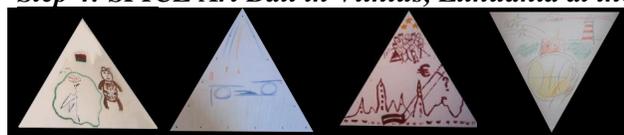
Step 3: SPICE Art Ball in Shanghai, China at the 8th AABI conference – 121st SPICE Meeting



Kazakhstan Philippines Russia

This SPICE Meeting could be organized on very short notice- thanks to the support provided by our hosts: Wang Rong, and Wan Zhen. Members and guests from 11 countries attended and three more drafts for “national triangles” were created: Kazakhstan, Philippines, and Russia. Other participants took the idea back home and promised to send drafts in the near future.

Step 4: SPICE Art Ball in Vilnius, Lithuania at the BALTIC DYNAMICS 2007 – 122nd SPICE Meeting



Belarus Finland Latvia Lithuania

The BALTIC DYNAMICS conference with more than 180 participants from 28 countries again was an important event for the development of business incubation activities.

At the SPICE meeting with members and guests 8 eight countries “national triangles” were drafted for Belarus, Finland, Latvia, and Lithuania. For the German triangle additional ideas were developed and again some other countries took the idea home for discussing the ideas with friends and potential supporters.

In parallel: The SPICE Art Ball continues to develop also without presence at SPICE Meetings



Romania

The artistic talent of Ioan Piturescu already is known in the SPICE network. He created the PUMBAA caricatures on the SPICE Group website as well as for SPICE Updates.

Now he did more art work at home and created the Romanian Triangle for the SPICE Art Ball.

Here we show this draft as a miniature and also the “SPICE Square” – the logo of SPICE Group with small portrait photos of the members of our network. For the final version of the SPICE Art Ball this collection of pictures, of course will be actualized.



... to keep the Ball rolling

All in all now 19 Triangles are drafted and the SPICE logo takes one more piece of the art ball. There still is room for more art work. Two kinds of activities are on our agenda for completing the SPICE Art Ball 2006.

1. After the three **SPICE meetings** mentioned above we will have to roll the SPICE Art Ball to other places. Firstly because not all members will be able attending the meetings no. 120, 121 and 122. And secondly because it will be fun exhibiting the SPICE Art Ball in as many places as possible. Proposals where to roll the Ball are welcome: spice@spice-group.net
2. All members are invited to draft their national triangle by doing the **art work at home** – preferably in cooperation between all members of a country, but individual initiatives are welcome.

At the end of 2006 / beginning of 2007 the SPICE Art Ball 2006 will be exhibited at a concluding meeting and members that contribute with their piece of art on the ball will receive a special souvenir....

The Anniversary Questions: Network: evaluation and perspectives

There are more activities related with the 15th SPICE Anniversary: Members already received by email the questions to answer for a general evaluation of networking during the last decade and for describing the potential for future action. The replies will be summarized and discussed at the SPICE meeting. The result of this discussion by traveling around the globe together with the SPICE Art Ball will than be completed meeting by meeting and most members of the network will get the opportunity for getting personally involved with this process.

Not only members of SPICE Group can participate in this process. We invite all business incubation professionals to contribute by providing their views and experience. The list of questions is available from the SPICE Secretariat at spice@spice-group.net

SPICE Art Ball – Rules & Regulations

Work of Artists does not care about rules. And certainly we do not want to restrict the freedom of art. However, there are a few guidelines aimed at securing that the SPICE Art Ball will become a piece of visual art rather than a piece to read. Here you can find the most important “rules” for the creative process:

Organization: The SPICE members of a given country (or just one „volunteer“ from this country with or without a little help of his friends create a “national triangle” (each side 67 cm long) to symbolize their country. People looking at that triangle - with fantasy (and/or knowledge) - should be able to identify the country represented. For making it not too simple we have defined a few rules to respect:

- Predominantly the colors of the respective national flag should be used for the triangle art work – however, without picturing the national flag itself.
- The name of the country should not be written on the triangle
- Symbols, e.g. referring to the history, art, technology, economy etc. should “explain” what country is represented with this triangle.

Besides these limitations there are no limits for the SPICy imagination of the members developing their national triangle. Painting, sculpturing, embroidering, modeling, carving are just a few of the many possibilities.

The national triangle (or square) also may be pre-produced, i.e. the art work can be brought to the SPICE meeting already prepared for being attached to one of the “free” Art Ball triangles.

All triangles (and their development) and the artists will be shown on a special website (www.art-ball.net) and on the SPICE Art Ball. The triangles of member countries will enjoy priority.

Kicking the ball off... At the SPICE meeting in St. Louis, USA, April 30 – May 01, 2006 we began the process of creating the “SPICE Art Ball 2006”. Members present drafted the design for the “national triangles” of their countries. But this meeting (or any of the following meetings) did not have to be the occasion for presenting the “final” version of the triangle. The ongoing creative process after the first meeting allows for changes and adaptations – until at the final SPICE Meeting close to the end of this year the result be “frozen” and declared “final”.

Continuing the process... After the first step has been done in St. Louis, USA the SPICE Art Ball rolled around the globe to Shanghai, China, where additional countries drafted their national triangles. Than the Ball rolled on to the SPICE Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, May 24 - 25, 2006. Now the Ball is waiting in Berlin, Germany for the next travel to continue his trip from SPICE Meeting to SPICE Meeting to be completed step by step until the end of this year.

By the way, it is also possible to forget about all the rules described above if the creative process requires. The important matters are that

- Members enjoy participating in this creative process
- At the end of the year all member countries are represented on the SPICE Art Ball 2006

And finally: in case a member (country) cannot attend any of the SPICE meetings during this year **it also is possible to produce a “national triangle” at home and send it for being applied to the SPICE Art Ball at the next available occasion.**

The SPICE Fund

For their national triangle we ask to pay a financial contribution for covering the cost. The minimum amount is EURO 25, 00 / USD 30,00 (for a square: EURO 50,00 / USD 60,00. However, we invite participants to pay a higher amount. In the end of this year we will have an amount of money collected to be used for a “good purpose”. What this will be is to be defined by the final SPICE meeting this year when the SPICE Art Ball 2006 is presented. By the way, until now the highest amount paid by an individual member up to now was EURO 100, 00.

So much about the SPICE Art Ball 2006

We are looking forward to receiving more drafts, additional ideas for existing drafts, draft triangles developed to the (semi-) final art version, proposals for topics to be discussed at the meeting to present the art ball too the public, and -as usual – all kinds of information to report on in coming SPICE Updates.

... and now: business as usual...

The **next PBICA conference** will be held in Poznan October 24 - 26, 2006 with the general topic will be “Academic Entrepreneurship”. During this conference the Grand Opening of the Technology Incubator at Poznan Science and Technology Park will be celebrated. SPICE Group is considering organizing a Special SPICE Workshop at this conference. If you are interested to attend this event as a speaker, on the general topic “Academic Entrepreneurship”, please send an email to the SPICE Group secretariat. Info: www.sooipp.org.pl, biuro@sooipp.org.pl

Wanted

Speakers for the Special SPICE Workshop at the PBICA conference in Poznan, Poland.

Address Change *German Association has moved*

The Federal Association of German Innovation, Technology, and Business Incubation Centers, ADT e.V. (Bundesverband Deutscher Innovations-, Technologie- und Gründerzentren e.V. has moved to a new location in the center of Berlin. The new address is Jägerstraße 67, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Tel.: +49-30-39200581, Fax: +49-30-39200582, Email: adt@adt-online.de, website <http://www.adt-online.de>



Views & Facts

Europe

Study on Business Incubation

A Survey of European Business Incubators is currently coordinated by the Paris-Dauphine University in France. This initiative has began recently and aims at making a representative study of business incubation in the EU by reaching out to over 850 incubators. The invitation for the online survey was sent many incubators already. At this time the research team is contacting national and regional associations of business incubators around Europe to explain the goal and potential results of this Survey in more detail. This has the dual objective of promoting increased response rates and helping in the future dissemination of the results. The aim of this study is making a positive contribution to further development of incubation structures in Europe. In case you are interested to participate contact: John Goddard, IMRI, Paris Dauphine University. Email: survey@incubation.fr

Romania

15 Years of Excellence

By Cezar Scarlat

Center for Business Excellence (CBE) from University "Politehnica" of Bucharest (UPB) celebrates this year 15 years of successful activity, servicing the Romanian emerging business community. Since 1991 – when opened its doors as a result of USAID co-funding, and faithful to its mission CBE has educated generations of intern students, provided valuable consulting, training and research services to more than 2,500 business owners and managers. As the very first business development center of Romania, CBE – through its master business consultants – has also trained about 100 professional business counselors from over 30 organizations across Romania. CBE has led or partnered in over 20 training and consulting projects, funded by EU programs, British Know How Fund, World Bank,

IBRD – aiming to entrepreneurship, small business and human resource development. Among the last projects, successfully implemented between 2003-2005 (the only one of this type funded in Eastern Europe): ITC-WAY under IBRD infoDev Grant III-013: "Incubator Initiative".

CBE – in partnership with Industrial Management Chair from Management Department – is currently organizing the 5th edition of the Business Plan Contest, opened to UPB students. The first edition has started in 2001, in partnership with Harvard Business School MBA Program.

Contact: Cesar Scarlat, Email: cezarscarlat@yahoo.com



Professor Dr. Cezar Scarlat, CBE Director (first left), and partners in ITC-WAY Project are meeting Professor Dr. Steve Nichols, Research Vice-President (center).

Romania

Opportunities and Challenges

By Domnica Cotet

End of May 2006 CITAf hosted the symposium "Ways to foster innovation and technology transfer. Opportunities and challenges". This event was organized by the National Institute for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (INIMM) Romania in cooperation with the Association of Innovation Centers of Romania (FCIAR) together with the Technology and Business Incubator Centre-CITAf, Bucharest. The Chamber for Industry and Commerce of the Bucharest, the The National Agency for Science and Research", and The National Agency of SMEs and Cooperation took part in this event.

The Symposium presented information about the Romanian R&D System, funding opportunities for SMEs, discussed the importance certification of services and products in the context of the EU integration, and the characteristics of the entrepreneurship in Romania. The need to strengthen partnerships between SMEs and Research - Development institution was stressed by the participants. The main conference themes were selected based on expressions of interest from SMEs and Research Institutes. In the light of integration of Romania into the European Union quality control and certification took much attention. This also is a topic of intensified cooperation between industry and research.

CITAf also submitted a project to the Ministry of Research and Education aiming to improve the quality of services offered by CITAf to the incubated companies. The project was approved and has a budget of 220 000 Euro for two years. At the same time CITAf is in a privatization process - new challenges ahead..

Contact: Domnica Cotet, Email ciel@ictcm.ro and Piturescu Ioan, Email piturescu@ictcm.ro

Mauritius

Business incubator of National Computer Board (NCB)

By Irina Nunberger

The Business Incubator of the National Computer Board (IC-NCB) of Mauritius has recently entered into a new strategic phase with its Incubator Centre (<http://incubator.intnet.mu>). Launched in 2003, the IC-NCB has successfully supported 18 ICT-enabled business start-ups creating 28 jobs annually on average costs of 4,000 EUR per job. With a team of 4 staff managed by **Roshan Kumar Seebaluck**, the assistant manager, on average 9 incubatees are accommodated at 500 sqm space and nurtured with everything a start-up may need, including infrastructures and business development services. Very active in promoting the incubatees' participation in awards for innovative enterprises, the NCB-ICT Incubator Centre has helped its incubatees to gain certificates that provide financial benefits for its holders: Among these innovative solutions of the Incubator Center's incubatees is a food traceability software by the company "Three S Co. Ltd." or an e-learning related question and answer service by SMS for subjects taught at secondary school level by another young start-up "E-Station Ltd" that cooperates with a Mauritian mobile cellular network provider.

The new strategic phase of the incubator was started by the findings of a UNDP funded project "Support for new and potential start-up incubators in the field of ICT". EXPERPLAN GmbH Regional Development – a member of SPICE Group – had been selected to realize the project in collaboration with the National Computer Board. **Irina Nunberger**, member of executive board of EXPERPLAN, did an in-depth assessment of the support provided to start-ups and presented a Strategic Business Plan and a Capacity Building Program to the center management and the start-ups of the NCB-ICT. A review of administrative procedures for starting a business in the ICT sector, legislative constraints and incentives was made and opportunities for clustering in Mauritius were investigated. Under strong involvement of stakeholders from the ICT sector and the business community the consultant provided recommendations for ICT Incubators in Mauritius that were intensely discussed by the participants of business incubation forums held during the project. **Kemraz Mohee**, executive director of NCB, himself an excellent specialist in IT-security, strongly promoted the mainstreaming of the findings and recommendations into the national ICT policy. Novelty of the approach applied by the international consultant was to establish direct interaction and networking at Mauritius. The new Pre-Incubation Unit at the University of Mauritius is another visible result of the project work. Already preparing for the 1st batch of students with ICT business ideas, this Pre-Incubation Unit will be run as a joint initiative of the UoM and the NCB-ICT Incubator Centre.

Contact: Mrs. Irina Nunberger, EXPERPLAN GmbH, Email: i.nunberger@experplan.de, Website: www.experplan.com

New members



Ivan Stefanic was born in Osijek, married with Edita and proud father of son Filip and daughter Klara. He is university professor and head of chair in the field of economics and entrepreneurship in agribusiness at the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University, Faculty of Agriculture. Ivan Stefanic works intensively with the students and national and international research activities are amended with work with the entrepreneurs in the life long education program. His activities and results in the field of business incubation and technology transfer were reason for being appointed first director of University Technology Development Centre. This way he got the opportunity to apply academic experience to achieve the mission of building knowledge based economy in Croatia. Beside membership in professional associations, he has opportunity to work as UN FAO and The World Bank consultant. He is also member of Croatian Fulbright Alumni Association, SPICE Group and Lions Club Osijek-Waldinger.

Contact: istefanic@tera.hr



Bagrat Yengibaryan, MBA from American University of Armenia in 1997 and Ph.D. in Mathematics, Armenian National Academy of Sciences, 1997 is the Director of the Enterprise Incubator Foundation since 2002 managing the EIF activities on business development, marketing and promotion, management, accounting and finance, start-up creation, helping companies to improve professional and business skills, creation of learning partnerships within the industry and the universities. 1998-2002 he worked as the Executive Director of Foreign Financing Projects Management Center (FFPMC) of Ministry of Finance and Economy of Armenia and administered implementation of numerous donor programs, incl. World Bank Enterprise Development Project, Private Sector Development Project; Structural Adjustment Technical Assistance Projects, and Lincy Foundation's SME Development Program and other projects totaling 100 million dollars. 1995 – 1998 he worked as Chief Program Officer at Foreign Aid Coordination Center (FACC), Ministry of Economy of Armenia. 1994 – 1995 he was the Third Secretary of Armenian National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. Currently he is the Chairman of "Investment and Business Opportunities" working group under the IT Development Support Council established by the Armenian Government, Chairman of the Board of the first Armenian venture capital foundation "Venture Management Advisors", Chairman of the Board of "IT Center" Science and Education Foundation, Chairman of the Board of "Sourcio" IT start-up.

Contact: info@eif.am

About members

Janis Stabulnieks is busy as always. He is working on the "Operational plan 2007-13" for the use of EU Structural funds in Latvia, works on Business Incubator and Competence Center programs, and is active in 12 EU projects his business incubator is running. Just recently a project under the name "Innovation Circus" was approved by EC and next year at the Baltic Dynamics 2007 (September 12-14, 2007 - book your diary) the Circus week in Riga with will be organized. Potentials for cooperation with SPICE are being investigated. Curious? Need more information? Contact Janis Stabulnieks under ltc@latnet.lv

And finally...

This Update focuses on the SPICE Art Ball 2006 because we so not want to miss any possibility for encouraging all members to take part in this anniversary activity. Once it is ready the SPICE Art Ball will be a lasting memory of the fifteenth anniversary of the SPICE networking activities and the creative spirit of our members and friends. None of the members should be missing on this milestone of art history.

And again: As you may remember, we asked in recent Updates to check your files for documents and photos from SPICE History. Up to now we did not receive too many documents. Therefore we repeat our request here.

Looking forward to meeting with you personally at one of the coming 15th SPICE Anniversary meeting and receiving your draft (or final) triangles for the SPICE Art Ball

Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska