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WISTCIS Outlook Conference “Information Society Priorities: New Prospects for European CIS Countries”
20-21 November 2003

Moscow, Russia
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1. General positions

1.1. Introduction

The Outlook Conference “Information Society Priorities: New Prospects for European CIS Countries” was organised in Moscow, Russia, on 20-21 November 2003. The Outlook Conference was funded by the Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme of the European Union (EU) in the framework of the project WISTCIS. The principal organisers of the Outlook Conference were International Association “Earth Data Network for Education and Scientific Exchange” (EDNES, Strasbourg, France) and Centre of Geophysical Data Studies and Telematics Applications of Institute of Physics of the Earth of Russian Academy of Sciences (CGDS IPE RAS, Moscow, Russia).

Other organisations involved in organisation of the Outlook Conference were: Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), CGDS IPE RAS, Fund of Culture “Ekaterina” and many scientific and educational institutions.

1.2. Grounds for the organization of the Outlook Conference

The call for applications (Annex 1) to Moscow Outlook Conference contained information on venue, Programme Committee, Organising Committee, topics and sessions of the conference, audience, general schedule of the conference, submission of abstracts and registration procedures, deadlines, accommodations. The call for applications, as well as on-line registration form, information on exhibitions, social events and information for sponsors were installed at WISTCIS main Web-site (http://www.ednes.org/wistcis/, Fig. 1-3).

Figure 1. Moscow conference announcement at WISTCIS main Web-site (index Web-page)
Figure 2. WISTCIS main Web-site: section devoted to the conference information (Programme subsection)

Figure 3. WISTCIS main Web-site: on-line registrations form for the conference participation
1.3. Goals and objectives of the Outlook Conference

The Outlook Conference was aimed to present the main tasks of the project WISTCIS, to spread information and knowledge about new telematics products and technologies worked out in EC and CIS countries and the Information Society Technologies Programme potentialities. In more details, the objectives of the conference were:

- strengthen scientific and technological co-operation between EU and the CIS countries;
- promote development of new technologies, applications and creating of new roles for technology in the field of public services including eGovernment, eHealth, eLearning and eCulture, ensure higher security of the information infrastructure and a wider availability of broadband access to create a dynamic business environment;
- demonstrate the IST Programme results of the Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) and promote the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) to CIS;
- encourage submission of new project proposals to Information Society Priority of the FP6.

Besides, the Outlook Conference promoted the achievement of such WISTCIS objectives as:

- Promotion of the IST Programme to wide circle of interested people in participating European CIS countries, as outside of the IST Programme audience;
- Provision in-depth demonstrations of relevant EU telematics products for telematics users, developers, vendors and service providers in the European CIS countries with participation of potential EU teamwork partners in order to demonstrate potential capacity and the results of the IST Programme to the CIS telematics community with the emphasis to the user-friendliness;
- Introduction of new methods of teamwork (e.g. teleworking) into the seven participating CIS countries and to develop there focal points eligible to operate in Information Society at the level compatible with EU partners;
- Contribution to submission of new project proposals to Information Society Priority of the FP6 with participation of the CIS countries and contribution in this way to development of huge potential new market for EU supported Information Society Technologies products;
- Provision of an information on the present situation with Information Society Technologies in the seven European CIS countries participating in the project and formulation of appropriate recommendations to EU research and marketing telematics communities;
- Demonstration of selected telematics tools to be incorporated into seven WISTCIS IDCs that will clearly show Information Society objectives and opportunities to the CIS audience;
- Provision of face-to-face training measures to promote dissemination of the IST Programme to the European CIS community;
- Presentation of the first results of Information Society Priority of the FP6 to the CIS telematics community indicating the tendencies of the European telematics development.

2. Venue, topics and schedule

WISTCIS Outlook Conference “Information Society Priorities: New Prospects for European CIS Countries” was opened on 20 November 2003 at the Meeting Hall “Sever-2” of the hotel “Rossija” (Fig. 4). Parallel session was be held in another Meeting Hall “Yug-9”.

The hotel “Rossija” is the biggest in Europe. It is located in the very centre of the capital of Russia, at quay of Moskva River, in 150 metres from the Kremlin.
At the opening session (9:30-10:00) welcome speeches of representatives from Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Institute of Physics of the Earth (IPE) RAS, American Geophysical Union, Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and EDNES were made.

Plenary session “Modern networks, present state of affairs” of the Outlook Conference (10:00-13:40) was focused on:
- commercial and non-commercial, scientific and public networks;
- home networks;
- broadband networks;

Session 1 “Technology solutions for Information Society” (15:00-18:20) was focused on:
- information support;
- eGovernment and eServices;
- security and privacy;
- multimedia and broadband entertainment;
- teleworking, groupware and enterprise management.

On 21 November the Outlook Conference started with two parallel sessions.

Session 2A “Humanitarian, research, educational and environmental aspects of Information Society” (9:00-13:40) was focused on:
- eLearning;
- eCulture;
- telematics Web portals and resources;
• information infrastructure;
• electronic justice;
• eLibrary;
• eGovernment.

Session 2B “Telematics and Earth Sciences” (9:00-13:40) was focused on:
• GRID;
• Geographical Information Systems (GIS);
• GPS;
• telematics applications in environmental research and Earth sciences;
• Telematics Algorithmic Resource.

Session 3 “IST results of FP5 and prospects in FP6” (15:00-16:40) was devoted to WISTCIS and other IST FP5 projects and projects accepted in the first Call of the Information Society Priority of the FP6.

Poster session “Educational and related aspects of Information Society” (16:40-17:30) was assigned to poster presentations.


At all the sessions the up-to-date facilities, such as multimedia and overhead projectors, computers with fast Internet connection, were at the disposal of speakers and participants of the conference. Simultaneous translation from English to Russian and from Russian to English was provided.

The programme of the conference was planned to be extremely intensive.

The additional cultural programme included for accompanying persons and on 22 November for the conference participants:
• performance in Moscow Circus;
• visiting the State Tretiakov Painting Gallery;
• excursion in the Kremlin and its cathedrals;
• visiting the Kremlin Armory;
• performance in the Bolshoy Theatre;
• Moscow sightseeing bus excursion.

3. The audience

The Outlook Conference audience was formed as a combination of representatives of Russian business, educational and research communities including teachers, professors, rectors, undergraduate and graduate students of Russian universities. The conference was also widely advertised in all the seven CIS countries participating in the project WISTCIS. As the result, quite many representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine participateed in the conference. Numerous international telematics projects that were implemented in collaboration between EU and the CIS countries were widely presented at the conference. Representatives of IST projects as well as of other EU telematics initiatives were invited speakers at the conference. The complete list of participants registered for the conference is given in the Annex.

Professionally, the audience included:
• university professors and tutors, students and postgraduate students, especially those who are involved in information technologies development and telematics applications;
• specialists and scientists in environmental research and Earth sciences;
• specialists in modern networks development;
• scientists and engineers in applied mathematics and statistics, computer sciences, electronics and telecommunications;
• telecommunication service providers and database holders;
• telematics users, developers, and vendors of computer hardware and software;
• businessmen.

4. The Programme and Organising Committees of the Outlook Conference

Programme Committee
• Jacques BABOT, EC, Head of eWork Sector, Brussels;
• Jean BONNIN, EDNES President, Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg;
• Alexei GVISHIANI, EDNES Vice-president, Deputy director of UIPE RAS;
• Ravil NAZIROV, Deputy director of IKI RAS;
• Anatoly GULYAEV, Head of CTIT MSU (MSUnet);
• Peter SCHULTHESS, Head of Distributed Systems Department of Ulm University;
• Mikhail ZGUROVSKIY, Rector of Ukrainian National Technical University;
• Mikhail ZHIZHIN, Head of telematics laboratory of CGDS IPE RAS;
• Gregor SAGHYAN, Deputy Head of Telecommunication Division, Ministry of Transport and Communication of Armenia;
• Shuichi IWATA, CODATA President.

Organising Committee
• Tatiana SHULIAKOVSKAIA, EDNES, WISTCIS project manager, Chairperson;
• Anatoly SOLOVIEV, EDNES, WISTCIS project engineer;
• Sergei SMAGIN, EDNES;
• Victor TATARINOV, CGDS IPE RAS;
• Alexander ANDREEV, CGDS IPE RAS;
• Tatiana TATARINOVA, CGDS IPE RAS.

5. The programme of the Outlook Conference

At the opening session (9:30-10:00) of the Outlook Conference at the Meeting Hall “Sever-2” on 20 November welcome speeches of representatives from Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Institute of Physics of the Earth (IPE) RAS, American Geophysical Union, Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and EDNES were made.
A.Gvishiani (Vice-president, EDNES) said that the Outlook Conference is the result of three years of work on implementation of WISTCIS project and welcomed the participants.
J.Bonnin (President, EDNES) in his welcome speech mentioned that WISTCIS was a follow-up to the TAP project STACCIS. He wished the event to be successful and said that after the
end of the conference the review of WISTCIS project would be held at the EC headquarters in Brussels.

Yuri Arski (Academician, RAS) noticed that the subject of the conference is very close to the situation in Russia. He mentioned that there were several similar Russian programs devoted to IST, in one of which (“Electronic Russia”), his organization was coordinator. He hoped that the conference would be interesting and would be a success.

A.Gliko (Director, IPE RAS) said that telematic applications were essential for scientific research and special session of the conference would be devoted to Earth sciences.

F.Spilhaus (American Geophysical Union) stressed that one of the main tasks of telematics was to make it better to communicate sciences.

S. Iwata (President, CODATA) welcomed the participants on behalf of CODATA and talked about the importance of accessibility of data for compilation, evaluation and exchange. He highlighted that WISTCIS and CODATA had many common tasks and could walk together.

Tatiana Shulyakovskaya (WISTCIS project manager, EDNES) announced organizational details of the conference.

Plenary session “Modern networks, present state of affairs” (10:00-13:40) was held at the Meeting Hall “Sever-2”. The moderator of the session was Prof., Dr. R. Nazirov, Director, Space Research Institute, Moscow, Russia, leading Russian specialist in the field. He was the first to start non-commercial Internet in former Soviet Union. Co-convener was A. Andreev, CGDS IPE RAS, Russia.

In the beginning of the session two keynote lectures were delivered. The first by J. Babot and J.-L. Lavroff (EC) was devoted to the European Commission and the EU Sixth Framework Programme. The second lecture was presented by V. Mikhov and M. Shtrikunova (Institute of Operating Systems, Russia) devoted to the thematic priorities of the FP6.

Nine presentations were delivered in this session:

2) Keynote lecture 2. V. Mikhov, M. Shtrikunova (Russian IST focal point, Russia). “The thematic priorities of the FP6 and potential benefit for the Russian RTD Community”;
3) N. Repin (Director, Sistema Telecom, Moscow). “Development of broadband networks”; 
4) A. Zhishenko (Director, Computer Centre of RAS, Moscow). “Telecommunication networks of Russian Academy of Sciences”; 
5) A. Platonov (Director, RIPN, Moscow). “Development of national basic computer network for science and education”;
6) P. Bodnar (Wi-Lan Inc., Canada). “Universal broadband mobility”; 
7) A. Mikoyan (Alcatel, France). “Broadband networks around the world”; 
8) A. Gulyayev (MSU-net, Moscow). “MSUnet today and tomorrow”;
9) V. Vishnevsky (Deputy Director, IITP, Moscow). “Wireless networks”.

Session 1 “Technology solutions for Information Society” (15:00-18:20) was held at the Meeting Hall “Sever-2”. The moderator of the session was Dr. S. Smagin, EDNES, Russia, the co-convener was An. Soloviev, EDNES, Russia.

The following presentations were presented at the session:

1) H. Pruim (UNIDO, Austria). “UNIDO’s information and ICT support for SMEs”;
2) M. Hutchinson, C.Moreira (WiseKey, Switzerland). “System of e-trust and e-certificates”;

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3) L. Gohberg, A. Pikalova, A. Sokolov (Higher School of Economics, Moscow). “Information support to EU-Russia RTD co-operation”;

4) A. Gladilin (IMT MSU, Moscow), M. Naumova (Director General, SCITT, Moscow). “Civil networks as the way to Informational Society”;

5) A. Mendkovich (President, FreeNet) “Overview of state and prospects of computer networks development in Moscow and regions”

6) A. Soldatov (IT Director, Federal Scientific Centre) “State and prospects of telecommunication collaboration with the European Union”

7) I. Alekseyev, M. Zakharova (Yaroslavl State University). “IPv6 - the Future of Internet”

8) Y. Gugel, Y. Izhvanov, S. Khoruzhnikov, A. Tikhonov, V. Vasiliev (SIIT&T, Moscow). “Russian university network (RUNNet) in research and education infrastructure of Russian education”

9) V. Lantsov, S. Mosin (State University, Vladimir). “IST project REASON: participation of Russian institutions and SMEs”.

The first working day of the Outlook Conference was completed by the official reception that allowed participants to establish contacts in informal way.

The programme of the second day of the conference (21 November 2003) started with two parallel sessions.

Session 2A “Humanitarian, research, educational and environmental aspects of Information Society” (9:00-13:40) was held at the Meeting Hall “Sever-2”. The moderator of the session was J. Loonen, Rosas, The Netherlands, the co-conveners were Dr. O. Shatberashvili, Director, Techinformi, Georgia, and Dr. S. Smagin, EDNES, Russia.

The presentations within the session were:

1) X. de Preville (Discartel, France). “Progress for humanity, outcome of the new telecom growing market”;

2) P. Wiench (Warsaw Agr. University, Poland). “Internet and civil society. The Polish case”;

3) O. Shlykova (University of Culture and Arts, Moscow). “Culture of multimedia: risks and opportunities”;

4) G. Saghyan (Ministry of transport and communications, Armenia). “Mutual financial settlements in data networks – situation in CIS countries”;

5) J. Loonen (Rosas, The Netherlands). “A football club and www”;

6) A. Voskresensky (school 101 for deaf children, Moscow). “Computer bank of sign languages”;

7) J.-C. Marot (JC Consultants, France). “Awareness tool for the projects of telework on the TELESOL web-site”;

8) S. Iwata (CODATA, Japan). “Trust-A Solution of the Digital Divide”;

9) P. Schulthess (University of Ulm, Germany). “Future and emerging technologies for virtual presence”;

10) M.V. Perez Asinari (University of Namur, Belgium). “Legal aspects of Information Society: experience in the frame of IST projects”;

11) K. Nasedkin, M. Sapozhnikova (Russian Cultural Heritage Network, Moscow). “Russian Cultural Heritage Network initiatives in the field of cultural informatization”;
12) V. Drozhzhinov (American Chamber of Commerce, Russia). “Government enterprise architecture, government services, government ICT budgeting”;

13) V. Glazyrin (Vice-rector, Chita State University). “About the experience of realization of the common information projects in Baikal region”;

**Session 2B “Telematics and Earth Sciences”** (9:00-13:40) was held at the Meeting Hall “Yug-9”. The moderator of the session was Acad. Al. Soloviev, Director, International Institute of Earthquake Prediction Theory and Mathematical Geophysics RAS, the co-convener was Dr. V. Tatarinov, CGDS IPE RAS, Russia.

The following presentations were delivered:

1) A. Burtsev, M. Zhizhin (CGDS IPE RAS), E. Kihn (NGDC NOAA, Boulder CO, USA). “Space Physics Interactive Data Resource - SPIDR”;

2) V.G. Kossobokov, G.F. Panza, A. Peresan, L.L. Romashkova, A.A. Soloviev (IIEPTMG, Moscow). “Novel information technologies in the earthquake prediction studies”;

3) B. Blyuman, L. Krasny (Research Geological Institute, St.Petersbourg). “Program, goals and objectives of encyclopedia “Planet the Earth”;

4) S. Bartalev, E. Flitman, E. Luppyan, A. Mazurov, R. Nazirov, A. Proshin. (Space Research Institute, Moscow). “Experience of construction of an open information system for satellite environmental monitoring”;

5) P. Medvedev, A. Polyakov, Yu. Tyupkin, M. Zhizhin (Institute of Physics of the Earth RAS, Moscow) “The information system of satellite geodesy and geodynamics data: local version and telematic approach”;

6) S. Anisimov, E. Dmitriev (Borok observatory, Russia). “The telematic applications in measuring complex and database of Borok geophysical observatory”;


8) V. Ishkov, E. Kharin, I. Kuzmin, (WDCSTP, Moscow). “The National Virtual Geophysical Data Center”;

9) E. Kudashev (Space Research Institute, Moscow). “Improving the accessibility of the Russian satellite data in support of the environmental monitoring”;

10) N. Nevskaya, V. Zaalishvili (Center for Applied Geophysics, Georgia). “Fall of a glacier Kolka in Northern Ossetia-Alania on 20 September 2002 and results of using local seismic network”;

11) A. Rodnikov, N.Sergeyeva, L.Zabarinskaya (Geophysical Center, Moscow). “Application of new technologies offering information base for geological and geophysical data and geodynamic models of sedimentary basins of the Earth”;


**Session 3 “IST results of FP5 and prospects in FP6”** (15:00-16:40) was held at the Meeting Hall “Sever-2”. The moderator of the session was Prof. J. Bonnin, President, EDNES, France, the co-convener was T. Shulyakovskaya, EDNES, Russia.

At the session the following lectures were presented:


2) M. Zhizhin, A. Gvishiani, (EDNES, Moscow). “WISTCIS in Russia”;

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3) T. Babayev (Azerbaijan), L. Chobanyan (Georgia), L. Grigoryan (Armenia), M. Makhaniok (Belorussia), A. Novikov (Ukraine), G. Secririu (Moldavia), T. Shulyakovskaya (Russia). “Project WISTCIS in CIS countries”;

4) E. de Vries (IBM Business Consultant Services, Netherlands), A. Beriozko (EDNES, Russia). “WISTCIS training course on FP6”.

Poster session “Educational and related aspects of Information Society” (16:40-17:30) was held at the Meeting Hall “Sever-2”. Numerous poster presentations were demonstrated at the poster session:

1) G. Saghyan (Ministry of transport and communications, Armenia). “Some humanitarian aspects in development of Information Society”;
2) P. Schulthess (Ulm University, Germany). “Collaborative browsing technology in WISTCIS project”;
3) B. Blyuman, L. Krasny (Research Geological Institute, St.Petersbourg). “Geological-mineragenetic Map of the World (1: 1500000) - global information mapping system”;
4) A. Zaitsev (IZMIRAN, Troitsk). “Integration of data sources for space science programs: the case of virtual geophysical network”;
5) V. Migunov (CESI RT, Kazan). “Information network in the evaluating of the budget needs of social sphere in Tatarstan Republic”;
6) V. Migunov. (CESI RT, Kazan). “Development of the graphic editor at the enterprise technical services during information space integration process”;
7) O. Jorgensen (Inside Tech, Denmark), A. Beriozko (EDNES, Russia). “BelairMusic teleworking system”;
8) An. Soloviev (EDNES, Russia). “e-Government tools: overview of some IST and other projects”;
9) S. Smagin (EDNES, Russia). “Overview of IST e-culture projects”; 
10) A. Smirnov (Axis Projects, Moscow). “NetOp School - a powerful tool to enhance computer-based training”;
12) A. Dusman, V. Korb, D. Stolbov (Kohtla-Jarve Town Government, Estonia). “Local municipality management using contemporary IT and media facilities”; 
13) O. Kailova (MSU, Moscow). “The advantages of computer-based teaching”;
14) S. Kochergin, V.Minakov (Stavropol State University). “Regional information resource”;
15) L. Grigoryan, G. Sargsyan (Armenia). “Distance Learning and Video Conferencing Tool (Dileco)”;
18) I. Zatsman (Institute for Informatics Problems, Moscow). “Term System Issues of IST Workprogramme”;
19) V. Vasilyev (Union of Technological Centers, Moscow). “Development of information environment for effective collaboration between small innovation enterprises”;
20) T. Babayev. “Regional academy of digital image technologies (RADIT) project”;
21) T. Babayev. “Eurasian cultural artwork image database (ECAID) project”.

Round-table discussion “Collaboration prospects. New projects for Information Society Priority of FP6” (17:30-18:30) was held at the Meeting Hall “Sever-2”. It concluded the
conference. The moderators of the round-table were J-L. Lavroff, representative of the EC in Moscow, Prof. P. Schulthess, University of Ulm, Germany, and Prof. A. Gvishiani, EDNES, Russia.

Active participants of the discussion were A. Dusman, Kohtla-Jarve Town Government, Estonia, Prof. A. Gvishiani, EDNES, Russia, M. Hutchinson, WiseKey, Switzerland, Prof. S. Iwata, CODATA, Japan, Dr. J-C. Marot, JC Consultants, France, Dr. H. Pruim, UNIDO, Austria, G. Saghyan, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Armenia, and Dr. S. Smagin, EDNES, Russia.

The main topics of the discussion were:
- broadband networks and new technology solutions;
- information support;
- teleworking, groupware and telematic applications;
- the FP6 and its IST Priority;
- WISTCIS results;
- new projects and proposals to the IST.

The participants of the Outlook Conference considered the event to be extremely useful and successive and expressed their gratitude to the organizers.

6. Results of the Outlook Conference and conclusions

1. WISTCIS Outlook Conference was attended by 189 participants from 18 countries including: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Moldova, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine and USA.

2. The programme of the Outlook Conference included 47 presentations and 21 posters.

3. 14 IST projects were presented at the conference including: ARCHEOGUIDE, ARTISTE, COVAX, CRISATEL, CTOSE, E-CULTURENET, ECLIP, ETB, MATAHARI, OpenHeritage, REASON, TOURBOT, VALHALLA, VIRMUS.

4. 15 preliminary agreements to collaborate were signed during the conference.

5. Several new proposals to the IST Priority of the FP6 were inspired by the conference. Among them is uPres, which will be coordinated by University of Ulm, Germany, and will be devoted to further development of virtual presence software, such as Collaborative Browsing (CoBrow) toolkit and Presence Awareness System (PAS).

6. According to opinion expressed by many participants at the round-table discussion, WISTCIS Outlook Conference “Information Society Priorities: New Prospects for European CIS Countries”, 20-21 November 2003, Moscow, Russia, can be considered as successful.
7. Photogallery

Opening session

Conference participants

J-L. Lavroff (EC)

A. Gladilin (Russia)

P. Bodnar (Canada)

R. Nazirov, A. Andreev (Russia)

H. Pruim (UNIDO)

P. Wiench (Poland)
J-C. Marot (France)  

S. Iwata (CODATA)  

M. V. Perez Asinari (Belgium)
Annexes

List of annexes
1. Call for applications
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