TELE BALT

ist
information society technologies

Baltic IT&T 2002

TELEBALT workshop
"Information Technologies, Tourism and Social Integration"
RIGA, LATVIA, 2002
4-5 April p.19

TELEBALT project advertises and promotes Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme to three Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) by fast and efficient dissemination and awareness actions targeted on Baltic countries as states newly associated to European Union. These goals are fulfilled using new methods of team work, such as teleworking, virtual laboratories, etc. EU and Baltic states interested parties are encouraged to work together for the benefits of joint Europe.

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Editorial

TELEBALT project, as IST Programme accompanying measure, aims to strengthen the links between European Union (EU) member countries and the three Baltic states in the field of Information Society technologies and new methods of team work. TELEBALT tackles the European dimension problem of integration of the three EU newly associated Baltic states (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) into European information society by implementation and adaptation of relevant teleworking tools. In addition to direct benefits for user communities in these EC newly associated states, the action will promote the wider goals of European integration by facilitating scientific, educational, environmental and business cooperation, free flow of information and mutual knowledge and understanding. TELEBALT is directly related with IST Programme as a whole, and especially with its key action (ii) "New methods of work and electronic commerce". The project also contributes to other key actions. TELEBALT will significantly contribute to the extension of IST Programme to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

It is foreseen that as a result of the project, information dissemination, gathering, training and implementation actions, as well as the market potential for IST telematics applications and products will progress significantly both in EU and the Baltic countries markets.

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TELEBALT project: general scope

Alexander Beriozko, Tatiana Shulyakovskaya, Edmundas Zvirblis, Dinnija Mudure, Konstantin Baranov
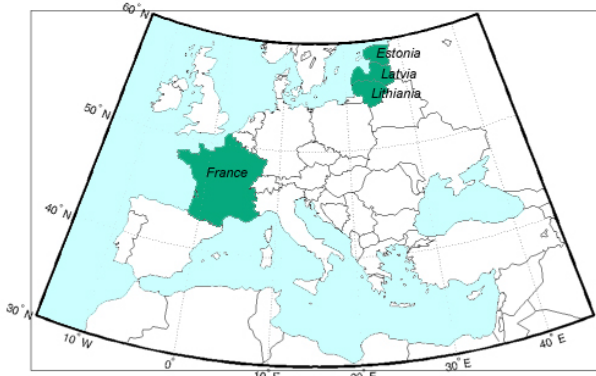
TELEBALT project will advertise and promote IST Programme to three Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) by fast and efficient dissemination and awareness actions targeted on Baltic countries as states newly associated to European Union. This objective will be fulfilled using new methods of team work, such as teleworking, virtual laboratories, *etc*. EU and Baltic states interested parties will be encouraged to work together for the benefits of joint Europe. The project will perform technology studies of the present situation together with IST development in three Baltic countries, and will formulate appropriate recommendations to EU research and marketing communities as far as prospectives of potential Baltic market are concerned.

TELEBALT will deploy and further develop a system of Information Demonstration Centres (IDCs) in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Basing on this system the project will organize kick-off planning meeting and workshop in Riga, TELEBALT major conference in Vilnius and outlook workshop in Tallinn devoted to IST Programme objectives and opportunities for EC newly associated states. TELEBALT will introduce new methods of team work to develop project focal points in participating countries, capable to operate at high level in modern Information Society. The project will provide training measures (distant and face-to-face) to promote dissemination of IST Programme and future relevant EC programmes to Baltic states. TELEBALT will encourage submission of new project proposals to EC.

Training courses will describe EU, Fifth and Sixth Framework and IST Programmes in the mode useful for pre-accession countries. CoBrow collaborative browsing and Virtual Presence System (VPS) toolkits, PL@ZA groupware developed by IST Programme, will be introduced for EU-Baltic states team work. TELEBALT will present IST results to Baltic countries telematic, business, research and unemployment prevailors communities, emphasizing the major tendencies of the European telematics activities.

The main objectives of TELEBALT project are:

1. Promote IST Programme to the three Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia), by implementing fast dissemination and awareness actions targeted to the Baltic countries, as EC newly associated states.
2. Introduce new methods of team work (tele-working, virtual collaborative teams, *etc.*) into the three participating Baltic countries to launch new educational, research, tele-medicine and business projects.
3. Encourage, by these actions, preparation and submission of new project proposals to IST Programme and similar future EC programmes, with participation of the Baltic countries. Contribute in this way to the development of potential new market for Information Society Technologies programme and other EC supported telematic products. The project should result in submission of new project proposals to IST Programme and future similar EC programmes.
4. Perform technology studies of the present situation with Information Society Technologies in the three Baltic countries. Basing on results of these studies, provide (through TELEBALT Web-site, Newsletters and "EU-Baltic States Team Work" CD-ROM) corresponding information, and formulate appropriate recommendations to EU research and marketing telematics communities. These recommendations will be used in EU research activities concerning socio-economic and scientific/technological trends of the potential three Baltic countries market. It will also contribute to integration of Baltic states into EU knowledge management systems.
5. Develop a system of Information Demonstration Centres (IDCs) in the three Baltic countries. Basing on this system, organize TELEBALT kick-off planning meeting and major project conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, workshop in Riga, Latvia, and outlook demonstration workshop in Tallinn, Estonia, devoted to IST Programme products and opportunities for the Baltic countries. Provide in-depth demonstrations of relevant EU telematics products in order to demonstrate potential capacity and the results of IST Programme to the Baltic states telematics community with emphasis on the user-friendliness. The IDCs system will ensure the "physical basis" for TELEBALT project, its smooth functioning in 2001-2003. TELEBALT Web-sites will be developed in each of three IDCs in Riga, Vilnius and Tallinn. Each of three IDCs will be focused on a concrete area of applications. For example, IDC in Tallinn will deal with unemployment matters.
6. Present the results of IST Programme to the Baltic states telematics community, indicating the tendencies of the European telematics development. Select, adapt to English language (the language of present international communication in the Baltic countries) and demonstrate in the IDCs, selected telematics tools that will clearly show IST Programme objectives, opportunities and results to the relevant audience in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.
7. Adapt, demonstrate and implement in the three Baltic states Virtual Presence System (VPS), developed in

IST by consortium led by University of Ulm, Germany (SHOPEAWARE and WISTCIS projects). Implementation of this new method of work the Baltic countries scientific, business, telemedicine and networking communities will drastically increase their participation in IST. EU-Baltic states teleworking teams focused on concrete project goals will be born in this way by TELEBALT.

8. Provide training measures (through TELEBALT Web-site and face-to-face) to promote dissemination of IST Programme to the Baltic countries community. It concerns with new intellectual, technical and economical opportunities that IST Programme opens for the pre-accession countries, to increase knowledge in the Baltic states about European Commission, Fifth Framework Programme, former, present and future programmes, with special attention to IST Programme, including logistic, management, financial accounting and auditing systems and requirements.

The overall methodology that will be used to achieve TELEBALT project objectives is based on demonstration, dissemination, adaptation and implementation of telematics applications developed by the EC major telematics programme IST, for goal-oriented team work of interested EU and Baltic states partners. At the same time, actual implementation by TELEBALT of the new methods of work will drastically enhance the knowledge and working abilities of the three Baltic countries research, environmental, educational and business communities. Practical implementation of TELEBALT project methodology will be based on the system of Information Demonstration Centres (IDCs) that will be deployed in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, already in the first year of TELEBALT project. Each of the IDCs will be goal-oriented. For example, the IDC in Tallinn will deal with telematics in unemployment problems. The IDCs will possess their: local area network (LAN) with high capacity Internet connection; regularly updated library (books, IST project reports, electronic publications, Internet references, CD-ROMs); demonstration software library; services to provide telematics documentation and demonstration software; interactive goal-oriented Web-site; facilities to organize TELEBALT demonstrations and gatherings.

The workplan of TELEBALT project consists of six workpackages closely interconnected with each other. The methodology is defined by the following major project actions:

1. Elaboration of three TELEBALT Technology Watch Web-sites in the IDCs in Riga, Vilnius and Tallinn, that will present the opportunities of teleworking for EU-Baltic sates collaboration in education, research, business, tele-medicine, unemployment problems and environmental protection.
2. Development of training courses for newly EU-associated Baltic countries audience devoted to structure, functions, requirements, methods of work, *etc.*, of the EC and IST in particular, with emphasis on opportunities that IST opens for new telematics methods of work for joint EU-Baltic states teams;

3. Development of Web-oriented "EU-Baltic States Team Work" CD-ROM that will contain information on the participating Baltic states countries, customs and joint ventures laws, lists of telematics organizations in the Baltic states countries, the Baltic states market studies information, training courses, schemes of computer networks, *etc.* The information of the CD-ROM will be also available on-line from TELEBALT project Web-sites.
4. Organization of TELEBALT kick-off planning meeting and major project conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, workshop in Riga, Latvia, and outlook demonstration workshop in Tallinn, Estonia. These gatherings will target two main goals. The first one is to inform and start information, education and training of the Baltic states telematics, business, tele-medicine, research and educational communities, targeting on opportunities that IST opens for them in the field of new methods of team work with EU partners. The second goal is to demonstrate, disseminate and implement the new methods of work for concrete collaboration between EU member states and newly EU-associated three Baltic countries. Collaborative browsing toolkit developed by Ulm University, Germany (CoBrow RE 1003), and IST project THINK teleworking kit developed by TELEMANutenção S.A., Portugal, will be widely introduced at TELEBALT Vilnius conference, Riga and Tallinn workshops. By doing that it will build a bridge for the three newly EU-associated countries to new tendencies of the European telematics activities.

TELEBALT project has clear public targets. The most important is to increase significantly awareness in IST developments of wide circles of population in the three Baltic states. Telematic communities in these states are becoming not the only target of the project. Research, educational, business, medical, environmental and advertizing communities are other project focuses as far as the project audience is concerned.

TELEBALT partners
Association EDNES, France

Jean Bonnin, Alexei Gvishiani

EDNES branches

TELEBALT coordinator is "Reseau pour les echanges en matiere d'education et de recherche dans le domain des sciences de la Terre" ("Earth Data Network for Education and Scientific Exchange", EDNES, http://www.ednes.org/). It is is a non-governmental, non-

profit, international association, registered under the French law in Strasbourg, France, in 1993. EDNES headquarters are located in Strasbourg, France. Currently it has branches in Strasbourg, France; Moscow, Russia; Rabat, Morocco; Kiev, Ukraine; Baku, Azerbaijan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Other branches are planned to be opened in Yerevan, Armenia, and Boulder, Colorado, USA. EDNES Lusaka branch in Zambia was active in 1993-1995. EDNES has corporate and personal membership.

EDNES members include scientists from Strasbourg Louis Pasteur University and Paris Institute of Physics of the Earth (IPGP), France; Stanford University, USA; Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Moscow Lomonosov State University (MSU), Russia; Tashkent University, Uzbekistan; Mohammadia School of Engineers, Morocco; National Technical University of Ukraine "Kiev Politechnical Institute" (NTUU "KPI"); National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; Baku Scientific and Training Centre (BSTC), Azerbaijan. EDNES is open for new members, provided that they are willing to contribute to the goals pursued by the association.

EDNES is headed by a President elected by the assembly of the association. The assembly also elects a Vice-president and endorses the nomination of Secretary-General made by the President. Since 1993, Prof. Jean Bonnin, Strasbourg, France, has been elected as EDNES President, and Prof. Alexei Gvishiani, Moscow, Russia, has been elected as EDNES Vice-president. Dr. Martine Amalvict, Strasbourg, France, has been nominated as EDNES Secretary-General since 1995.

Since 1993, EDNES has implemented projects in collaboration with the EC, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNEP; International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), ICSU Panel on World Data Centres (WDCs); International Lithosphere Programme (ILP), Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Programme (GSHAP); European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC); Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) of NOAA, USA; French Atomic Energy Commission; American, British, French universities; as well as with numerous research, educational, informatics and telematics organizations in the CIS countries. In 1996-1999 EDNES, under the coordination of UNESCO, was the leading participant in the EC TAP project "Support for Telematics Application Cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States (STACCIS)".

EDNES is the coordinator of the IST projects "New Methods of Working for Information Society Technologies Promotion to Commonwealth of Independent States (WISTCIS)" (IST-1999-14106, 2000-2003) and "Teleworking as a Tool for Information Society Technologies Programme Promotion to Baltic States (TELEBALT)" (IST-2001-33041, 2001-2003). EDNES is also the principal contractor of the IST project "Telework Solutions for Promotion of EU Cooperation in Business and Research with the Commonwealth of Independent States (TELESOL)" (IST 1999-29038, 2002-2005).

Three EDNES branches are actively involved in implementation of IST projects: Moscow, Kiev and Baku.

EDNES Moscow branch is operational since 1993 when EDNES was founded. It is based at Centre of Geophysical Data Studies and Telematics Applications (CGDS) of Institute of Physics of the Earth of Russian Academy of Sciences (IPE RAS). CGDS (http://www.ednes.org/CGDS/) is WISTCIS Russian focal point, which hosts the project manager. EDNES Moscow branch is headed by Prof. Alexei D. Gvishiani.

Two other EDNES branches that play important roles in IST projects, are based in National Technical University of Ukraine "Kiev Politechnical Institute" (NTUU "KPI") (EDNES Ukrainian branch) and Baku Scientific and Training Centre (BSTC) (EDNES Azerbaijanean branch).

Ukrainian EDNES branch works in close collaboration with Institute of Applied System Analysis (IASA) of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine - one of the most advanced Ukrainian institutions in the field of teleworking. In particular, the branch has long term telematics applications and tele-working projects with its mother body International Institute of Applied System Analysis (IIASA) in Vienna, Austria. Prof. Mikhail Z. Zgurovsky is the head of the branch.

Azerbaijanean EDNES branch is hosted by Baku Scientific and Training Centre (BSTC). It has long history of joint projects with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNIDO and UNESCO, in the field of education and training in telematics. This EDNES branch will play an important role in IST projects development in Caucasian countries. Tofig Babaev is the head of Azerbaijanean branch.

Association INFOBALT, Lithuania

Dziugas Juknys, Edmundaz Žvirblis

D.Juknys, INFOBALT executive director

E.Žvirblis, TELEBALT project manager

TELEBALT principal contractor is "Lietuvos informacijos technologijų, telekomunikacijų ir raštinės įrangos įmonių asociacija INFOBALT" ("Association INFOBALT of Information Technologies, Telecommunications and Office Equipment of Lithuania", http://www.infobalt.lt). It is a non-governmental, non-profit association, registered under the Lithuanian law in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1994. INFOBALT headquarters is located in Vilnius, Lithuania. Association INFOBALT is advocating and coordinating Lithuanian companies and scientific and educational institutions that deal with

information and communication technologies. It promotes and supports the programs of modern Lithuanian information society development.

At present, the membership of the Association INFOBALT comprises over 145 companies and educational institutions. INFOBALT members include scientists from Vilnius University; Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas; Kaunas Technology University; Law University of Lithuania, Vilnius; Lithuanian Computer Society.

The principal document, which regulates the activities of the Association, is *INFOBALT Association Regulations* approved by the Members' Meeting, the highest Association management organ summoned not rarer than twice a year. During the Meeting, other highest organs must be elected, namely, Association President and its collegial organs, such as the Board, which comprises seven members and is responsible for the execution of the Association annual work procedures as approved by the general Meeting, and the Administration, which executes and organises operative Association activities. Since 2001, Mr. Vytautas Vitkauskas has been elected as INFOBALT President.

The main targets and tasks of the Association INFOBALT activities are:

1. Acknowledge the development of Information Society in Lithuania as a strategic task and prior course of its expansion.

2. Solve the issues of information infrastructure and strategic information systems of State on a centralised and superior State level.

3. Give specific attention to education and science while teaching the youth, first and foremost, pupils and students, to work and live in the information society.

4. Implement modern information and communication technologies, based on their new methods, as well as modern financial operations and environment protection information technologies in the economy and business of the State and develop intellectual information systems in the spheres of traffic and tourism.

5. Create the infrastructure of e-retailing and its legal basis coordinated with the EU and major international regulations and standards, assist in building a new industry of modern information society technologies in Lithuania, stimulate the interface between the industry and national science and promote the development of information and communication technology commerce.

6. Give more attention to the consecutive learning and education of population and the development of public information services (public administration, health and social security, tele-medicine, tele-work, *etc.*)

7. Promote the integration of the State of Lithuania into the world-wide information society, deploy in full and provide the opportunities of international cooperation for the entities of Lithuanian economy and administration institutions, and participate in European and other international programs and initiatives which develop information society.

Over time, the Association INFOBALT has been acknowledged both by local and international organizations, where it has been invited to represent Lithuanian information technologies and communication equipment market. INFOBALT is a member of European Information Technology and Software Association (EISA), World-wide Information Technology and Services Association (WITSA) and Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA).

The first steps of cooperation have been made towards legislation and lobbying which may ease the expansion processes of the Information Society technologies and e-business etiquette, it may also eradicate impediments to business and emphasize the importance of political rule in the process of the Information Society development.

Since 2000 INFOBALT has implemented projects in collaboration with the EC and PHARE.

Since 1994 INFOBALT organizes in Vilnius, Lithuania, the annual international trade fair on information society technologies INFOBALT and since 1999 the annual international conference INFORMATION SOCIETY.

Non-Profit Organization „Public Foundation "Open Latvia"

Dinnija Mudure

D.Mudure, TELEBALT OL project manager

TELEBALT principal contractor is Non-Profit Organization (NPO) „Public Foundation "Open Latvia" (OL).

The term of "information society" has evolved along with the development of Internet communications. Rapid economic development and industrial revolution have created a new environment without time and geographic boundaries and yet every inhabitant, entrepreneur and consumer is made dependent upon this environment.

Computer technologies, telecommunication achievements and software solutions have a crucial role to play in the process of development of the information society. Through promotion of Latvia's advancement in the area of the Information Technologies (IT) services and taking the opportunities arising therefrom, Latvia has a chance to speed up its economic development. Based on these outlines NPO "Public Foundation "Open Latvia" was established in February 2000.

The main goal of the NPO "Public Foundation "Open Latvia" is to facilitate the creation of the information society in Latvia.

The main sets of tasks and activities of the NPO "Public Foundation "Open Latvia"" are:

1. Cooperation with similar organizations in the Baltic countries and member states of the European Union

1.1. Actively promote Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme in the three Baltic countries through the awareness raising and dissemination work.

1.2. Implement into daily activities the new methods of work (teleworking, virtual laboratories, e-commerce, *etc.*).

1.3. Participate in EU pilot and development projects, paying specific attention to integration of the marginal groups.

1.4. Conduct the technological study work in the area of IST development in all three Baltic countries.

1.5. Develop relevant recommendations within the frameworks of the cooperation projects.

2. Promotion of tourism-related activities in Latvia, using the advantages provided by the IT

2.1. Develop and implement the unified tourism information system for Latvia and the Baltic countries.

2.2. Create a comprehensive tourism information database in Latvia.

2.3. Promote tourism possibilities in Latvia through the application of the new technologies.

2.4. Provide the information on tourism business opportunities.

3. Solutions for the Information Technologies (IT)

3.1. Promote the features of the IT and implement their application into the daily work.

3.2. Develop the IT software products, based on user-friendly environment on the Web.

In order to achieve the goal and comply with the above tasks, OL is implementing the following projects.

1. Cooperation with similar organizations in the Baltic countries and the member states of the European Union

OL is taking an active part in the development and implementation of different international projects, whereby it is cooperating with the well known companies in the Baltic countries and the member states of the European Union specializing in the area of tourism and the IT. Currently, OL is involved in the following projects of the Fifth Framework Programme (FFP) of the EU: TELEBALT, E3WORK, and THINK.

E3Work

The goal of the E3WORK project is to promote the use of teleworking in Newly Associated States (NAS), help ing them to fill the gap in this area of the Information Society, already well in practice in the European Union (EU). This project will create an infrastructure to help their integration in EU. In five countries from Central Europe and Baltic states, the NAS local telework projects will be launched,

training of trainers organised, and pilot teams of teleworkers hosted by industry, set up and monitored to formalise specific rules and overpass local obstacles, in relation with industry, local authorities and unions. The project will re-use experience and original methodology successfully implemented by the Coordinator in its country. The Project Virtual Community on the Web will become, for the NAS, a reference depository for the dissemination of information on e-work, for complementary training by e-studies and learning and for awareness of the EU R&D Programmes. A virtual community of teleworkers will be created, to become a depository of information, results, and rules on e-work in NAS. The pilots will be "virtual show room" for other candidates to telework, especially from industry and SMEs. A multiplication effect will ensure the survival of this system. The number of teleworkers trained and involved will measure the success of the Project.

THINK

THINK (Towards Handicap Integration Negotiating Knowledge) project aims to create and implement a technological, organisational and social model that will provide new solutions for handicapped and disabled persons.

The model of this project is based on telework - an important element in the working environment of the Information Society. THINK features an integrated and transversal approach to the countries participating, enhancing the opportunities for cooperation, showing that telework has no geographical boundaries and that any company or individual, no matter the location, has potential to compete and to cooperate nationally as well as internationally. The project main goal is the professional integration of people with disabilities, so that they become productive, profitable and self-sufficient, by using information and communication technologies. Through telework, the project will develop their capabilities in this area, helping them to market their services and aiding them in this way to achieve full professional integration.

2. Promotion of tourism-related activities in Latvia Using the advantages provided by the IT

NPO "Public Foundation "Open Latvia" is implementing the part of the investment project of the Government of Latvia "Creation of the Unified Tourism Information System". The project was commissioned by the Ministry for the Environmental Protection and Regional Development and its subordinate institution Latvian Tourism Development Agency.

The goal of the Unified Tourism Information System is to provide a modern, unified, computerized and on-line functioning tourism information center (TIC) network and standardized tourism information accumulation system for the creation of an electronic database. This database includes all the actual and objective information necessary for traveling within Latvia for local and foreign tourists, as well as for tourism services providers, TICs interested institutions and business persons.

The tasks of the Unified Tourism Information System are:

1. create a comprehensive electronic database on tourism related possibilities in Latvia;

2. ensure the input of tourism related information as well as the regular updating in the unified database, from 36 workstations all over Latvia through the Web communications;

3. ensure the access for local and foreign travelers to the database at Latvian tourism portal: *http://www.latviatourism.lv*;

4. ensure fast and easy working, visual attractiveness, availability of quality information at tourism portal;

5. provide the tourism information in Latvian, English, German and Russian, to widen the target group of the tourism portal;

6. ensure that the project meets EU guidelines and Workshop groups, so the project fits well into the global European and worldwide tourism information networks;

7. develop and implement a marketing strategy for the newly established tourism portal, based on promotion of the tourism opportunities provided by the portal in Latvia and abroad;

8. train the staff of TICs in using the system and input of data into the unified input forms.

The following partners are involved in the project:
- Ministry of the Environment Protection and Regional Development;
- Latvian Tourism Development Agency ;
- Latvian Association of Castles and Mansions;
- Latvian Association of Fishers.

In order to promote the economic development of the tourism business in Latvia, OL offers tourism business consultancy services. In cooperation with the tourism specialists and financial consultants, entrepreneurs consulting and business plan development are offered for the tourism service development and attraction of funds.

3. Solutions for the Information Technologies (IT)

OL offers different IT solutions and implements the multimedia projects. One of the most important products is Intelligent Open Tourism Systems (IOTS) software. It is a computerized tourism information management system, providing a unified and functioning use on the web by tourism operators (TICs, associations, and agencies). IOTS includes client applications specially programmed for the work with wide databases and computerized tourism operator workplaces. In 2001 multimedia disc *"Latvia in Photos"* was developed by OL and was highly rated by users and professionals.

Multimedia disc *"Economic development of Riga"* has been prepared for launching.

In cooperation with the Baltic Web Design, the presentation disc on Latvian Railways is being prepared, focusing on cargo transportation in 2001.

OL has developed several home pages for its cooperation partners.

Participation in the preparation of the international projects has given OL an opportunity to find partners both in Latvia, and abroad. Continuing with this work, OL

wishes to efficiently integrate new working methods in the Baltic countries and widen the international cooperation to achieve the company's goals. OL is open for new cooperation partners operating in this area.

Inforing Limited , Estonia

Dmitry Smirnov, Konstantin Baranov

K.Baranov, TELEBALT Inforing AS project manager

Inforing Limited (Estonia) is a subcontractor of EDNES Association in the framework of TELEBALT project. Inforing Limited is a commercial company, registered under the Estonian law in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1994. Inforing Ltd. headquarters is located in Kohtla-Jarve city and has a representation in Tallinn (capital city of Estonia). Inforing Ltd. is one of the biggest publication houses of Estonia and Internet information provider. The company issues one newspaper and four magazines in Estonian and Russian languages, and supports Internet information about Estonian news, business, sports, art, science, education and communication technologies. It promotes and supports the programs of modern Estonian information society development. The company works with other participants for development of transport information systems. The director of the company is Dmitry Smirnov and the project manager of the company is Konstantin Baranov. Inforing Ltd. has very professional staff: 25 persons in Kohtla-Jarve and two persons in Tallinn. The turnover of the company *per* year is nearby 8 000 000 EEK and is increasing every year.

The main aims and activities of the company are:
• Acknowledge the development of Information Society in Estonia as a strategic task and prior course of its expansion and introducing these ideas in public mentality *via* own editions and Internet sources. Give specific attention to news about politics, education, sports and science, and in the first place for youth, pupils, students.
• Information of Estonian population regarding unemployment problems and possibilities of living in the information society by using of modern information and communication. Give more attention to the consecutive learning and education of population and the development of public information services.

The editions of the company are:
• The main edition is the newspaper "Infopress". It is the oldest newspaper of Estonia after independence,

for North-Eastern region of the State and Tallinn region. The main contents of newspaper are: news, education, sports, business. This is a weekly newspaper, 10000 copies each issue.

• Magazines "TV-week", "Dajest", "Advertisement Desk". The main contents are: TV-news and programmes, articles, private advertisements, publicity. Total issue is approximately 50,000 copies *per* month.

• Internet newspaper "Infopress" with main information from the company editions and with registration systems for unemployement people. It gives more attention to the information of city government and local business.

The equipment of the company includes:

• two servers in Tallinn (P-III 800 MHz/500 MB RAM/43 GB HDD each);

• 23 workstations for staff in Kohtla-Jarve and Tallinn;

• two special computers for edition aims;

• special and professional scanners and office printing equipment.

During the last year the company put more attention to development of Internet sites, and today it supports the biggest site in Russian language in Estonia and plans, during the first part of 2002, to open sites in Estonian and English. It will be included in the framework of TELEBALT project site in Estonia. The company maintains very close communication with all official business and social associations and organizations in Estonia.

CODATA goals and CODATA-FRANCE activities

Jacques-Emile Dubois, Jacques-Octave Dubois, Alexei Gvishiani

The activities of CODATA (Committee on Data on Science and Technology of International Council of Sciences), since its creation in 1966, deal with the information revolution. CODATA operations started with research on data quality in numerous scientific disciplines. CODATA has always been in the forefront of the important improvements linked to informatics and telematics for the realization of data banks and information sharing networks. With the occurrence of Multiplex techniques and communication languages, CODATA was involved in different data studies and management actions text: text file images, *etc.* Its activity was developed in cooperative research from and often through interdisciplinary projects coordination. It has also been successful in diverse branches of science and technology (thermodynamics, materials, biology, telematics applications, geosciences, environmental studies, defense of the intellectual property rights of scientists, *etc.*) CODATA is an international association that includes 22 member states. It is legally registered in Paris, France, since 1966. Its role in the modern information society development extends to different fields: data access issues,

data quality in the Internet era, metrology and fundamental constants, promotion of modern instruments, telematics and teleworking techniques, data archiving, interoperability of Web data resources, new key data sets, resources for the average scientist, data science, information society promotion in developing countries, data management in environmental problems.

Goals and Activities of CODATA-FRANCE in relation with CODATA International

CODATA International includes as members national committees of the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine, USA. The following international scientific Unions are also official members of CODATA: International Astronomical Union, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, International Union of Biological Sciences, International Geographical Union, International Union of Crystallography, International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, International Union of Geological Sciences, International Union of Psychological Science, International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics, International Union of Nutritional Sciences, International Union of Pharmacology, International Union of Immunological Societies, International Union of Microbiological Societies, International Union of Soil Science. French CODATA committee is an officially registered French non-profit association, which has its legal seat in Paris, 51 boulevard de Montmorency. The main areas of activities of CODATA-FRANCE are promotion actions in the following fields: Materials and Eco-materials; Quality Management in Industry Data Metrology and Quality; Promotion of Informatics, Telematics and Teleworking Tools; Environmental Integrated Data Systems; Security and Fire Research, Construction Materials; High Tech: Electronic and Optical Materials; Image Maps; Artificial Intelligence Algorithms Development and Application to Geophysical Databases.

CODATA-FRANCE concentrated its own major activity in several fields including Information Sciences Technologies promotion. It conducted workshops with other National Committees and has been really active in editing specialized books dealing with information management support, telematics and tele-working applications, as well as artificial intelligence data management techniques. These publications, online services from a CODATA-FRANCE server, specialized workshops and large cooperative projects, form the bulk of its activities. CODATA is engaged in the rapid expansion of electronic publishing, new techniques in the internet storage and data security networks. Furthermore, CODATA is concerned with projects for integrating very diversified data sets, as well as with physics, informatics, economics and societal fields, *e.g.* projects in sustainable environment.

In these activities, changes imply new complex problems dealing with property law and fair and/or free

access to information. In all these fields the National Committees can participate with experts in the appropriate CODATA Task Groups.

Recent realizations and productions of CODATA-FRANCE

Books

Ten books were published in the collection *Data and Knowledge in a Changing World*, Springer Verlag, Germany, initiated by CODATA-FRANCE. Among these, to take three different fields, are:

- Information - Jacques-Emile Dubois and Nahum Gershon: *Modeling Complex data for Creating Information*, Springer, 1996;
- Modelization and pattern recognition – Jacques-Octave Dubois and Alexei Gvishiani: *Dynamic Systems and Dynamic Pattern Recognition in Geophysical Applications*, Springer, 1998;
- Environment - Jean Jacques Royer and Claude Bardinet: *Geosciences and Water Resources, Environmental Data Modeling*, Springer, 2000.

For 2002, two new books are in press:
- Environment and Earth Sciences - Alexei Gvishiani and Jacques-Octave Dubois: *Artificial Intelligence and Dynamic Systems in Geophysical Applications*, Springer, 2002;
- Communication - H. Bestougeff, J.-E. Dubois and B. Thuraisingham: *Heterogeneous Information, Exchange and Organizational Hubs*, Kluwer, 2002.

Large cooperative projects

CODATA-FRANCE with its expertise in information theory techniques, carries out organizational tasks for various symposia that initiate cutting edge technologies (imagery, exchange languages, security software), such as that on the impact of computing on pharmocol vigilance: "*Information Highway Tools for Adverse Drug Reactions (ADR)*", Chambery-1998, and that on "*Management of Data, Information and Knowledge (DIK)*", Paris-1999, organized with European and other international sponsors. Similarly, in July 2002, a symposium will be held in Paris on: "*Information, Visualization, Presentation and Design*".

CODATA-FRANCE managed CODATA's 17th International Conference in Baveno, Italy (15-19 October 2000, about 200 participants), covering the fields of Information Society and those of Environment, with the help of UNESCO and of the European Commission's Joint Research Center, ISPRA (Environmental Research Institute). CODATA-FRANCE was called upon to centralize and coordinate various expertise projects, among which are:

- Evaluating the dangers of pollution in the environment (French Ministry of the Environment);
- Definition Study ordered as a pre-report for the Direction Generale XII (Norms, Means and Trials - 1994 to 1998) to identify a European Network for the Exchange of Expertise in Urban Environments/EU/NORMEX/URBA), November, 1997 Workshop. The objectives corresponded to the definition of norms and standards in measurements and monitoring systems;

- For the French Ministry of Industry, CODATA-FRANCE carried out a documentary study for creating a curriculum of alternative studies (Industrial/University) at the University of Marne-la-Vallee on quality management. CODATA-FRANCE examined the aspects of this management in several countries;
- CODATA-FRANCE, along with CODATA International, is an important TELEBALT participant. In fact, it is one of the major organizers of TELEBALT major conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, in October 2002. In TELEBALT project, CODATA is responsible for demonstration and implementation of numerous IST teleworking products in the Baltic States.

Together with its expertise on networks of heterogeneous databases and problems of trans-operability, CODATA-FRANCE coordinated an important program for identifying structures for use in the construction industry. This program involved three national technical centers: CSTB (Wood) / CTBA (Construction) / CTICM (Metallurgy) together with the University of Chambery (Civil Engineering and Habitat). The use of the accepted vocabularies made it possible to apply an original software to exploit a system of complex (heterogeneous) data called SYDOX. The SYDOX Programs used in this contract are conceived for dealing with various formulae of communication between experts, professionals and users. The results of this project can be accessed on the CODATA-FRANCE server (http://www.codata.fr/).

Thanks to its knowledge in information theory, CODATA-FRANCE is currently developing specific activities on four axes or sectors of expertise, the first of which constitutes a new road on the technical level:

1. Medical Issues and DIK (teleworking network),
2. Economic Intelligence and DIK Management (security),
3. Telematic Handling of DIK and Design in Construction,
4. Telematics and teleworking in Earth Sciences and environmental issues.

All of these endeavors imply extended cooperation largely depending on common working concepts and personal contacts. For instance, in Sector 4, CODATA works in close collaboration with EDNES. CODATA activities in this field are actively shared with Prof. Jean Bonnin (EDNES President), Louis-Pasteur University, Strasbourg, France, and Prof. Alexei Gvishiani (EDNES Vice-president), Schmidt Institute of Physics of the Earth, Moscow, Russia. The latter is the chairman of CODATA Task Group "Data management and Virtual Laboratories".

CODATA-FRANCE, a not-for-profit association, adds to its broad national expertise in many fields by numerous enriching contacts with other national CODATA committees and with the International Council for Science (ICSU). It also works with other associations that can benefit from its valuable expertise in the quality of data/information so essential in regional and worldwide information systems.

TELEBALT conference and workshops

Jean Bonnin, Alexei Gvishiani

The main objectives of TELEBALT conference and workshops are:

- to organize in 2001-2003 TELEBALT kick-off planning meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania (December 2001), workshop in Riga, Latvia (February 2002), main conference in Vilnius, Lithuania (October 2002) and outlook demonstration workshop in Tallin, Estonia (September 2003), in total for 300 telematics users, developers, vendors and service providers in Baltic countries with participation of potential EU team work partners
- to inform the Baltic states research, educational and business communities, especially those involved in tourism, as well as governmental offices dealing with unemployment matters, on new opportunities opened by IST and EC in general
- to provide in-depth demonstrations of CoBrow collaborative browsing technique and Virtual Presence System (VPS), European Knowledge Platform (EKP), and other IST efficient teleworking products, for potential adaptation and usage by joint EU-Baltic states teams
- to increase drastically the Baltic states participation in IST and similar EC programmes in the future and to continue forming in this way new potential market for EU telematics products

Kick-off project planning meeting has been convened in Vilnius, Lithuania, in December 2001, shortly after the beginning of TELEBALT. The meeting was hosted by the Lithuanian partner and organized jointly by EDNES and INFOBALT. Key figures of the consortium as well as project subcontractors took part in the planning meeting. The next project gathering will be workshop "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, TOURISM AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION" that will be organized in Riga, Latvia, by the Latvian partner "Open Latvia" in April 2002. Major project conference entitled "TELEWORKING FOR BUSINESS, EDUCATION AND ELECTRONIC COMMERCE" will be organized in Vilnius, Lithuania, in the end of October 2002. In time and audience the conference will be affiliated with major Baltic states IST exhibition, which is organized yearly by INFOBALT on the last week of October. Vilnius State University will take active part in the organization of the conference. TELEBALT outlook workshop "TELEMATICS AND UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS" will be organized in Tallinn, Estonia, at the end of the project, tentatively in September 2003. The outlook workshop will disseminate IST results in Baltic states and will provide a bridge to new European telematic programme. All three gatherings will be organized by corresponding TELEBALT IDC in collaboration with EDNES. Up to 250-300 participants from the Baltic countries are expected to take part in TELEBALT conference in Vilnius, which will be three days long. The workshops will be 2 days long and will be attended by approximately 100 participants. Selected IST products including CoBrow, VPS, EKP, THINK teleworking kit, will be demonstrated at the conference and the workshops. A prototype of EU-Baltic states team work CD-ROM will be demonstrated at the conference in Vilnius and evaluated at the workshop in Tallinn. TELEBALT training courses (WP 5) developed by EDNES in collaboration with the French telematic expert J-C. Marot, JCM Consultants, will be delivered in face-to-face mode at the three TELEBALT gatherings. Consulting service will follow the conference and the workshops *via* TELEBALT Web-sites. The conference and workshop will be attended by delegates from all three Baltic countries.

- TELEBALT workshop "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, TOURISM AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION", Riga, Latvia, April 2002
- TELEBALT major project conference "TELEWORKING FOR BUSINESS, EDUCATION AND ELECTRONIC COMMERCE", Vilnius, Lithuania, October 2002
- TELEBALT outlook workshop "TELEMATICS AND UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS", Tallinn, Estonia, September 2003

Training Course on the EU and the Fifth Framework Programme for the Baltic States

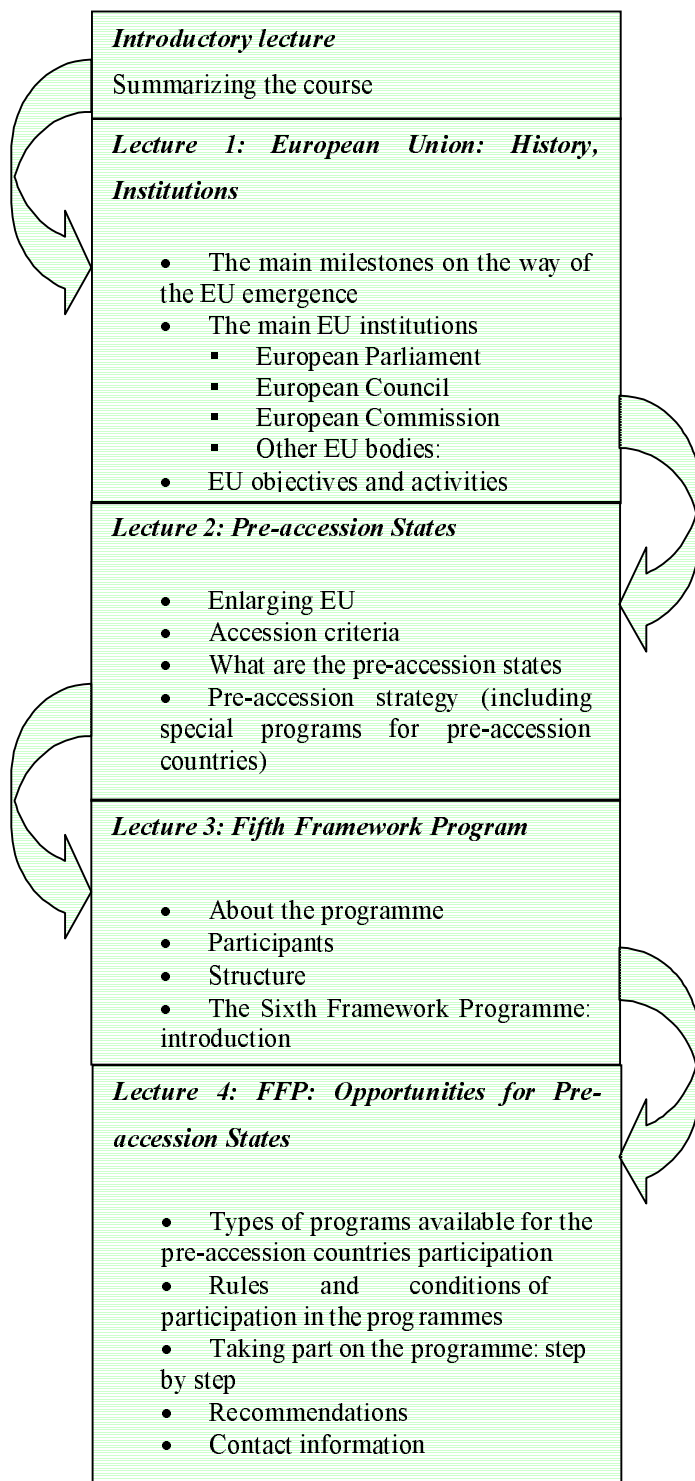*Jean-Claude Marot, Natalia Shulyakovskaya*

A series of lectures on the European Union (EU) and the Fifth Framework Programme (FFP) for the Baltic States is being prepared in the framework of TELEBALT project. This course of lectures introduces the European Union, its structure, objectives, programs and particularly the Fifth Framework Programme to the audience of the three Baltic states: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The course is divided into four lectures plus an introductory one that summarizes all information.

The **first** lecture, entitled **"European Union: History, Institutions"**, includes the following parts: main milestones on the way of EU emergence; main EU institutions (European Parliament, European Council, European Commission, and other EU bodies: Court of Justice, Court of Auditors, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, European Ombudsman, European Investment Bank, European Central Bank); EU objectives and activities.

The **second** lecture is entitled **"Pre-accession States"**. It concerns a variety of aspects of the pre-accession states status in the European Union and opportunities for participation in EU projects for legal entities from these countries. It narrates about the enlargement process in EU and about the pre-accession states; it presents the accession criteria for joining the Union and the pre-accession strategy of EU (including special programs for pre-accession countries).

Plan of the Training Course

Introductory lecture

Summarizing the course

Lecture 1: European Union: History, Institutions

- The main milestones on the way of the EU emergence
- The main EU institutions
  - European Parliament
  - European Council
  - European Commission
  - Other EU bodies:
- EU objectives and activities

Lecture 2: Pre-accession States

- Enlarging EU
- Accession criteria
- What are the pre-accession states
- Pre-accession strategy (including special programs for pre-accession countries)

Lecture 3: Fifth Framework Program

- About the programme
- Participants
- Structure
- The Sixth Framework Programme: introduction

Lecture 4: FFP: Opportunities for Pre-accession States

- Types of programs available for the pre-accession countries participation
- Rules and conditions of participation in the programmes
- Taking part on the programme: step by step
- Recommendations
- Contact information

The **third** lecture of the training course deals mainly with the **Fifth Framework Programme** of the European Union. It introduces the programme in general: its goals, objectives, budget and duration. Another two parts of the lecture concern the Programme participants and its formal structure (including Fifth (EC) RTD framework programme, Fifth (Euratom) framework programme, thematic programmes (content and organization, key actions), horizontal programmes (content and

organization), as well as the Joint Research Centers and types of actions supported in the framework of the FFP).

The **fourth** lecture **"FFP: Opportunities for Pre-accession States"** will be useful for those who decides to participate in the EU Fifth Framework Programme. It narrates in detail about types of programs available for the pre-accession countries, rules and conditions of participation in the FFP (including existing particularities for pre-accession states). It traces the participation in the program – a project fulfilling step by step: how to submit a FFP proposal; how to implement the project; how the control is exercised, and how to prepare reports and accounts. Recommendations on general problems of participation in the FFP and contact information are also given in the lecture.

The lectures are being prepared on the basis of EU Web-site and some additional literature. They are aimed to familiarize the target audience with the European Union and its programs that are open for the Baltic States. They are to rise interest in these programs and to incite the target audience to participate in the programs.

A preliminary version of the course is going to be delivered at TELEBALT workshop in Riga scheduled on April 4-6, 2002. It is planned to present a complete version of the course at TELEBALT conference in Vilnius.

The course was compiled by J-C. Marot (JCM Consultants, France) in cooperation with N. Shulyakovskaya and A. Rysina (Russia).

The content and structure of the course shown in the figure was discussed in detail and approved by TELEBALT kick-off meeting in Vilnius, on December 20-21, 2001.

Collaborative browsing toolkit (CoBrow) and Virtual Presence System (VPS)

Anatoly Soloviev, Ernest Kedrov

The aim of the project "Collaborative Browsing in Information Resources - Tools and Services (CoBrow)" was to bring together users of the WWW. Fundamentally CoBrow provides Virtual Presence in the Web - *i.e.,* Web-users are able to see each other on Web-pages. Several criteria and methods for finding each user have been developed during the CoBrow project.

CoBrow offers a versatile toolbox for building diverse meeting scenarios on the WWW. The meetings are generated in a dynamic fashion based on the concept of vicinities, which is central to the CoBrow project. Vicinity describes a measurable nearness of users to each other. Several methods of establishing vicinities between users of the WWW have been studied. We can assume users of the Web to be in vicinity when they have requested documents on the same WWW server or just any document on the WWW in the same timespan.

After establishing temporary groups of users based on their transient vicinity, which may be interested in communicating with each other, it is necessary to give them means of communication. In the CoBrow context

anything, from a simple chat tool to a full fledged tele-conferencing and application sharing system, can be used.

CoBrow finds other persons browsing the same page or pages in your vicinity. It transforms the Web into a virtual space where people meet on Web-pages. No more dedicated forums and chat rooms. You can meet on every page.

Many Web-users are browsing the same pages at the same time, however they do not notice each other. Not because they ignore the others, but because they cannot see anybody. CoBrow makes the other users visible; it shows the icons and names of those in the vicinity.

CoBrow's impact is an improved user experience of on-line newspapers, virtual stores and many other types of Web-sites. Customers will talk to each other. Sales persons will notice customers entering the virtual store. Content providers will get really close to their customers.

A text based chat is already integrated. Internet telephone can be started by a simple click on the other person's icon.

CoBrow expands WWW servers. The software is added to existing Web-sites. The document database remains untouched. CoBrow does not require software installation at clients.

Advantages

Application	for Users	for Web-sites
Virtual Shopping	See other customers and sales staff	Sales staff notices customers entering a virtual store. They can talk to customers while they are in the store.
Web-based CSCW	See other on-line participants	Augment asynchronous collaboration with synchronous collaboration
Replacement for chat rooms	Users are able to talk to each other on every page (unless pages are excluded by site operator)	No chat software to be installed on the client. Increased flexibility. Pages can be clustered to chat areas
User Tracking		Site operators can watch users browse the pages live. Icons of users move from page to page in a 3-dimensional site display
Chance Meetings on the Web	People 'bump into' each other on a Cobrow enabled Web-site like they do in the real world, at real street corners, in shops, *etc.*	Authors can be permanently present on their pages. Users see them and can talk to them

CoBrow user interface basic capability:
- Display other neighbor's locations
- Chat between neighbors
- Hiding
- Enabling/disabling CoBrow
- Definition of an icon and user's name
- Setting communication URL
- Setting base URL of user's details
- Setting preferred languages

System Requirements:
Cobrow works with any small or medium Web-site, Netscape 3.01 and MSIE 3.0 or higher, any Java compatible WWW browser.
Hardware requirements:
PC: Pentium class 133Mhz / 32Mb
Sun: SS10 / 64 Mb
Server system software platforms:
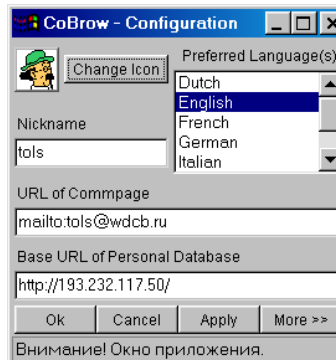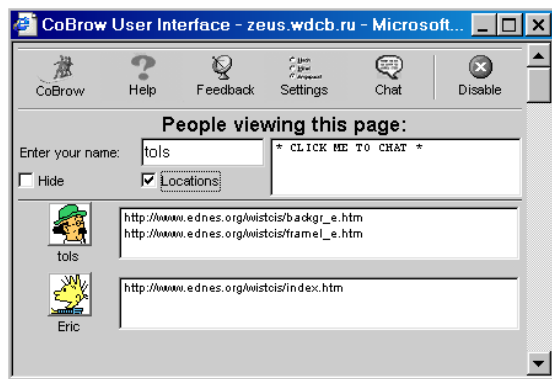Windows NT 4.0
Windows 95/98
SunOS / Solaris 2.x
Linux 2.x
Windows WWW server compatibility:
Microsoft Internet Information Server
Microsoft NT Workstation Peer Web Services (Option Pack 3)
Windows 95 with PWS 4.0 (Personal Web-Server)
Linux / SunOS / Solaris 2.x server compatibility: Apache, Sun Web-Server, W3C/Cern, *etc.*

In the framework of IST accompanying measures WISTCIS project (IST-1999-14106), CoBrow is already installed at the project main Web-site (www.ednes.org/wistcis) and is being adapted for use in the CIS countries for EU-CIS team work in research, education and training, environmental and business activities. Primary focus is the extended multilinguality, specifically support of the Russian language including non-Latin character sets. A considerable part of the work will be changes to the user interface of CoBrow to enable usage of Russian language. Examples are the support of the ISO 8859-5 character set and a Russian language user interface together with help files and a user manual. Both Russian and English versions of CoBrow will be available at WISTCIS main Web-site for free download.

In June 2001, the development of the newest software, called the Virtual Presence System (VPS), to replace CoBrow started in collaboration of University of Ulm with the Centre of Geophysical Data Studies and Telematics Applications of Institute of Physics of the Earth of Russian Academy of Sciences (CGDS IPE RAS). VPS lets people meet on *Virtual Locations* like Web URL, a Web-page/site, GPS coordinates, a chat room and so on. Otherwise people on such locations are unaware of each other. Virtual Presence enables people to communicate and allows to work together at such locations.

In general Virtual Presence brings together neighborhood information delivered by VPS (which user has opened which shared document or which user reside at which location) with static user information or *user properties* like a user name, postal address or phone number, or as well the URL of a users video conferencing system endpoint.

There are two main types and conceptions of Virtual Presence - *Presentity based Presence* and *Location based Presence.*

A simple example of applying the *Presentity based Presence* model is a generic "buddy list" application. These applications typically expose the user's presence to others. So this model is aimed for a static list of users in which you are interested in. You can see if this or that user is currently present at some location, or not.

Location based Presence is intended for accidental meetings on Virtual Locations. It is like the accidental meeting in a shop, or in a library, or educational centre, or in a group that works together. So the person, tracking some Virtual Location doesn't know whom he will meet exactly. This is the main difference between these two models of Virtual Presence.

Currently the system implements the *Location based Presence* model.

Databases are used by the system to store and retrieve specified user properties.

Current characteristics of the Virtual Presence System (VPS) include:

- General purpose Virtual Presence Service for all kind of applications that need Presence related Information;
- Implements Location based Presence;
- Pure Java implementation (can run on every system that supports Java);
- Deals with various database systems like SQL databases, LDAP or proprietary solutions;
- An arbitrary database scheme can be published to the VPS (via a XML file that describes the scheme);
- Implements a client/server architecture with a lean client side API;
- Event controlled: events are generated if Presence or Property Information changes;
- Watcher can filter Presentities (*e.g.* one only likes to see his buddies or his colleagues).

The developed user interface applies the main functions of the VPS.

The system features used are the following:

- Log on to the system as an existing user;
- Creating a new user with defined necessary properties and log on to the system;
- Tracing specified *Virtual Location*:
  - Notification each time the user enters or leaves the *Virtual Location*;
  - Notification each time the message is sent by another user;
- Displaying specified *user properties* (*e.g.* name, homepage, *etc.*);
- Changing own *user properties.*

Based on these features the user interface developed by WISTCIS project in the reporting period includes:

- Specifying the *Virtual Location* to be traced;
- Displaying the alphabetically sorted list of users located at the same *Virtual Location*;
- Common chat;
- Sending private messages to specified user;
- Changing *Virtual Location* to be traced;
- Leave traced *Virtual Location*;
- Log on to the whole system repeatedly;
- Cyrillic letters support while using chat;
- Multilingual interface support.

Examples of using the user interface

New user registration form:

Main window:

Displaying selected user properties:

The user interface now is being installed in Unive rsity of Ulm.

European Knowledge Platform basics

Leopold Reif, Anatoly Soloviev

Introduction

Today telework process collides with the problem of complication in use of applications. That's why integration functions are becoming increasingly important.

Systems introduced to reduce complexity and to improve coherence actually tend to increase complexity. The solution which could be helpful in this case consists in implementing browser-based open-source applications for distributed collaboration and publishing. It leads to enabling applications which are easy to use for everybody.

In this case an increasing interaction level between users and groups results from the sequence information, co-ordination and co-operation. The stock of knowledge and data is moving from the private workplace towards the common area of knowledge and data. It can be shown in the following way:
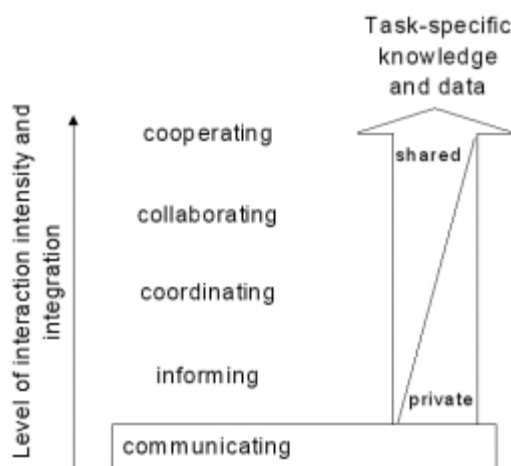
**The shared workspace: access, rights, collaboration**

Each user works with some documents or resources. It can be simple text document, MS-Excel document, Acrobat-PDF document, MS-PowerPoint presentation, simple messages or links. Users collaborate in the virtual shared workspace by working together with such resources that they owe. For example, there are three people within the same virtual space. They can either work in pairs if someone wants to, either all together, sharing their resources:
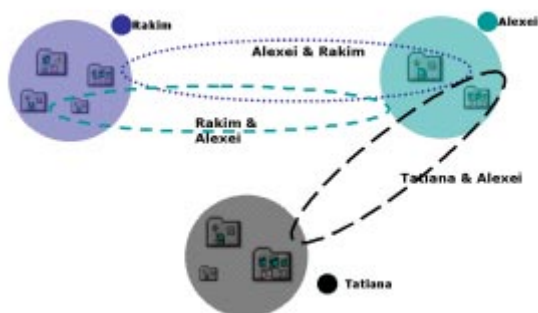
There are two screenshots below, which show browser-based open source application for distributed collaboration:

The system possesses the following possibilities:
- Members coordinate their cooperation *via* the Shared Workspace (self-organized membership administration)
- Repository for information related to tasks; members deposit relevant information (documents, notes, spreadsheets, software, *etc.*) in the workspaces
- Primarily asynchronous cooperation
- Version management
- Discussion forums
- Flexible access rights, locking of documents
- Group awareness: event notification and history
- Search engine for databases
- Document conversion and archiving
- System based on Word Wide Web (WWW)
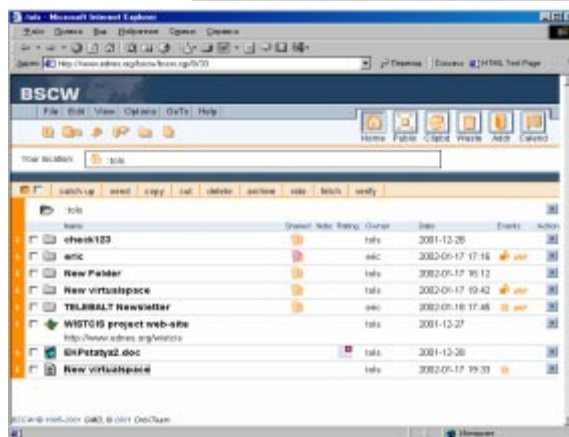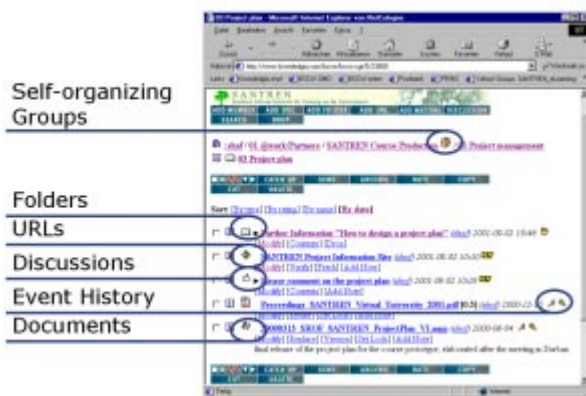
- No client software required

The following functions are implemented:
- Create a folder
- Invite a member
- View the shared workspace you are invited
- Upload a file
- Version the file
- Open a discussion
- Go to your shared workspace

Distributed Collaboration prepares the ground for Distributed Publishing.

E-workers need to capture and distribute knowledge on the fly. Fast processes in networks demand:

- Fast knowledge representation and distribution
- Integration into the value chain networks
- Kowledge owners become knowledge providers

The amount of documents increases and cannot be managed with customary file management tools. Customary software tools for the development of Internet documents facilitate the technical authoring of HTML files but do not support the management of large data volumes.

Through content management, the effort for restructuring and redesign is reduced. This is especially valid for:
- Design changes
- Re-structuring of the content
- Change of the technical system
- Simultaneous Publishing on different systems
- Integration of other contents

Direct representation of knowledge through Enabling Applications results in:
- Reducing the number of intermediaries
- Speeding up knowledge distribution
- Reducing costs considerably
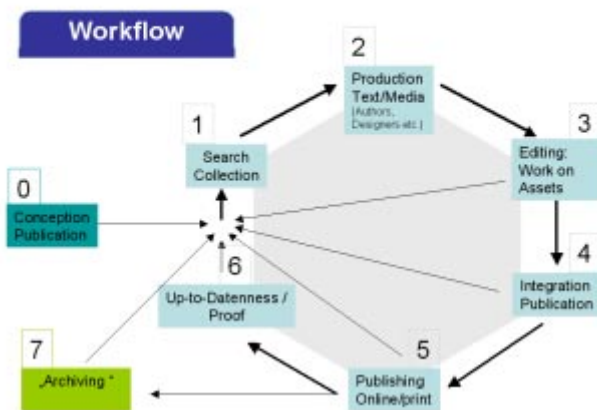
TELEBALT project - Lithuanian Web-site structure

Edmundas Žvirblis, Dziugas Juknys

Introduction
The main goal of the project „Teleworking as a Tool for Information Society Technologies Programme promotion to Baltic States" (TELEBALT) is to promote IST Programme to the three Baltic States. The other main objectives are:
- introduce new methods of team work (teleworking, virtual collaborative teams, *etc.*);
- do technology studies of the present situation;
- develop a system of Information Demonstration Centres (IDCs);
- select, adapt and demonstrate in the IDCs selected telematics tools (PL@ZA team work toolkit, CoBrow collaborative browsing toolkit and others);
- provide training measures;
- present the results of IST programme.

The project Web-sites will be developed in three Baltic states. Lithuanian Web-site will be developed by INFOBALT Association and installed on the project server (http://www.infobalt.lt/telebalt/).

The main information will be presented both in English and Lithuanian. Links to other Baltic States TELEBALT Web-sites will be provided.

Main parts of Lithuanian Web-site
Lithuanian Web-site will include three main parts:
- information on the project and general topics;
- services;
- specific focused information.

Information on the project and general topics
The Web-site will provide the following information:
- presentation of information on TELEBALT project (objectives, deliverables, contact persons);
- TELEBALT project newsletters;
- abstracts of project reports;
- links:
  o main EC links (Directorates, Programmes, related projects, contacts, documents, *etc.*) related to Information Society,
  o IST Programme and other programmes (5FP, 6FP, *etc.*),
  o institutions and organizations related to the EC (IST Programme, Fifth and Sixth Framework Programmes) in Lithuania,
  o public institutions and organizations related to Information Society Programmes and projects development and implementation,
  o business organizations related to IST,
  o universities and research institutes related to IST,
  o mass media related to IST;
- presentation of links related to teleworking, team work, collaborative working tools, techniques, surveys and methodologies;
- information on TELEBALT project conferences and workshops.

Services
The Web-site should provide the following services:
- collaboration and teamwork services (for the project members and part of features for registered users);
- discussion groups (Web forums, bulletin boards, *etc.*);
- registration to workshops, conferences and training courses;
- feedback;
- demonstration of selected tools;
- training (information on training courses, training presentations, demonstrations of teleworking and collaborative tools training applications);
- consulting services on TELEBALT project and selected tools;

- intelligent search (on the basis of project ontology);
- catalogue of the project library (books, CD-ROMs, newspapers, *etc.*);
- project ontology (it should be used in the future for intelligent search, better understanding, information aggregation and transformation to knowledge);
- downloading;
- specific information for the registered users (project members and/or potential partners).

Specific focused information

All three Web-sites in Baltic States will be focused on a concrete area of applications:
- Estonia - unemployment;
- Latvia - tourism and social integration;
- Lithuania - telematics for business and partnership promotion.

Therefore relevant information will be stored on Lithuanian Web-site:
- Lithuanian Information Technology and Telecommunication (ITT) market studies;
- trends of ITT in EU and Lithuania;
- opportunities proposed by IST Programme;
- links to Lithuanian business companies information (main activities, portfolio and contact information);
- links to tele-medicine, education (*e.g.*, distant training) projects carried on in Lithuania;
- links to Lithuanian ITT research information (universities departments and institutes, research institutes);
- links to CODATA information;
- links to Lithuanian laws concerning ITT;
- information system for registered users - potential partners in EU and Baltic States;
- list of companies that received national, European or world-wide awards;
- list of Lithuanian Internet service providers and telecommunication companies;
- list of cable TV companies and Internet service providers;
- links to Lithuanian e-services providers (e-bank, e-commerce, etc.);
- links for hotel booking, travel agencies, *etc.*

General notes

The proposed structure of the Web-site is not fixed yet. Some additional information will be added to the three parts, *e.g.* news, list and dates of updates, Web-master info.

The information could be stored and in some other blocks, *e.g.*:
- knowledge system;
- opportunities - proposals - alternative - solution system;
- problems - solutions - decisions system.

The information processing on the website will be implemented by:
- interactive forms;
- data bases;
- interactive intelligent search.

The structure of Lithuanian Web-site will be discussed during its design and presentation of the prototype on TELEBALT workshop in Riga in April 2002. It would be useful to discuss a version of information structure and content that could be accessed by handsets and wireless equipment (PDA, Nokia Communicator, *etc.*). Proposals are welcome.

Information can be sent to Edmundas Zvirblis, project manager (zvirblis@infobalt.lt), or Zigmas Bigelis, project advisor (zigmasb@is.lt).

TELEBALT kick-off planning meeting

Tatiana Shulyakovskaya

Kick-off planning meeting of TELEBALT project was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 20-21 December, 2001, at the premises of INFOBALT. It was attended by D. Juknys (executive director, INFOBALT, Lithuania), E. Zvirblis (TELEBALT project manager, INFOBALT, Lithuania), Z. Bigelis (independent consultant, Lithuania), E. Grikis (general manager, "Open Latvia", Latvia), D. Mudure (project manager, "Open Latvia", Latvia) , K. Baranov (project manager, Inforing AS, Estonia), J. Bonnin, A. Gvishiani, A. Beriozko, T. Shuliakovskaya (EDNES). The following Lithuanian experts took part in the discussions: J. Zalatorius (Informatics Committee Director), S. Bagdonas (unit manager), K. Gecas (Lithuanian Innovation Center), V. Vitkauskas (President, INFOBALT), R. Krukauskas (Vice-president, INFOBALT), G. Krusinskas (engineer, INFOBALT).

Planning of the project activities was done by work-packages (WP) and the following decisions were taken at the meeting.

The comments done by Mr. Bigelis, as well as 'physical' addresses of the TELEBALT Information Demonstration Centres (IDCs) in the Baltic States were decided to be included in the project workplan prepared by EDNES.

It was decided that the three Baltic States IDCs would be target-oriented. The IDC in Vilnius, Lithuania, will deal with telematics for business; the IDC in Riga, Latvia, will focus on telematics for tourism and social integration; the IDC in Tallinn, Estonia, will promote teleworking for employment opportunities for the Baltic States; consulting service on the matter will be organized in Estonian IDC.

Preparation of TELEBALT Newsletter Vol. 1 was discussed on the meeting. It was decided that INFOBALT, "Open Latvia" and Inforing AS would supply EDNES with the materials and photos for articles about these organizations to be published in the Newsletter. A special section entitled "IST projects" will be established in TELEBALT Newsletters. European Knowledge Platform (EKP) will be described in this section in the Newsletter Vol. 1. Articles about TELEBALT main Web-site and IST conference in Dusseldorf will be prepared and sent to EDNES by INFOBALT.

TELEBALT Web-sites were decided to be launched in Lithuania and Latvia as soon as possible. A page at

EDNES Web-site about TELEBALT project will be created with links to TELEBALT main Web-site in Lithuania, as well as Latvian and Estonian project Web-sites.

TELEBALT Workshop "Information Technologies, Tourism and Social Integration" in Riga, Latvia, was scheduled for April 4-6, 2002, at the time of ITNT informational conference. The call for application for the workshop will be installed on TELEBALT Web-sites as soon as possible. TELEBALT Conference "Teleworking for Business, Education and Electronic Commerce" in Vilnius, Lithuania, was scheduled for October 21-24, 2002.

INFOBALT was appointed to be the leading partner in the WP4 "Teleworking Tools for EU - Baltic States Team Work". Pl@za groupware will be presented on TELEBALT Workshop in Riga by representative from TEAMWARE, Finland. Futher discussion on Pl@za implementation will be organized during the same workshop. A consultation center on IST European products was planned to open after TELEBALT Conference in Vilnius.

It was also decided that Baltic states project participants would organize peer reviews of TELEBALT brochure and would send the reviews to EDNES. A methodology of qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the success and shortcoming of the project developed by J-C.Marot will be made available to project partners by EDNES.

TELEBALT kick-off meeting participants (D. Juknys, K. Baranov, E. Grikis, D Mudure, A. Beriozko, E. Zvirblis, Z. Bigelis, J. Bonnin, T. Shulyakovskaya)

TELEBALT project at the IST 2001 Exhibition
Technology Serving People,
Dusseldorf, Germany,
3-5 December 2001

Dziugas Juknys, Edmundas Zvirblis

Lithuania, which has been currently promoting the creation of information society through the participation in the IST program, presented at the exhibition the TELEBALT project.

In its presentation of the project, the principal contractor of the initiative, the INFOBALT Center, explained that the project was aimed at exploring enormous potential of tele-work and telemetric applications in order to enforce the IST development initiatives the Baltic States.

The Lithuanian stand attracted over 200 visitors of the exhibition, who wanted to find out more about the project itself and to receive information on its further development. The project presenters informed that information on the project development, workshop sessions, conferences, work methods, and information tools, would be placed on the following websites: www.infobalt.lt/telebalt and www.telebalt.lv.

The exhibition provided to the Lithuanian delegation a splendid opportunity to collect useful information on projects of telework, telemetry, telemedicine being implemented under the IST program. This is especially important bearing in mind that the development of the modern technologies will soon turn telework into a key component of a successful promotion of business, science and household innovations.

TELEBALT project at the COMDEX Nordic 2002 Exhibition, Goteborg, Sweden, 22-24 January 2002

Edmundas Zvirblis

The association INFOBALT took part in the exhibition of modern technologies and solutions COMDEX Nordic 2002. There it presented the project TELEBALT to the Nordic Countries with the aim to establish contacts with Scandinavian enterprises and scientific establishments, which intend to or already apply methods of telework and virtual laboratories in their business or research work.

The presentation of TELEBALT project at this exhibition produced the following results:
1. the goals of TELEBALT project were presented to innovative enterprises of the Scandinavian region;
2. information was disseminated on TELEBALT project workshop in Riga and the conference in Vilnius to be held in April and October 2002;
3. contacts with Swedish and Finnish science and business parks were established; these parks undertook to provide information on all researches carried out there and on projects related to telework, telemetry and telemedicine.

The newly established relations have created a possibility to present TELEBALT project to a wider audience and to attract partners from the Baltic and Scandinavian regions for future events, training, research work and other joint projects.

TELEBALT Workshop
"Information Technologies, Tourism and Social Integration"

Baltic IT&T 2002

Riga, Latvia
April 4-5, 2002
www.telebalt.lv/workshop.php

ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS

FUNDED BY: Information Society Technologies Programme; European Commission, The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. To be held in the frame of Baltic IT&T 2002 Forum, for more information see www.ebaltics.com/forum2002

ORGANIZED BY: "Open Latvia" in the frame of TELEBALT project co-ordinated by EDNES, France, and in cooperation with Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and Latvian Tourism Development Agency (LTDA)

VENUE: Hotel Radisson SAS Daugava, Riga, LATVIA

WORKSHOP LANGUAGES: English, Latvian

ABSTRACTS: Abstracts of the presentations will be published

WORKSHOP FEE: The workshop is free of charge

ACCOMMODATIONS: The workshop will take place in Riga - the capital city of Latvia. A variety of accommodations in 2-star, 3-star and 4-star hotels will be available with prices ranging from 80 EUROs to 170 EUROs

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
- Dzintars Zarins (Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia) - chairman
- Prof. Jean Bonnin (EDNES, France) - co-chairman
- Jacques Babot (Head of sector, European Commission)
- Prof. Alexei Gvishiani (EDNES, Russia)
- Aira Andriksone (Head of tourism sector, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development)
- Valerijs Seilis (LTDA director)
- Egils Grikis ("Open Latvia")
- Janis Vjaters (Engineer, University of Latvia, Institute of Astronomy)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
- Dinnija Mudure ("Open Latvia")
- Egija Lapina ("Open Latvia")
- Iveta Bieza ("Open Latvia")
- Dr. Juris Balodis (IRC LATVIA, Latvian Technological Center)
- Juris Smalinskis (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development)
- Sanita Grike ("Open Latvia")

- Mara Jakobsone (LITTA)
- Tatiana Shulyakovskaya (EDNES)

The European Commission (EC), Directorate General Information Society, organises an international workshop "Information Technologies, Tourism and Social Integration" on April 4-5, 2002, in Riga, Latvia.

IT, tourism and social integration workshop aims at strengthening scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and Baltic states (NAS in general) in the field of IT application to new methods of work, tourism, with an emphasis on social integration.

IT, tourism and social integration workshop will increase awareness about the coming 6th Framework Programme, by lesson learn from the participation of NAS to the actual IST programme (5FP).

The European and Baltic companies will learn about the ways of practical implementation of joint research activities in the framework of the European funding allocated by the EC.

Participants in the workshop will present their ideas, which will be carefully documented for further development, and agreement of cooperation could be signed between those participants wishing to implement possible projects. A list enumerating agreements signed will be published on the TELEBALT project Web-site for further development and submission to the future IST Programme, and local or regional funding sources.

Also participants in the workshop will present achievements and activities in IT tourism sector, as well as IT solutions in tourism, and will find the solutions of cooperation in tourism industry through the Internet.

The workshop presents a unique opportunity for European and Baltic's companies to exchange innovative and successful experiences, improve scientific and technological research and initiate first steps towards cooperation in IT applications.

This workshop is targeted at the public as well as the specialists in that field. Attendance of the following participants is indispensable for the success of this event:
- policy makers and governmental administration representatives;
- technology suppliers, telecommunication operators, Internet providers;
- e-commerce and e-work associations;
- tourism boards of the Baltic States;
- tourism organizations and associations;
- research institutes;
- software vendors;
- businessmen and entrepreneurs;
- service providers;
- business development managers;
- association and organization of disabled people.

WORKSHOP TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

4 April, Thursday

9.00-10.00   Registration

10.00-11.30   Welcome address

- European Commission

	• Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and European Commission • Egils Grikis, Director of non-profit "Public foundation "Open Latvia"
11.30-12.00	Fifth Framework and Information Society Programmes of the EC
12.00-12.30	IT development in Latvia
12.30-12.45	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development The policy of Tourism in Latvia in context of Latvian integration in EU
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	
TRACK 1 :	The Social and Labour Market Policy Context of e-Work: current European experience
TRACK 2 :	Global Tourism Information System
16.00-16.20	Coffee break
16.20-17.30	
TRACK 1 :	Presentation of e-Work related projects funded by EU
TRACK 2 :	Experience in tourism & IT in EU
17.30-18.00	Working Groups
19.00-21.00	Welcome cocktail and cultural programme

5 April, Friday

10.00-11.30	
TRACK 1:	E work activities in Baltic's and CIES countries
TRACK 2 :	IT Solutions in Tourism
11.30-12.30	
TRACK 1 :	e-Work, employment and social exclusion
TRACK 2 :	Co-operation in Tourism Industry through IT
12.30-13.00	Working Groups
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-14.30	Reports of Parallel sessions and working groups
14.30-15.00	Results and perspective of Baltic's states participation in EU & IT research (ISTC representatives of Baltic states and NCP of IST programme). Round table.
15.00 - 15.30	Conclusions

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS AND REGISTRATION

Organizations and individual specialists in modern information technologies for research, tourism and business as well as research scientists, university teachers, businessmen, are invited to participate in the workshop.

Students are welcome to the workshop.

All abstracts must be written in English in electronic form. Submitted abstracts must be restricted to 1 page of A4 format and sent *via* e-mail as WinWord file to the Organizing Committee, **e-mail: dinnija@openlatvia.lv**, before February 13, 2002. Simultaneously the title of the presentation must be sent to Mrs. T. Shuliakovskaya, **e-mail: shu@ednes.org**. Notification of the presentation acceptance will be sent to authors not later than February 20, 2002.

Final papers will be accepted during workshop days. The information about the workshop and on-line registration forms are also available on Latvian TELEBALT Website (*http://www.telebalt.lv/workshop.php*).

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