



IST-2001-33041  
Teleworking as a Tool for  
Information Society Technologies  
Programme Promotion  
to Baltic States

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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**TELEBALT workshop  
"TELEMATICS AND  
NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES"  
TALLINN, ESTONIA, 2003**

19-20 June.....page 24

**E d i t o r i a l**

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 progress: second year of project development

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*Egils Grikis, Dinnija Mudure ("Open Latvia", Latvia),  
Konstantin Baranov, Dmitri Smirnov  
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"Teleworking as a Tool for Information Society Technologies Programme Promotion to Baltic States (TELEBALT, IST-2001-33041)" project advertises and promotes 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.

Within eight months after the previous TELEBALT Newsletter, the project successfully developed.

TELEBALT Conference "Teleworking for Business, Education, Research and e-Commerce" was successfully organized and run in Vilnius, Lithuania, on October 21-22, 2002. The following projects of Information Society Technologies (IST) and Telematic Applications (TAP) Programmes were presented at the workshop:

- CAPERS;
- doc@HOME;
- Eastern Europe E-work (E3Work, IST);
- eDRUL;
- European Knowledge Platform (EKP, TAP)
- Demonstrating and promoting the take-up of new ways of FLEXIBLE WORKING among outlying regions and SMEs (FlexWork, IST);
- Intelligent CONtent management System (ICONS, IST);
- IDEAL-IST;
- Smart-IS;
- Technology Exploitation and Adaptable Methodologies (TEAM) offering new Organisational Models and Practices for e-Working Teams (TEAMwork, IST);
- TelemediCare;

- Telework solutions for promotion of EU cooperation in business and research with the Commonwealth of Independent States (TELESOL, IST);
- Towards Handicap Integration Negotiating Knowledge-Baltic Extension (THINK-EXT, IST);
- Virtual Presence System (VPS) (SHOPEAWARE and WISTCIS, IST);
- New methods of working for Information Society Technologies Programme promotion to the Commonwealth of Independent States (WISTCIS, IST);
- Web-enabled Information Services for Engineering (WISE, IST).

The proceedings of TELEBALT Conference were published by INFOBALT in English in hardcopies. The evaluation report on the Conference was prepared and submitted to the EC.

TELEBALT Newsletter Vol. 2, and the proceedings of TELEBALT Workshop "Information Technology, Tourism and Social Integration", Riga, Latvia, April 3-6, 2002, published under the leadership of "Open Latvia" in English in hard copies and electronically, were widely disseminated among the participants and interested bodies at TELEBALT Conference in Vilnius, and Workshop "IST 6th Framework Programme - New Challenge for Baltic States" in Riga, Latvia, on April 2-3, 2003, in hardcopies, and *via* TELEBALT Web-sites at EDNES, France (<http://www.ednes.org/telebalt>), INFOBALT, Lithuania (<http://www.infobalt.lt/telebalt>), "Open Latvia", Latvia (<http://www.telebalt.lv>), and Inforing AS, Estonia (<http://www.telebalt.ee>).

TELEBALT Information Demonstration Centres (IDCs) were further developed at INFOBALT (28/17-16, Vokieciu LT-2001 Vilnius Lithuania) entitled "Teleworking for Business and Partnership Promotion", at "Open Latvia" (3, Zukusalas krastmala LV-1509 Riga Latvia) entitled "Telematics for Tourism and Social Integration", and at Inforing AS (10506 Tallinn P.B. 3457 Estonia) entitled "Telematics Challenge to Employment Opportunities".

TELEBALT main Web-site has been developed and updated at INFOBALT. Additional information has been added, *e.g.*, the detailed report on TELEBALT Conference, the information about the forthcoming TELEBALT Workshops in Riga and Tallinn.

TELEBALT Web-sites have been developed and updated at EDNES and "Open Latvia". Web-site at EDNES has been completely redesigned and installed at new high-speed Internet connection (1 GBps) server. TELEBALT Web-site have been updated at Inforing AS with news, workshops and meetings sections,

including information about the forthcoming TELEBALT Workshop “Telematics and Unemployment Problems”, Tallinn, Estonia, June 19-21, 2003. The second part of the project “Register-searching system: registration of persons, interested in jobs searching, registration of companies looking for labour (CV-Online)” in the Baltic States has been prepared for installation on the Internet (<http://www.cv.ee>, <http://www.cv.lv>, <http://www.cvonline.lt>).

Annual Project Review of TELEBALT was successfully held on 11 November 2002 in Brussels. The project was reviewed by S. Aguilar (France), J-P. Dorier (France), N. Rayev (Spain). The project team was presented by A. Beriozko, J. Bonnin, A. Gvishiani (EDNES, France), D. Juknys, V. Vitkauskas (INFOBALT, Lithuania), D. Mudure (“Open Latvia”, Latvia). The EC was presented by J. Babot and B. Jamet. The project was positively evaluated by the reviewers.

According to Annual Project Review 2002 recommendations, an amendment to the Technical Annex of the TELEBALT contract to introduce the organization of an additional TELEBALT Workshop entitled “IST Sixth Framework Programme - New Challenge for Baltic States” in Riga, April 2-3, 2003, within the budget frame of the project, was prepared and submitted to the EC. The Workshop in Riga was a success.

Collaborative browsing toolkit (CoBrow) (CoBrow (RE 1003), CoBrow/D (RE 4003) TAP projects), Virtual Presence System (VPS, SHOPEAWARE and WISTCIS IST projects) developed by consortium led by University of Ulm, Germany, IST project TEAMwork technology, and European Knowledge Platform (EKP) developed by German Research Institute (GRI) were demonstrated in details at TELEBALT Conference in Vilnius.

VPS demonstration Web-site was developed by EDNES telematic specialists and installed at high-speed Internet connection server at EDNES (<http://www.ednes.org/telebalt>). It was successfully used for numerous virtual working meetings of TELEBALT project participants. Deliverable “Adaptation of Collaborative Browsing (CoBrow) toolkit and Virtual Presence System (VPS) for EU-Baltic States team work” was completed and submitted to the EC.

The work on adaptation of Pl@za groupware developed by Teamware Group Oy, Finland, at TELEBALT main Web-site at INFOBALT is at the final stage.

TELEBALT training course on EU, Fifth and Sixth Framework Programmes (FP5 and FP6) has been completed by telematics experts of EDNES headed by

J-C. Marot, JCM Consultants, France, and presented at TELEBALT Conference in Vilnius. These lectures are:

- “Introductory”,
- “European Union”,
- “Enlarging the European Union”,
- “Fifth and Sixth Framework Programmes”,
- “Participating in Sixth Framework Programme: opportunities for pre-accession states”.

The training course on the Information Society Technologies (IST) Priority of the FP6 has been completed by telematics experts of EDNES, including the lectures:

- “What is FP6”,
- “IST Overview”,
- “IST Activities”,
- “Participate in IST”.

The training courses have been installed at TELEBALT Web-site at EDNES.

TELEBALT Workshop “IST Sixth Framework Programme - New Challenge for Baltic States”, which will be held in Riga, Latvia, on April 2-3, 2003, linked with Baltic IT&T 2003 Forum, was held under the leadership of “Open Latvia”. The following IST projects were presented at the workshop: ADIS; BALTPORTS-IT; E3Work; Flexwork; LOGIS; THINK-EXT; VMART.

The preparation of TELEBALT Workshop “Telematics and Unemployment Problems”, which will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, on June 19-21, 2003, has started.

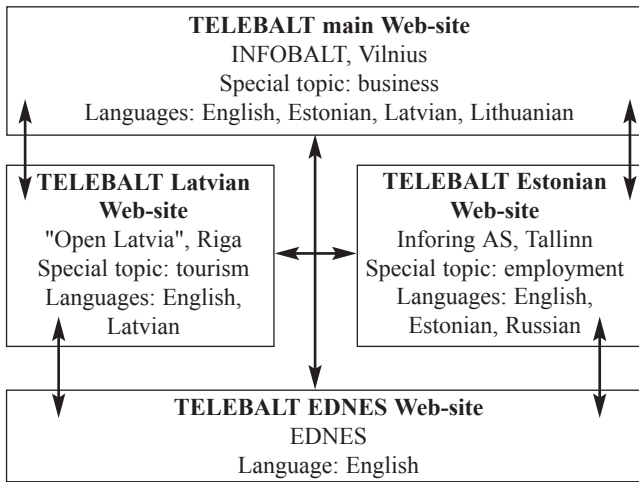
## TELEBALT on the Web

*Alexander Beriozko (EDNES, France), Zigmantas Bigelis, Edmundas Zvirblis (INFOBALT, Lithuania)*

TELEBALT Web-sites were developed based on the conception of information and knowledge portal. They are hosted at servers of all project partners: main at INFOBALT, Lithuania (<http://www.infobalt.lt/telebalt/>), “Open Latvia”, Latvia (<http://www.telebalt.lv/>), EDNES, France (<http://www.ednes.org/telebalt/>), and Inforing AS, Estonia (<http://www.telebalt.ee/>) (Fig. 1). The main information on the Web-sites is presented both in English and Baltic languages. The main pages of the Web-sites contain concentrated and sufficiently detailed information about TELEBALT project.

The content of the Web-sites encompass: regularly updated information on the project, Fifth and Sixth





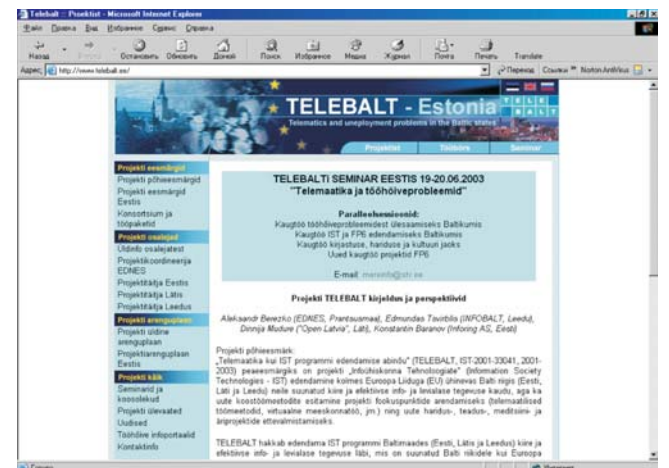
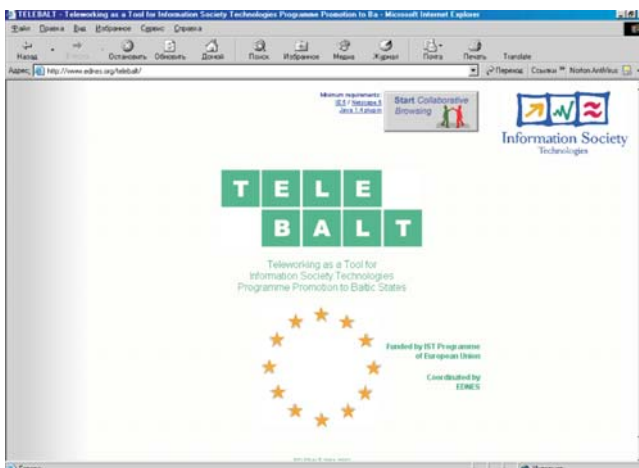
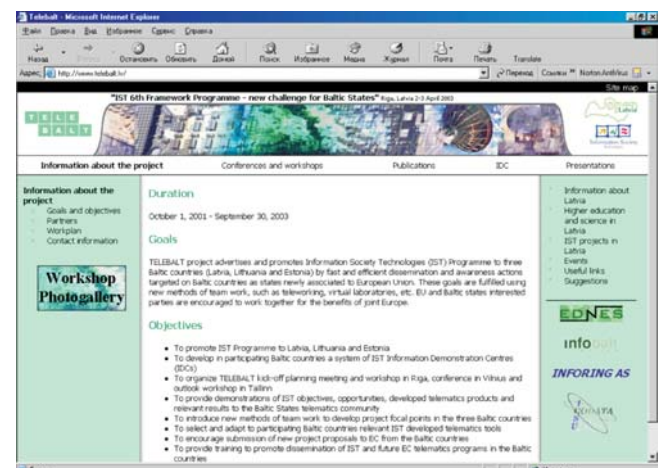
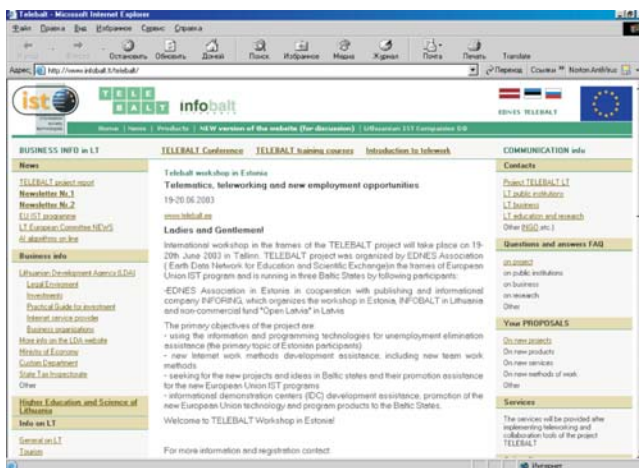
Framework Programmes and IST; links to Web-sites of other participating countries; calls for applications and reports of TELEBALT gatherings, Newsletters; *etc.*

The information about TELEBALT Conference “Teleworking for Business, Education, Research and e-Commerce”, Vilnius, Lithuania, October 21-22, 2002, TELEBALT Workshop “IST 6th Framework Programme - New Challenge for Baltic States”, Riga, Latvia, April 2-3, 2003, and the forthcoming Workshop “Telematics and New Employment Opportunities in Baltic States”, Tallinn, Estonia, June 19-21, 2003, was placed on TELEBALT Web-sites.

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.

Web-site at EDNES has been completely redesigned and installed at new high-speed Internet connection (1 GBps) server.



**Figure 1.** Screen-shots of TELEBALT Web-sites (left to right):  
 (top) main, INFOBALT, Lithuania ([www.infobalt.lt/telebalt](http://www.infobalt.lt/telebalt));  
 “Open Latvia”, Latvia ([www.telebalt.lv](http://www.telebalt.lv));  
 (bottom) EDNES, France ([www.ednes.org/telebalt](http://www.ednes.org/telebalt));  
 Inforing AS, Estonia ([www.telebalt.ee](http://www.telebalt.ee))

TELEBALT main Web-site has been developed and updated at INFOBALT, Lithuania (<http://www.infobalt.lt/telebalt>). The structure of Lithuanian TELEBALT Web-site includes:

- Information on TELEBALT project;
- Business information on Lithuania (links);
- General information on Lithuania (links);
- Feedback information;
- Subscribe information;
- Contact information.

Main information on TELEBALT project includes:

- TELEBALT project presentation (goals and objectives, consortium, participants, duration, target audience, management, basic events, training activities and telematic tools);
- Information on TELEBALT events:
  - Conference 2002, Vilnius, Lithuania,
  - Workshop 2003, Riga, Latvia,
  - Forthcoming Workshop 2003, Tallinn, Estonia;
- TELEBALT progress reports;
- TELEBALT deliverables:
  - Newsletters,
  - Proceedings,
  - Training courses.

An information on telework terminology that should serve as a background for development of telework ontology has been collected. An information on telework, telecommuting, e-Work and other related Web links has been collected, analyzed and used for developing of presentations and should serve for storing in telework information database (DB). The specification of the prototype DB has been developed.

TELEBALT Web-site have been developed and updated at Inforing AS, Estonia (<http://www.telebalt.ee>) with news, workshops and meetings sections, including information about the forthcoming TELEBALT Workshop “Telematics and New Employment Opportunities in Baltic States”, Tallinn, Estonia, June 19-21, 2003. The second part of the project “Register-searching system: registration of persons, interested in jobs searching, registration of companies looking for labour (CV-Online)” in the Baltic States has been prepared for installation on the Internet (<http://www.cv.ee>, <http://www.cv.lv>, <http://www.cvonline.lt>) (Fig. 2).

TELEBALT Web-sites promote new methods of work, such as collaborative browsing toolkit (CoBrow) and Virtual Presence System (VPS) (University of Ulm, Germany), IST project TEAMwork technology, European Knowledge Platform (EKP) (GRI, Germany), Pl@za (Teamware Group Oy, Finland), etc.

Virtual Presence System (VPS, SHOPEAWARE and WISTCIS IST projects), developed by consortium led by University of Ulm, Germany, in collaboration with EDNES telematic specialists, has been installed at high-speed Internet connection server at EDNES (<http://www.ednes.org/telebalt>).

Presence Awareness lets people realize who else is around. In the Web context Presence Awareness allows people to ‘see’ each other while they are browsing the same Web-page or Web-site. This fundamental property of Presence Awareness enables ad-hoc communication of people and also more substantial communication since people with similar interests meet on the same web locations.

When installed at the project Web-sites it will ease the getting in touch between people from EU and Baltic States working in research, education, business or just between people who are simply browsing the Web. This is because presence awareness provides for encounters similarly like in the real world.

Implementation of a multilingual Collaborative Browsing User Agent (CBUA) allows EU-Baltic States team work in areas such as business, research and education. Presence Awareness Service (PAS) developed by University of Ulm, which is the backbone of CBUA, is currently compiled in the framework of WISTCIS project (IST-1999-14106).

The new multilingual CBUA is based on the Virtual Presence System, or Presence Awareness Service (PAS) developed by University of Ulm, which is a successor to CoBrow system.

PAS in general delivers presence awareness information of vicinities or in other words it tells which users are within a certain neighbourhood. It thus allows tracking of vicinities. A neighbourhood in the context of collaborative browsing is a group of users who have

**Figure 2.** Screen-shot of on-line CV form ([www.cv.ee](http://www.cv.ee), [www.cv.lv](http://www.cv.lv), [www.cvonline.lt](http://www.cvonline.lt))

opened the same web page or related web pages *e.g.* web pages of a web site. As a default means of communication, PAS provides chat functionality. Chat refers either to all users within a neighbourhood or to a selected user. In addition to CoBrow it allows also tracking of presence information of specified users (or presentities). Furthermore, it provides status information of users like ‘user is busy/idle’. So overall it tells who is around and what people being around are doing.

Since it is completely implemented in Java it can be installed on every operating system that provides a Java virtual machine (every relevant operating system provides a Java virtual machine meanwhile).

The database layer, where properties of users like photos, names, e-mail addressed *etc.* are stored, has become much more flexible. Now even pre-existing LDAP databases with arbitrary schemes can be imported in PAIB simply by providing a scheme description in XML style to PAIB. Databases, which implement LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol), store their data in a hierarchical manner.

CBUA was successfully used for numerous virtual working meetings of TELEBALT project participants (Fig. 3).



**Figure 3.** Countries and cities represented at CBUA virtual meetings

The work on adaptation of Pl@za groupware developed by Teamware Group Oy, Finland, at TELEBALT main Web-site at INFOBALT, Lithuania (<http://www.infobalt.lt/telebalt>), is at the final stage.

Teamware Pl@za is a modular software solution for creating interactive Web sites. Pl@za offers functionality for creating Web communities and increasing interaction between people. It provides personalized, interactive Web sites, tailored according to the preferences and access rights of individual users and groups.

Each Pl@za site can be tailored to meet the demands

of the look and feel of your site. Other information sources can be integrated into Pl@za so that, if required, other Web functions or data from other data sources can be utilized.

Pl@za is available on Solaris and Windows 2000 platforms.

## Quick glance to Estonia's participation in FP5, IST Programme

*Tarmo Pihl,*

*Foundation Archimedes, Expert of ISTC (Estonia)*

### General background

Estonia was the first candidate country to associate with the 5th Framework Programme (FP5) in May 1999. To remind the reader, FP5 is the Programme of the European Community to fund technology driven international research and development activities. Estonian scientists had gained previously some experience from participation in EU Framework Programmes already as far back as 1993, starting with the PECO, COPERNICUS and INCO-COPERNICUS programmes, but then mainly as third country participants. FP5 presented a unique chance to enter the Programme practically on equal grounds with the Member States.

At that time, the Estonian national contact point for FP5 was established and incorporated into the structure of Archimedes Foundation, private non-profit organisation founded by the Ministry of Science and Education. Today the main responsibilities of the Foundation are associated with FP6 related information dissemination, training, consultancy, analysis and partner search. Archimedes Foundation is also active participant in Framework Programme itself, with an aim to create favourable environment for its customers to operate and receive assistance in the sphere of innovation funding and general consultancy.

Since 1999, Estonia has participated relatively actively in the activities of the Programme. By November 2002 Estonian researchers and engineers had participated in total of 809 project applications, of which 216 were successful. The indicator per head of population or GDP places Estonia as one of the most successful candidate countries, and the success rate is close to the average of the member states. The general overview with the number of projects submitted to FP5 and relevant success rates are presented in the table below.



## IST programme – lessons learned

User friendly information society is one of the four vertical thematic programmes of FP5. The objective of the Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme is generally speaking realising the benefits of the information society both by accelerating its emergence and by ensuring that the genuine needs of individuals and enterprises are met during the process.

Needless to say, the objectives of the programme are long-term oriented and ambitious, leaving relatively small space to projects, which are not significant enough to have impact on European scales. In the situation, where many of the organizations in EU accession countries struggle for survival, the long term strategic orientation of the programme is unmanageable and hardly coherent with their short term visions. This has also been one of the major factor having impact on the success of the projects, since most of the failed projects were in difficulty to demonstrate innovative aspects, as well as capable consortia to carry out the activities.

However, despite of the mentioned failures, the general success rate of the IST programme, somewhere around 24%, corresponds well to the Programme average. An astounding success was faced by the projects submitted by Estonian coordinators, where out of 9 submitted proposals 5 were retained for funding. The only conclusion one might make out of that is the fact that once a person is dedicated to work on its own proposal, investing enough efforts for the sake of better quality, and is assisted by specialists from the national contact

point, the chances for success are remarkably higher.

Three out of the five successful projects were research and development intensive ones, led either by SME or university. Each project has its own focus. Perhaps the most known one and with the largest commercial potential, indicated by the acronym Doc@Home, belongs to the field of telemedicine aiming at providing remote healthcare service to patients at home. The Estonian eVikings project was not directly an industrial R&D project, it was so-called accompanying measure, a project type which is designed to support the participation of different organisations from the FP5. The aim of the project was to conduct a feasibility study on Estonian IT innovation system and formulate recommendations to national government to purport the development of knowledge based IT society in Estonia.

An R&D project POSA DWDM, being the third project in the IST field, which was co-ordinated by the Estonian participant and approved by the European Commission, aimed at the development of portable optical spectrum analyser for maintaining and troubleshooting DWDM system's components and networks.

The end of the FP5 witnessed an unprecedented high interest in Estonian IST RTD community, accounting for one quarter of all IST projects submitted during the FP5. The last call for proposals added two more projects to the list of those co-ordinated by Estonians. 3 million EUR budgeted OPENMOLGRID capitalises

Programme	Projects with Estonian participation			Projects co-ordinated by Estonia	
	Projects submitted	Successful projects	Success rate (%)	Projects submitted	Successful projects
QoL	256	54	21.1	21	5
IST	127	31	24.4	9	5
Growth	27	9	33.3	4	1
EESD Envir	156	57	36.5	6	0
EESD Energy	59	19	32.2	4	1
INCO	18	7	38.9	6	4
SME	51	15	30.0	8	5
IHP	115	28	24.3	19	1
Total	809	220	27	77	22

**Table 1.** Success rate of 5FP projects with Estonian participation.

on existing EUROGRID network to perform the integration of heterogeneous and distributed databases for computational molecular engineering, prepare new molecular design tools and integrate the existing ones. The second one co-ordinated by the Institute of Cybernetics at TTU, eVikings II, is the follow-up project to the Estonian eVikings, successful proposal of the third call. Whilst the Estonian eVikings was a feasibility study of the Estonian ICT innovation system, mapping the strength and weaknesses of the sector, the eVikings II aims at establishing a virtual centre of excellence in IST RTD in Estonia.

### Critical look back and the road ahead

Comparatively modest competitiveness of projects with Estonian participation was primarily caused by low innovation or inadequately presented objectives and action plan of the project, 2/3 of the projects analysed failed due to their poor scientific and technological quality, in the rest of the cases the inadequate level of the implementation plan or weak project management were reasons for unsuccess.

When planning future participation in the programme it is important to understand that it certainly does not have to do with discrimination on the part of evaluators, but rather with the fact that Member States have more experience in the planning and presentation of research and development projects that conform to the logic of the Framework Programme. Consequently it is useful to look into the structure and experience of earlier projects when designing new projects.

When looking ahead - FP6, unfortunately for smaller states, has been a turning point in the general policy of the European Commission. Priority is given to large scale overly ambitious projects, which have major impact on European competitiveness. However, as Estonia lacks ambitious R&D projects, and the scales of the existing ones are somewhat different than expected by FP6, the participation is even larger challenge than posed by FP5 some years ago. Thus, the one of the possible strategy for Estonian participants to pursue today is, by using contacts from FP5 and the help of the national contact organisations such as Archimedes Foundation, to access international R&D networks and try to participate in the large projects as subcontractor or, in the best case, as a partner with certain obligations.

The first results from the FP6 will be available by the time of publication of the present article, providing probably a significant food for thought for the potential participants as well as national contact point to plan further steps and strategies for success. If perceived as

an opportunity, not as a dead-end, the FP6 can provide also a possibly for a major breakthrough, since operating as a partner in a strong and successful consortia might be more beneficial than being a partner in several weak projects.

## TELEBALT conference “Teleworking for Business, Education, Research and e-Commerce”

*Zigmas Bigelis, Dziugas Juknys, Edmundas Zvirblis  
(INFOBALT, Lithuania)*

TELEBALT project workplan envisages a number of working meetings, workshops and conference devoted to various topics of telematics products and technologies development and applications. The major project conference “Teleworking for Business, Education, Research and e-Commerce” was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on October 21-22, 2003.



*H.E. Valdas Adamkus,  
President of the Republic  
of Lithuania*

The main organizers of the conference were Association of Information Technology, Telecommunications and Office Equipment of Lithuania (INFOBALT Centras), Lithuania, Earth Data Network for Education and Scientific Exchange (EDNES), France, non-profit public foundation “Open Latvia”, Latvia.

Many other Lithuanian organizations were involved in the organization of the conference and its running support. The significant contribution of the Information Society Development Committee under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Information Society Development Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania, the Biomedical





*H.E. Ambassador  
Michael Graham,  
Head of European  
Commission Delegation  
to Lithuania*

Engineering Institute, the Kaunas Regional Distance Education Centre, the Department of Journalism of Institute of Political Science and Diplomacy of Vytautas Magnus University are to be specially mentioned. Special thanks for Lithuanian IT&T companies: "Siemens" Ltd., "Techna Orbis" Ltd., "Bite GSM" Ltd., "Penki kontinentai" Ltd.

TELEBALT conference was the first international, scientific, and practical conference organized by INFOBALT. The Association INFOBALT was established in 1994 as an independent and non-profit organization. The Association coordinates and communicates with all Lithuanian companies working in the information technology, telecommunication and offices equipment spheres of activities. INFOBALT stimulates and supports the activities and the programs of the Lithuanian Information Society. INFOBALT is a member of World-wide Information Technology and Services Association (WITSA) and Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA).



*Prof. Jean Bonnin,  
President of EDNES,  
France*

The conference information support work included promotion of conference topics during two press conferences that attracted key mass media representatives. INFOBALT press centre in cooperation with BNS, the largest news agency in the Baltic States, informed local and international audience about major topics of the forthcoming conference.

300 invitations were sent to participants from diffe-

rent IST projects.

TELEBALT conference web-site provided place for online broadcasting and attracted more than 200 participants.

The main topic of the conference was the impact of development of information technologies, telecommunications and electronics industry to the innovative new methods of work in information society, including international collaboration, know-how transfer and cooperation with European partners.



*Left to right:  
Džiugas Juknys, Executive Director of Association INFOBALT,  
H.E. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania,  
Vytautas Vitkauskas, President of Association INFOBALT*

The conference pursued the following goals:

- Present to the public key trends of development in the fields of new information technologies, telecommunications, electronics and discuss new work methods in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and CIS in relation with the growing role of EU and the priorities drawn up in the EU information society development policy;



*Plenary session*

○ Show how e-Work, e-Learning, e-Health, and e-Business development stimulates more active cooperation of the countries and citizens of European Union, Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS, and eliminates social, political and economic barriers;

○ Demonstrate advantages of information society and knowledge economy, attract partners for joint projects of the EU countries and countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS and stimulate their partnership;

○ Introduce ITTE related IST projects and possible fields of common activities for ITTE industries from different European states; through the projects presentation introduce key directions of EU activities in ITTE field; disseminate key objectives of e-Europe and e-Europe+ action plans.

TELEBALT conference was held in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, during the same week as the yearly INFOBALT 2002 Forum (21-26 October) and was stated as a parallel event to it. The INFOBALT 2002 Forum was held along with the fourth Information Society Conference “Develop an Innovative Trade and Work Area for Information Society”. Another events in Vilnius at the same period of time were League of Investors, the Baltic Sea and CEEC Data Protection and Information Security Workshop and the 9th International Exhibition INFOBALT of Information Society Technologies. Participants of TELEBALT conference have had special access to participate in the INFOBALT 2002 Forum.

Thematic priorities of TELEBALT conference were:

- The EU IST Programme and FP6;
- Teleworking and e-Work projects under FP5;
- Teleworking/telecommuting/e-Work history and review;
- Teleworking cons and pro, advantages, benefits and disadvantages, barriers and pitfalls in business area;
- Telework/e-Work/telecommuting ontology, taxonomy, glossary;
- Teleworking social, cultural, psychological, ethic and legal issues;
- E -Work and Semantic Web;
- Management of teleworking;
- Teleworking SWOT analysis;
- Teleworking for e-Commerce;
- Teletrade, telebusiness;
- Teleeducation;
- Telemedicine;
- Teleresearch;

- Telematic software system;
- Teleworking and public institutions (including e-Government);
- Teleworking and regional development;
- Teleworking and mass media;
- Teleworking and culture;
- Teleworking and social integration for disabled people;
- Mobile teleworking;
- Flexible work;
- Remote work;
- Distant work;
- Distributed work;
- Virtual office;
- Alternative officing and satellite office;
- Hotelling;
- Home office;
- Telework national and international organizations;
- Telework, e-Work and trade unions;
- Telework, e-Work business policy;
- Collaboration, cooperation, telecooperation;
- Teamwork, groupware;
- Learning organization.

TELEBALT conference attracted around 300 participants from 25 countries including:

- Government officials and decision makers;
- Business executives and directors;
- ICT managers and specialists;
- Senior researchers and representatives of academic sector;
- ICT auditors, consultants and investors;
- Marketing and new service managers;
- Representatives of operators, service and content providers and regulators;
- Representatives of IT&T companies;
- ICT skills, information security and media specialists.

Sectors of different teleworking and IT activities were widely represented.

The conference clearly showed an interest of many organizations and necessity of similar events in the future.

The opening session of the TELEBALT conference started with the welcome speeches of H.E. Valdas Adamkus, the President of Republic of Lithuania and H.E. Ambassador Michael Graham, Head of European Commission Delegation to Lithuania.

H.E. Valdas Adamkus, the President of Republic of Lithuania, stated in his speech to the conference participants that “these [Teleworking] and other issues of your forum have long before become a significant part



of progressive economic and social life, cultural and scientific developments”.

Key speeches in the plenary session were delivered by Petras Èësna, Minister of Economy of Republic of Lithuania, Dr. Jacques Babot, Head of the E Work Sector, European Commission and Prof. Jean Bonnin, President of EDNES, France, Vytautas Vitkauskas, President of Association INFOBALT, Lithuania.

The speakers accentuated, that European Union (EU) enhances development of information society through political, social and economical strategies. In the political level common legal and regulation structure is being formatted. In social level individual is considered the end target of the information society. Common market idea is promoted in the economical level. It would support an evolution of shared information space in Europe. Through various programs and initiatives EU contributes to the growth of Information Society.

Although early promotion of 6FP IST and adapted national policies and strategy may be particularly efficient measures to prop up Baltic States researchers and industry integration in European IST Research Area.

The conference was held in 12 workshops:

- I. “Teleworking and IST programme promotion - Baltic States”.
- II. “Teleworking for Education” (Live broadcasting on Internet and interactive communication using videoconference).
- III. “Technology for Teleworking: Securing a Telework Infrastructure”.
- IV. “Teleworking and Mobility”.
- V. “Teleworking for Business”.
- VI. “Technologies for services”.
- VII. “Teleworking and networking”.
- VIII. “Telemedicine and e-Health” (Live broadcasting on Internet and interactive communication using videoconference).
- IX. “TELEBALT Algorithmical Resource: Artificial Intelligence. Algorithms On-line”
- X. “Teleworking for Research”.
- XI. “Teleworking technologies”.
- XII. “Teleworking for the Media and Culture”.

More than 107 speakers shared their experience in different sectors and was presented 30 of EU funded projects: E3WORK, WISTCIS, TELESOL, TEAMwork, UsabilityNet, FlexWork, NEUWEB, BIZON, SEWASIE, ICONS, WISE, THINK, FAMS, IMAGE, eDRUL, CAPERS, VMART, Baltports-IT, Beatrice-SME, SmartIS, NASTEC, IPv6, TelemediCare, doc@HOME, LITMED, BITNET, IDEAL-IST, VISUAL ADMIN, MAP, E-FORUM.

“Europe should become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustained economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion” (Lisbon European Council in 2000) and to achieve this growing “Research activities at national and Union level must be better integrated and coordinated to make them as efficient and innovative as possible, and to ensure that Europe offers attractive prospects to its best brains” (according to presentation of Jens P. Christensen, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Information Society).

The main results of TELEBALT conference are as follows:

1. Public concern about the teleworking development in Baltic States and the EU was enhanced;
2. Many models of teleworking and its achievements in modern society were analyzed;
3. Understanding of the importance of the Internet in the process of transition to new methods of work was intensified;
4. Immediate priorities in teleworking were defined;
5. Relations with the experts of the EU were strengthened;
6. The role of science in teleworking was enhanced;
7. The views of how teleworking can change human lives were presented.

The conclusions of TELEBALT conference are:

1. Both business and public and research institutions are interested in telework (e-Work) in Lithuania;
2. Information Society Committee of Lithuanian Parliament approves research on telework and has recommended to develop new legal acts or update the existing concerning telework implementation;
3. A seminar with more detailed agenda concer-





- ning different target groups and different aspects (psychological, economical, social, work/life balance, family/work balance) is appreciated;
4. Such a seminar should be organized during INFOBALT 2003 conference;
  5. Teleworkers job center should be established on one of Lithuanian web-based job centers (preliminary agreement of company "Mediaworks" is under discussion);
  6. Development of the national telework (eWork) programme is necessary;
  7. Training on telework would be appreciated;
  8. Development of telework manual in Lithuanian language is necessary.
  9. Collection of a library on telework and organization of face-to-face consulting in TELEBALT Information Dissemination Centre (IDC) are important;
  10. Establishment of the national working group on e-Work (telework) consisting of Parliament, public institutions, business and research representatives is actual.

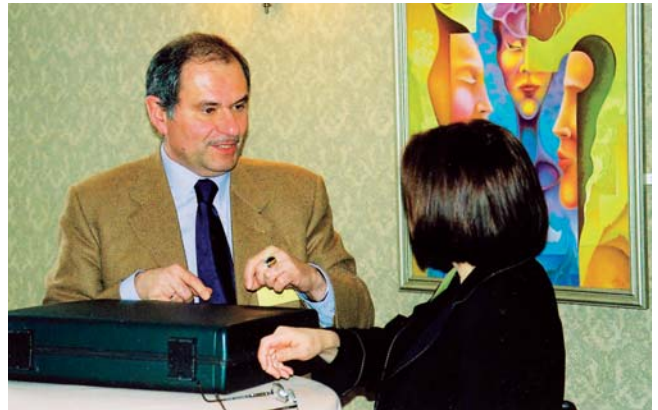
The detailed information about TELEBALT conference is available at <http://www.infobalt.lt/telebalt>.

## Riga 2003: TELEBALT workshop results

*Dinnija Mudure ("Open Latvia", Latvia)*

On April 2-3, 2003, a workshop *IST 6th Framework Programme - new challenge for Baltic States* was held in Riga, Latvia. It was organised by the Public Foundation OPEN LATVIA in cooperation with the Latvian Association for Computing Technologies in the framework of the Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme of the European Union (EU) Fifth Framework Programme (FP5).

The main goal of the workshop was to promote participation of the Baltic States in the IST Priority of the Sixth Framework Programme thus fostering technological and research collaboration between candidate countries and the EU. The intent of the workshop was to promote cooperation in areas such as new working methods, e-business, telecommunications, social integration and tourism in the context of Information Society Technologies. A comprehensive overview of the aims and objectives of the FP6 and its IST Priority



*Alexei Gvishiani, Vice-President of EDNES, France*

was provided by *Dr. Jacques Babot* (the head of the e-work sector of the European Commission Directorate-General Information Society). In the plenary session he also gave a detailed description on how to prepare project proposals to the IST and FP6. In the conclusion of the workshop *Dr. Luis Rodriguez Rosello* (EU IST Programme director) assessed positively the participation of the Baltic States in the Fifth Framework Programme and the results achieved.

The topics discussed in the workshop were as follows: new working environment, the recent developments in e-training, sustainable development policy, social integration, tourism, achievements and problems in the above referred fields.

In total 60 different project presentations from member states of the EU, CIS, the Baltic, the EU candidate states and French Polynesia were made.

More than 180 participants registered for the workshop, including representatives from the IT sector, research, state and regional planning organisations.

To promote active participation in IST, the TELEBALT workshop was supported by a number of



*A. Rasbash, A. Berzins and D. Zarins*

Latvian associations engaged in activities related to Information Technologies.

The field of telecommunications was also well represented in the workshop. In the session “Telecommunications – the cornerstone of the regional development and IT” biggest telecommunications operators in Latvia discussed prospects for growth in the context of prospective regional development.

In the session “The European year of social integration and the role of IT in the lives of people with special needs” presentations on projects were made. The THINK Baltic project and the ADIS alongside projects delivered in other countries like Poland, Portugal, and Lithuania were made. It was interesting to compare the development trends of these projects, and to learn about new opportunities for collaboration in this area, as well as possible activities within the framework of



*Nicole Turbé-Suetens,  
Distant Expert, France,  
IST E3WORK project*



*Dr. Jacques BABOT,  
Head of sector  
at the European  
Commission*

“The European Year of People with Disabilities”.

As for e-work and e-training sessions, for the first time countries involved in projects presented a real experience gained as a result of the implementation of telework pilot projects. Presentations covered both positive aspects and problems encountered in the process of implementation. They also offered optimal solutions and possibilities to introduce telework as a new method of work into different organisations. Participants agreed that the experience obtained would be summarised and utilised in the future work.

In the opening address *Andris Bērziņš*, ex-prime minister of Latvia, expressed that EU Programmes could give an additional impulse to the development of the Latvian education sector, research and the whole economics in general.

*Dz. Zariņš*, the president of the Latvian Association for Computing Technologies and the member of the

TELEBALT programme committee, presented a speech in which he said, “It is very important that representatives of EU come to Latvia and provide opportunities to ALL interested people learn about possible funding to different projects. Methods of submission and problems concerned with proposal preparation as well as the range of activities supported by the European Commission Directorate-General Information Society, have to be well known. Now when the Latvian government has cut investments for IT projects and has stopped funding the Latvian Education Information System (LIIS) project, 3,6 billion Euro of EU funds is a good challenge to generate ideas and write competitive projects to IST 6th Framework Program. TELEBALT has proved that both virtual and direct communication between field experts is a tool promoting ideas for collaboration.

For Latvia it is very important to continue learning about the experience of other countries in the field of IT, since many Latvian businessmen still are unaware of the possibilities that the IST Programme open up and do not believe that their ideas could be welcomed and projects funded by the EU. The input of the TELE-



*Workshop press-conference*



BALT help to share positive experience, popularises “success stories”, encourages to seek cooperation partners and start working towards the EU taking full advantage of partnership experience with CIS businessmen”.

IT skills in Latvia are definitely above the average among EU candidate states. In Latvia, international workshops have been held for several years, Baltic IT&T Forum is an annual event, and a great success was the Baltic Sea Region E-business Forum in 2001. Over the years the focus, however, has shifted from technical solutions to the applications of information society. The last two years TELEBALT also has been providing opportunities to dissemination of the achieved results. The IST Programme of the EU Fifth Framework Programme funding was provided to about 250 projects in Latvia including those related to the areas of extended research and education.

The TELEBALT workshop ensured creative working atmosphere and brought together experts from industry and academia. It featured well-prepared presentations and participants eager to make valuable contributions. Analytical reviews and work produced prove that TELEBALT helped experts join forces and that Latvia has a potential to continue the work commenced in the field of IST and its people may be more confident and daring in joint project solutions with other European countries.

Owing to successful collaboration with partners within the framework of the TELEBALT project and the financial support of the European Union, the coordinator of the TELEBALT project is preparing a project proposal to the Sixth Framework Programme as a follow-up to the activities carried out so far.



## Sustainable integration through telework THINK BALTIC EXTENSION (IST)



**Inga Bakane,**

Project Manager at Non profit organisation  
*Public foundation OPEN LATVIA Ltd*

*The THINK Baltic Extension* project is based on the initial THINK project, implemented in Portugal and other European countries previously.

The main goal of THINK Baltic project in Latvia is the integration of 20 people with mobility handicap in the labour market using new working methods. This model is based on telework. Professional integration implies transfer of skills in different areas so that people become productive, lucrative and self – sufficient using information and communication technologies for telework.

*The THINK Baltic Extension* project is a technological, organizational and social model recognized in Europe as an innovative solution for disabled people.

### **The project has 5 main parts:**

1. Selection of teleworkers
2. Interview process
3. Training process
4. Apprenticeship phase
5. Teleworker launching in labour market

■ At first we created special on-line application form where people with handicap can apply for this project. In a short period and due to the effective project promotion, we received more than 170 application forms registered in a developed a data base of potential teleworkers.

■ The second stage, the selection of teleworker, was very important for this project to assure the services quality. We analyzed application forms, CV and motivation letters of people and submitted all persons, who applied to this project, to a interview.



- Interview process for each person had a duration of approximately 1 hour and had 4 main parts:
  - Discussion with potential teleworker
  - Examination of their computer skills
  - Psychological testing
  - Examination of their language skills

From the interview process, we selected 33 potential teleworkers to start training process.

- Training process had 3 parts:
  - Behavioural trainings (40hours)
  - Computer trainings (6hours)
  - Teleworker coordination trainings(TCT) (6hours)

- Part of potential teleworkers who successfully finished training process started the apprenticeship phase with potential customer. At this stage is very important their own contribution and attitude towards work, to determine the customer approval or not.

- As mentioned in the beginning, the project main goal is to integrate 20 people with handicap in labour market. The career of 15 teleworkers launched has successfully started but from now on much depends on the employer involvement, social economic situation in the country, global market development and etc.

When the project was launched the main problem encountered was the public image of disability – related projects that were generally seen as “acts of charity”. THINK definitely is not one of this sort.

Even so it is very difficult to grow and establish as it would be possible, while the social security system is still inefficient and proper laws in this sector have not been implemented. Another problem was a low level of education and language skills of people with disabilities, as the project has a connection with the new information technologies certain knowledge in this field is required.

*The THINK Baltic Extension* is a chance to prove to the society, the government and to the disabled people in Latvia that people with disabilities can work as well as everybody else.

**Phone:** 371 7200133

**Fax:** 371 7200135

**e-mail:** inga@openlatvia.lv

**http://www.think.lv**

## New project opportunities for Baltic States in the EU 6th Framework Programme



*Alexander Beriozko, Jean Bonnin (EDNES)*

*At the Lisbon summit in March 2000, EU governments called for a better use of European research efforts through the creation of an internal market for science and technology - a ‘European Research Area’ (ERA). FP6 is the financial instrument to help make ERA a reality.*

### Research activities

FP6 is divided into four main groups of research themes and research activities, which are eligible for funding.

#### Thematic Areas

Covers those areas where the EU in the medium term intends to become the most competitive and dynamic, knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

- **Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health**

To exploit breakthroughs achieved in decoding the genomes of living organisms, for the benefit of public health and to increase the competitiveness of the European biotechnology industry. Also to bring basic knowledge through to the application stage to enable real progress at European level in medicine and improve the quality of life.

- **Information society technologies**

Intended to stimulate the development in Europe of both hardware and software technologies and applications at the heart of the creation of the information society in order to increase the competitiveness of European industry and allow European citizens the possibility of benefiting fully from the development of the knowledge-based society.

- **Nanotechnologies and nano-sciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials and new production processes and devices**

Intended to help Europe achieve a critical mass of capacities needed to develop and exploit, especially for greater eco-efficiency and reduction of discharges of hazardous substances to the environment, leading-edge technologies for the knowledge-based products, services and manufacturing processes of the years to come.

- **Aeronautics and space**

To strengthen, by integrating its research efforts, the scientific and technological bases of the European aeronautics and space industry and encouraging it to become more competitive at international level; and to help exploit the potential of European research in this sector with a view to improving safety and environmental protection.

- **Food quality and safety**

Intended to help establish the integrated scientific and technological bases needed to develop an environmentally friendly production and distribution chain of safer and varied food. To control food-related risks, relying on biotechnology tools taking into account post-genomic research, as well as to control health risks associated with environmental changes.

- **Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems**

Intended to strengthen the scientific and technological capacities needed for Europe to be able to implement sustainable development, and integrating its environmental, economic and social objectives with particular regard to renewable energy, transport, and sustainable management of Europe's land and marine resources.

- **Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society**

Intended to mobilise in a coherent effort, in all their wealth and diversity, European research capacities in economic, political, social sciences and humanities necessary to develop an understanding of the emergence of the knowledge-based society and new forms of relationships between its citizens, on the one hand and between its citizens and institutions, on the other.

### **Cross-cutting research activities**

Activities under this heading will complement research within the 7 thematic areas.

- **Research for policy support**

Intended to respond to the scientific and technological needs of the policies of the Community, underpinning the formulation and implementation of Community policies, bearing in mind also the interests of future members of the Community and associated countries. They may include pre-normative research, measurement and testing.

- **New and emerging science and technology (NEST)**

Intended to respond flexibly and rapidly to major unforeseeable developments, emerging scientific and technological problems and opportunities, as well as needs appearing at the frontiers of knowledge, more specifically in multi-thematic and interdisciplinary areas.

- **Specific SME activities**

Carried out in support of European competitiveness and enterprise and innovation policy, these specific activities are intended to help European SMEs in traditional or new areas to boost their technological capacities and develop their ability to operate on a European and international scale.

- **Specific international co-operation activities**

In support of the external relations, including the development policy of the Community, specific measures aimed at encouraging international research cooperation will be undertaken. Apart from these specific measures, third country participation will be possible within the 7 thematic priorities.

- **JRC activities**

In accordance with its mission of providing scientific and technical support for Community policies, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) will provide independent, customer-driven support for the formulation and implementation of Community policies, including the monitoring of the implementation of such policies, within the areas of its specific competence.

### **Strengthening the foundations of ERA**

To stimulate the coherent development of research and technology policy in Europe by supporting programme co-ordination and joint actions conducted at national and regional level as well as among European organisations. Activities may be implemented in any scientific and technological area.

- **Co-ordination of research activities**

Develop synergies between existing national activities; enhance the complementarity between Community actions and those of other European scientific co-operation organisations in all fields of science (examples: health, biotechnology, environment, energy)

- **Development of research/innovation policies**

Encourage coherent development of research and innovation policies in Europe by early identification of challenges and areas of common interest and by providing policy makers with knowledge and decision-aiding tools.

### **Structuring the ERA**

The main aim is to fight structural weaknesses of European research. By their nature and means of implementation, the activities carried out within this programme are applicable to all fields of research and technology.

- **Research and innovation**

To stimulate technological innovation, utilisation of research results, transfer of knowledge and technologies and the setting up of technology businesses in the Community and in all its regions, not least in the less developed areas. Innovation is also one of the most important elements throughout this programme.

- **Marie Curie Actions - Human resources and mobility**

To support the development of abundant world-class human resources in all regions of the EU by promoting transnational mobility for training purposes, the development of expertise or the transfer of knowledge, in particular between different sectors. To support the development of excellence and help to make Europe more attractive to third country researchers.

- **Research infrastructures**

To help establish a fabric of research infrastructures of the highest level in Europe and to promote their optimum use on a European scale.

- **Science and society**

To encourage the development of harmonious relations between science and society and the opening-up of innovation in Europe, as well as contributing to scientists' critical thinking and responsiveness to societal concerns, as a result of the establishment of new relations and an informed dialogue between researchers, industrialists, political decision-makers and citizens.

### **Nuclear energy**

Aims at intensifying and deepening the already well established co-operation at European level in the field of nuclear research.

- **Controlled thermonuclear fusion**

Controlled thermonuclear fusion could contribute to long-term energy supply and, therefore, to the requirements of sustainable development for a reliable centralised supply of baseload electricity.

- **Management of radioactive waste**

The exploitation of nuclear fission energy for energy production requires progress to be made in the problem of waste, and more particularly the industrial implementation of technical solutions for the management of long-lived waste.

- **Radiation protection**

Vigilance is still required to ensure a continuation of the EU outstanding safety record. EU enlargement introduces new challenges. Improvement of radiation protection continues to be a priority area. Activities will be carried out in several areas including "risk and emergency management", "radio-ecology", "protection of workplace and environment", etc.

- **Other activities in the field of nuclear technologies and safety**

To respond to the scientific and technical needs of the policies of the Community in the fields of health, energy and the environment, to ensure that the European capability is maintained at a high level in relevant fields not covered by priority thematic areas, and to contribute towards the creation of the European Research Area.

### **Instruments**

*FP6 will be implemented by the means of six main instruments, each of which have their own set of aims and objectives conditions for participation.*

#### **Three "new" instruments**

The new instruments introduced for FP6 are driven by the concepts of the European Research Area (ERA) and are also characterised by the structuring and integrating effects that they will have on European research.

- **Integrated Projects (IP)**

Multipartner projects to support objective-driven research, where the primary deliverable is knowledge for new products, processes, services etc. They should bring together a critical mass of resources to reach



ambitious goals aimed either at increasing Europe's competitiveness or at addressing major societal needs.

- **Networks of Excellence (NoE)**

Multipartner projects aimed at strengthening excellence on a research topic by networking the critical mass of resources and expertise. This expertise will be networked around a joint programme of activities aimed primarily at creating a progressive and lasting integration of the research activities of the network partners while, at the same time advancing knowledge on the topic.

- **Article 169** (for the joint implementation of national programmes)

This instrument requires co-operation at the level of national governments. It aims at integrating whole national or regional programmes on a particular topic by their joint implementation, e.g. through harmonised work programmes and common, joint or co-ordinated calls for proposals.

### **Traditional instruments**

These instruments are similar to those in FP5.

- **Specific Targeted Research Projects (STREP)**

Multipartner research, demonstration or innovation projects. Their purpose is to support research, technological development and demonstration or innovation activities of a more limited scope and ambition, particularly for smaller research actors and participants from candidate countries.

- **Coordination Actions (CA)**

To promote and support the networking and coordination of research and innovation activities. They will cover the definition, organisation and management of joint or common initiatives as well organisation of conferences, meetings, the performance of studies, exchanges of personnel, the exchange and dissemination of good practices, setting up common information systems and expert groups.

- **Specific Support Actions (SSA)**

Single or multipartner activities. Intended to complement the implementation of FP6 and may be used to help in preparations for future Community research policy activities. Within the priority themes, they will support, conferences, seminars, studies and analyses, working groups and expert groups, operational support and dissemination, information and communication activities, or a combination of these.

- **Specific projects for SMEs**

Divided into Co-operative research projects (CRAFT) and Collective research projects. CRAFT are

undertaken for the benefit of a number of SMEs from different countries on common specific problems. Collective research projects are carried out on behalf of industrial associations or industry groupings in sectors where SMEs are prominent.

- **Specific actions to promote research infrastructures**

To support the integrated provision of infrastructure related services to the research community at European level, inducing a long-term integrating effect on the way research infrastructures operate, evolve and interact with each other and with their users, thus contributing to develop the European Research Area.

- **Marie Curie actions on mobility, training and excellence recognition**

These actions provide a variety of possibilities for individual researchers in different stages of their career as well as for institutions acting as a host for fellows.

## **Budget**

FP6 has a total budget of 17 500 million Euro that is distributed amongst both RTD and demonstration activities, as well as Nuclear (Euratom) activities.

### **Participate in FP6**

#### **Find a Call**

All FP6 activities are implemented through calls for proposals.

#### **Call for proposals:**

*A legal text calling interested parties to submit proposals for projects. The text defines the necessary specifications to prepare and submit a proposal, i.e., thematic priorities, instruments used, address and other technical modalities for submission, deadlines, etc. Calls are published in the Official Journal of the EU in all Community languages. They are also published on CORDIS, together with detailed guides for proposers, submission forms and an electronic proposal submission tool (EPSS).*

Latest Calls information is available at <http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/calls.cfm>.

### **Information Package**

In order to receive a complete Information Package for a selected call, it is necessary to obtain the following elements:

1. The call text in user preferred language;
2. The work programme in user preferred language;

3. FP6 in Brief - an overview of the basic features of this programme;

4. The Guides for Proposers relevant to the instruments used in this call, including application forms A and B.

Documents can be downloaded from the Web-page of a selected call (to be reached via the FP6 Call page <http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/calls.cfm>) or sent by request by email in *.pdf* or *.doc* formats.

### **Consortium composition**

Proposals must be presented by a consortium comprising a minimum number of mutually-independent legal entities (organisations or individuals) established in different Member States of the EU or Associated States, of which a certain number must be Member States or Associated candidate countries. The default minimum numbers defined in the Rules for participation in FP6 are at least three mutually-independent legal entities established in three different EU Member States or Associated States, of which at least two must be established in EU Member States or Associated candidate countries. Any changes to these minimum numbers are set out in the Call for proposals. Exceptionally, a Specific Support Action may also be presented by a single organisation.

The EU Member states are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

International organisations of European interest, and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) are considered on the same footing as legal entities based in an EU Member state.

The candidate countries are: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. All of these countries have signed memoranda of understanding associating them with FP6. Other countries which are expected to become associated to the FP6 are: Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Potential participants should confirm the exact situation of all these countries at the FP6 International Cooperation Web-site.

Co-operation with international organisations with intergovernmental agreements is welcomed. Co-operation with organisations in INCO target countries is encouraged.

## **Partner search**

### **CORDIS**

CORDIS has a number of services and information sources which may be useful in partner search for participation in FP6, as well as a list of organisations which have already expressed an interest in participating in the calls (call for Expression of Interest)

(<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/partners.htm>).

### **National Contact Points**

The IST Priority supports a network of National Contact Points (NCPs), which can be helpful to organisations from their country both in general advice (particularly on preparing proposals) and in finding partners from other countries. Organisations should contact the NCP of their own country for further information (<http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ncps.htm>).

### **IDEALIST-project**

The IDEALIST-project helps potential proposers and newcomers to the IST Priority to find the right partners across international boundaries. It comprises a network of organisations in each Member and Associated State, coordinated by the DLR Germany. IDEALIST offers:

- a partner brokerage service, targeted on particular calls and Action Lines, that pools the local knowledge of partners from 33 countries;
- international partner brokerage events;
- general support for potential proposers;
- special workshops and seminars.

The IDEALIST partners, many of whom are also official National Contact Points for the IST Priority, or who working in close cooperation with NCPs, represent all EU Member States and Associated States (<http://www.ideal-ist.net/>).

## **FP6 contacts**

All the information about FP6 can be found at the Web-site (<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6>).

The European Commission maintains an Infodesk for each research activity covered by the Sixth Framework Programme for the duration of their Calls. Any questions concerning the Call may be directed to the relevant Infodesk

(<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/infodesks.htm>).

# TELEBALT project in Estonia and new employment opportunities



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## *1. General information about Inforing AS*

The publishing house Inforing AS was invited in December 2001 to participate in the TELEBALT project and has signed a contract with EDNES Association at the beginning of 2002.

Inforing Ltd. is a commercial company, registered under Estonian law in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1994. The headquarters of Inforing Ltd. is located in Kohtla-Järve City and it has a representation in Tallinn (the capital of Estonia). Inforing Ltd. has a very professional staff: 25 persons in Kohtla-Järve and two persons in Tallinn. The annual turnover of the company is approx. 12,000,000 Estonian kroons and is increasing every year. Inforing Ltd. is one of the largest publishing houses and Internet information providers in Estonia.

The company issues one newspaper and four magazines in the Estonian and Russian languages and carries information about Estonian news, business, sport, art, science, education and communication technologies on the Internet. It promotes and supports programs related to a development of a modern Estonian information society. The company works with other participants in the development of transport information systems.

The Internet newspaper "Infopress" includes information about company editions, registration systems for unemployed people, special registration systems for studies of public polling and gives more attention to information concerning the City Government and local business.

The company has modern computer equipment e.g. Inforing portal is situated on 2 servers, Intel STL2 Server Board 2 x FCPGA, Video, Intel PRO/100+ Server Adapter and Adaptec Ultra 160 SCSI .

## *2. Main goals of the TELEBALT Project in Estonia*

Telematics and new employment opportunities - the main goal of the project in Estonia is to promote Information Society Technologies (IST), to introduce new methods of teleworking, telematics and its use for new employment opportunities.

Study of the IST situation in Estonia: the project has to study the present situation with IST development in Estonia and formulate appropriate recommendations to EDNES for research and marketing communities, as well as to organise contacts with local research institutes and state agencies.

Demonstrations of IST objectives and opportunities: the project will provide demonstrations of IST objectives, opportunities, developed telematics products and relevant results to the Estonian telematics community.

Search for new projects: the project will encourage submission of new project proposals to the EC.

Instilling team work: TELEBALT will introduce new methods of team work to develop project focal points in participating countries capable of operating in the modern information society at a high level.

## *3. Participation of Inforing AS in the project*

Five main meetings in the form of workshops and conferences have taken place during the period from 2001 to 2003:

- Participation in kick-off workshop in Vilnius, December, 2001
- Participation in TELEBALT workshop in Riga, Latvia, 04-05.04. 2002
- Participation in TELEBALT conference in Vilnius, 21-22.09.2002
- Participation in TELEBALT workshop in Riga, Latvia, 02-03.04. 2003
- Organisation of TELEBALT workshop in Tallinn, Estonia, 19-20.06.2003

At the same time other small meetings were organised in Estonia only within the framework of the TELEBALT workshop:

- Meeting in the Estonian Maritime Academy on 05.07.2002
- Meeting in the Estonian Institute of Cybernetics at the Tallinn Technical University on 05.07.2002
- Meeting in the Kohtla-Järve Town Council on 06.07.2002 (Town Council: V.Korb, J.Kollo, EDNES



association: J.Bonnin, A.Gvishiani, T.Shulyakovskaya, Inforing AS: D.Smirnov, K.Baranov)

- Meeting in INFOring AS main office on 06.07.2002
- Meeting with the management of the Ore Cut "Narva Karjäär" (social department) on 06.07.2002 together with representatives of the EDNES Association, France. (Narva Karjäär: J.Turygin EDNES association: J.Bonnin, T.Shulyakovskaya, A.Gvishiani)
- Meeting in the Baltic Contact Organisation on 20.02.2003
- Meeting in Virest-Prof company (language course) on 15.04.2003



Meeting of TELEBALT delegation in Kohtla-Jarve Town Council  
Left to right: J.Kollo, J.Bonnin, K.Baranov, A.Gvishiani,  
T.Shulyakovskaya, V.Korb, D.Smirnov

Inforing AS undertook a maximum publicity effort for the project:

- information about the project on the Internet on Inforing AS Internet portal, during the period of 2002-2003
- advertisements in Inforing AS magazines and newspapers, 2002-2003
- e-mailing of information about the project to the addresses of 300 main European and Baltic States IST and JOB organizations

#### 4. Information about the project on the Internet

Internet web site with general directions: information about main participants in the project, project development goals and plans, information about job sites and news (120 pages on the Internet, in three languages).

Preparation of the TELEBALT website for installation on the Internet. During the period between February 2002 and April 2003 the project manager of Inforing AS prepared more than 40 pages with information about the project goals.

TELEBALT job exchange and TELEBALT workshop: all pages were designed for installation on the Internet in

three languages: Estonian, English and Russian, because a high percentage of the population of the Baltic States speak only Russian.

The second part of the Internet site was prepared by the Webmarket company and includes a register-searching system. Currently there are almost 1000 registered vacancies and résumés. The website consists of information about different organisations and companies engaged in employment services.

The development of the project during the next three months after the workshop in Tallinn foresees the design and installation of Internet pages about new teaching programs and methods, team work and teleconferences.

#### 5. New project proposals within the framework of TELEBALT

During last six months 6 different business proposals were offered within the framework of the TELEBALT project in Estonia. The main proposals are:

- *TELEMEDICINE* and its use for preventive maintenance diseases in Estonia and the Baltic States (electronic map of prevalence of diseases, statistics, dynamics of changes during last 5 year period, electronic map of prevalence of infections statistics, dynamics of changes). The program for registration of diseases and information interchange between the centres and regions, including programs for construction evident diagrams, program for realisation of telemeetings, probably automatic dispatch of mail on especially important questions, concerning health of the population by personal e-mail.
- *LANGUAGES ON LINE* (Creation of an information resource: curricula of foreign languages, creation of a study of remote individual and group training with use of forums and video cameras, formation of programs for remote training in languages, creation of system of control tests for initial examination, realisations immersing in the language environment on location (2-3 weeks).
- *TEAMTELEPARK* (the Main goal of the project is to create the Information Technology and Telework Center (ITTC) in Ida-Virumaa, with the following tasks: public promotion of the information technologies and telework, teaching of information technologies basics to public, professional education of qualified programmers, system analysts, IT-managers, administrators, computer graphics and web designers, including teaching of methods of telework, etc.

#### 6. The population and the labour market.

Now some words about the population: the population of Estonia is about 1,4 million. 28 percent of the inhabitants are 'so-called' Russian-speaking consisting of se-

veral nationalities. According to the information of the Citizenship and Migration Board about 30 percent of the inhabitants of Estonia, older than 18 years, plan to change their place of work and about 16 percent of the inhabitants are planning to find new work abroad. This amounts to more than 100 thousand inhabitants of the country.

As regards the labour market the working part of the population at present is about 55 percent, of which 92 percent are paid employees and 8 percent are businessmen or self-employed persons. Of all employees only about 60 percent work full time.

As regards unemployment the average level of unemployment is about 10 percent or about 70 thousand inhabitants. In certain areas this level reaches more than 15 percent. Among youth the rate of unemployment is sometimes more than 17 percent.



*TELEBALT delegation during visit in "Narva Karjäär AS".  
Excursion in ore section after meeting with company administration.  
EDNES group in gigantic ore scoop.*

Conclusions: the rate of unemployment in certain regions is very high and as a whole, equals more than 70 thousand inhabitants. Only about 10 thousand of them have received any kind of training. More than 30 percent of the working population i.e. more than 200,000 thousand persons would like to change place of work. At the present moment there is no information system with a maximum, full, operative and modern databank on the Internet.

### *7. State labour program*

The Development plan of the Government (Labour Market Board) for the period 2003-2004 includes a plan for IT network development (First part, Objective 4) "The remote management and maintenance system of the state employment agencies' IT facilities to be created" (Third Part, Objective 3.3)

- entering into social insurance agreements
- developing and using EU special forms for granting unemployment benefit from and to other Member States, etc. (Objective 3.4 - Development of the IT network)

According to the Government information the dynamics of the unemployment rate during the past two years has been slowly decreasing.

### *8. TELEBALT job information system*

All work on development of the information system concerning problems of employment includes three basic stages. The first stage has been completed and includes three language versions: Estonian, English, Russian:

- a) formation of information system for three Baltic States
  - information on the basic electronic labour exchanges of the Baltic States and Europe;
  - brief information on the labour legislation of Estonia;
  - brief information on job exchanges and employment agencies in Estonia;
  - brief information on curricula and improvements of professional skills in Estonia;
  - other helpful information
- b) formation registration - search system
  - registration and search of vacancies;
  - registration and search of the summary;
  - automatic system of dispatch of new offers;
  - advertising work on information system in company's publications.

The first stage of preparation of information system is complete. It is necessary to execute the two following stages.

The second stage includes:

- a) expansion of information system to 5 languages with addition of Lithuanian and Latvian languages;
- b) expansion of registration - search system to 5 languages with addition of Lithuanian and Latvian languages;
- c) increase of volume of information on all positions in the information system.

The third stage includes:

- a) formation of system of the notification about the use of dispatch on the network, the Internet and mobile phones;
- b) formation of automatic systems of consultation on various questions concerning labour legislation;
- c) formation of system of guarantees of qualifications of the staff (reliability of the information on the network, the Internet);
- d) introduction of system for using electronic signatures;

- e) creation of system of remote consultations, curricula with the use of computer video.

#### 9. Job exchanges and information systems on Estonian WEB

- a) Development of new information technologies.

The development of the Internet and creation of new computer programs has provided access to millions of people to the information concerning employment issues. During the last 7 years information resources have also been developed in Estonia enabling to obtain information on unemployment problems and the relevant labour law. Today about 50 thousand users have access to the Internet in Estonia which means that practically each inhabitant of the country has an opportunity to enter the Internet.

- b) Electronic labour exchanges.

At the present moment 8-9 labour exchanges are working in the Estonian language on the Internet. All of them allow users (employers and employees) to register information and use the search system, as well as to receive information on employment legislation. Many of them charge a fee which in fact limits their use. Some, on the basis of such information, have begun to apply for the role of commercial agencies.

The most advanced systems are the international system "CV-online", having versions in all Baltic languages and in Russian for Russia only. Secondly, there is the electronic Internet Exchange of Government Labour Department with a large volume of information on labour legislation and official statistics. The third is an electronic exchange "Fontes Foorum" in three languages: Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian.

#### 10. TELEBALT project team work

The project team work started at the end of December 2001 with the first kick-off meeting in Vilnius. During the preparation of seminars and conferences the basic teamwork of the TELEBALT project was carried out by TELEBALT project participants with the use of e-mail correspondence, the new CoBrow computer program and the Internet.

In summary we have to say that after the workshop which will take place in Tallinn in June 2003 the publishing house Inforing AS will begin to carry out the second stage of the project. In the case the project continues we will develop the third stage with the purpose of creating a modern Internet based information system with the final aim to create an information system of projects which help to tackle unemployment and use the experience gained with such projects in other regions and states.

## TELEBALT WORKSHOP IN ESTONIA 19-20 of JUNE, 2003 Telematics and new employment opportunities

On 19-20 of June, 2003 in Tallinn the international workshop "Telematics and new employment opportunities" took place. This workshop was organized in frame of TELEBALT project, which is supported by EC IST program.

The main goal of the TELEBALT project is to reinforce trans national collaboration in field of IT, mainly within Baltic States and EC. Workshop "Telematics and new employment opportunities" is targeted to inform society regarding new working possibilities taking in to account usage of advanced technologies, and in this way helping to solve the problem of unemployment. This workshop was aimed at strengthening the scientific and technological co-operation between the European Union and the pre-accession states, in particular the Baltic countries in the field of IT applications.

### Programme committee

Jacques Babot	- Head of the E Work Sector, European Commission
Jean Bonnin	- President of EDNES, University of Strasbourg, Co-chairman, France
Alexei Gvishiani	- Vice-President of EDNES, Director of Centre of Geophysical Data Studies and Telematics Applications, Russia
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# TELEBALT Workshop Programme

## “Telematics and new employment opportunities”

Tallinn, Estonia, 19-20 June 2003

### Session's topics:

- *Teleworking and new employment opportunities in Baltic States*
  - *New teleworking projects for FP6*
- *Teleworking for IST and FP6 promotion in Baltic States*
  - *Teleworking for publishing, education and culture*

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### Session 19.06.2003

- Patrick Rang** “Estonian Labour Market Policy”  
**Jacques Babot** “Research and development program of the European Union. The FWP 6 a new opportunity for Baltic States”  
**Jean Bonnin** “TELEBALT project progress”  
**Merle Haruoja** “Human and social possibilities”  
**Alexander Beriozko** “TELEBALT on the web”  
**Marius Kuningas** “Computer revolution-humans vs computers”  
**Konstantin Baranov** “TELEBALT project in Estonia and new employment opportunities”  
**Kalle Kask** “Training disabled people for homeworking”  
**Dinnija Mudure** “TELEBALT in Latvia”  
**Kalev Kaarna** “Possibilities for SME in EU 6-th Framework program”  
**D. Juknys**, “TELEBALT in Lithuania”  
**Margus Ilmjärvi** “Presentation of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry”  
**Saulius Vasiliauskas** “The problems of the unemployment and the help of IT in Lithuania”  
**Arnis Gulbis** “Benchmarking of eGovernment and telework in Latvia within SIBIS project”  
**Aleksandr Dusman** “Local authority and unemployment problems in Ida-Virumaa County of Estonia”  
**Iveta Bieza** “e3Work project in Latvia”  
**Janos Ivanyos** “Governmental Monitoring Service for public-private collaboration”  
**Adam Turowiec** “Flexible Working as means of Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development in Outlying Regions – Results and Lessons Learnt from the FlexWork IST Project”  
**Petras Sakalauskas** “Rural IT Access Points - RIAPs”  
**Almantas Silinskas** “Communication and Collaboration tools in Teleworking and Distance Education: MWlive case”

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### Session 20.06. 2003

- Tarmo Pihl** “New forms of working in future collaborative environment”  
**Alexei Gvishiani** “The IST project TELESOL”  
**Nicole Turbé-Suetens** “IST E3WORK project”  
**Nurbek Rayev** “W-ASP: Workflow +ASP”  
**Mark Maslov** “Explaining Virtual Private Networks”  
**Gohar Sargyhsyan** “E-Business and e-Learning”  
**Anatoly Soloviev** “Presence Awareness Service: collaborative browsing for EU-CIS teamwork in the framework of project WISTCIS”  
**Inga Bakane** “THINK Baltic Extension development in Latvia”  
**Vladimir Potapenko** “Internet and editions. Infopress Internet portal”  
**Irina Levald** “Foreing languages courses and possibility of distance education”  
**Natalia Ovsjannikova** “Infopress Internet Portal for study of Public Opinion”  
**Vello Randla** “Videoconferencing as an useful tool for teaching and negotiating over distances”  
**Marianne Pere** “New business magazine “Conet””  
**Ene Eensalu** “Health in Information Society”  
**Kristi Pool** “New IT solutions depends on new stuff orientation”  
**Eneli Nahko** “Baby-guard for future. New education ”  
**Toivo Keva** “Minu Riik (My State) project”  
**Sergei Gussev** “New employment opportunities in IT field as result of telework and outsourcing”  
**Sergei Kuligin** “Estonia your strategy partner. Internet portal “Baltic Contact””