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INTEGRATED INFORMATION

International Conference on Integrated Information

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Preface: Proceedings of the International Conference on Integrated Information (IC-ININFO 2011)

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Aims and Scope of the Conference

The International Conference on Integrated Information 2011 took place in Kos Island, Greece, between September, 29 and October, 3, 2011. IC-ININFO is an international interdisciplinary conference covering research and development in the field of information management and integration.

The conference aims at creating a forum for further discussion for an Integrated Information Field incorporating a series of issues and/or related organizations that manage information in their everyday operations. Therefore, the call for papers is addressed to scholars and/ or professionals of the fields of Library and Archives Science (including digital libraries and electronic archives), Museum and Gallery Studies, Information Science, Documentation, Information Management, Records Management, Knowledge Management, Data management and Copyright experts the latter with an emphasis on Electronic Publications. Furthermore, papers focusing on issues of Cultural Heritage Management and Conservation Management are also be welcomed along with papers regarding the Management of Nonprofit Organizations such as libraries, archives and museums.

One of the primary objectives of the IC-ININFO will be the investigation of information-based managerial change in organizations. Driven by the fast-paced advances in the Information field, this change is characterized in terms of its impact on organizations that manage information in their everyday operations.

Grouping emerging technologies in the Information field together in a close examination of practices, problems and trends, IC-ININFO and its emphases on integration and management will present the state of the art in the field. Addressed jointly to the academic and practitioner, it will provide a forum for a number of perspectives based on either theoretical analyses or empirical case studies that will foster dialogue and exchange of ideas.

Topics of general Interest

Library Science, Archives Science, Museum and Gallery Studies, Information Science, Documentation, Digital Libraries, Electronic Archives, Information Management, Records / Document Management, Knowledge Management, Data Management, Copyright, Electronic Publications, Cultural Heritage Management, Conservation Management, Management of Nonprofit Organizations, History of Information, History of Collections, Health Information

Symposia

The Conference offered a number of sessions under its patronage, providing a concise overview of the most current issues and hands-on experience in information-related fields.

- Symposium on Integrated information: Theory, Policies, Tools
- 4th Symposium on Business and Management and Dynamic Simulation Models supporting management strategies

- Session on Open Access Repositories: Self-archiving, Metadata, Content policies, Usage
- Session on Evidence-Based Information in Clinical Practice
- Session on Business Management and Communication Strategies supporting Decision Making Process in Tourism Sector
- Session on Electronic Publishing: A Developing Landscape
- Session on Information and Knowledge Management
- Session on Information Content Preservation as Outcome of Conservation of Cultural Heritage: Ethics, Methodology and Tools
- Session on Advances Information for Strategic Management
- Session on Information History: Perspectives, Methods and Current Topics
- Session on Divergence and Convergence: Information Work in Digital Cultural Memory Institutions
- Session on Contemporary issues in Management: Organisational Behaviour, Information Technology, Education & Hospital leadership.

The wide range of aspects that the sessions covered, highlighted future trends in the Information Science.

Paper Peer Review

More than 300 papers had been submitted for consideration in IC-ININFO 2011. From them, 91 were selected for presentation, after peer review in a double blind review process. The accepted papers were presented at IC-ININFO 2011.

Thanks

We would like to thank all members that participated in any way in the IC-ININFO 2011 Conference and especially:

- The famous publishing house Emerald for its communication sponsorship.
- The co-organizing Universities and Institutes for their support and development of a high-quality Conference scientific level and profile.
- The members of the Scientific Committee that honored the Conference with their presence and provided a significant contribution to the review of papers as well as for their indications for the improvement of the Conference.
- All members of the Organizing Committee for their help, support and spirit participation before, during and after the Conference.
- The Session Organizers for their willing to organize sessions of high importance and for their editorial work, contributing in the development of valued services to the Conference.
- PhDc Marina Terzi for her excellent editorial work, contributing in the production of the Conference proceedings.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor Amanda Spink

Professor Amanda Spink has published over 340 scholarly journal articles, refereed conference papers and book chapters, and 6 books. Many of her journal articles are published in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, Information Processing and Management, and the Journal of Documentation. She is Editor of the Emerald journal Aslib Proceedings. Amanda's research has been published at many conferences including ASIST, IEEE ITCC, CAIS, Internet Computing, ACM SIGIR, and ISIC Conferences. Her recent books include Information Behavior: An Evolutionary Instinct and Web Search: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, both published by Springer. Amanda's research focuses on theoretical and empirical studies of information behavior, including the evolutionary and developmental foundations. The National Science Foundation, the American Library Association, Andrew R. Mellon Foundation, Amazon.com, Vivisimo. Com, Infospace.com, NEC, IBM, Excite.com, AlltheWeb.com, AltaVista.com, FAST, and Lockheed Martin have sponsored her research. In 2008 Professor Spink had the second highest H-index citation score in her field from 1998 to 2008 [Norris, M. (2008)]. Ranking Fellow Scholars and their H-Index: Preliminary Survey Results. Loughborough University, Dept of Information Science Report].

The Monitoring Information System (M.I.S.) - An information and Management System for Projects Co financed Under the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and the Community Support Framework (CSF)

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Abstract: *This article attempts to give a quick analysis on the MIS and how this supports and assists public authorities in the effective management of EU-funded programmes. It includes a quick review of the 3rd Community Support Framework (CSF). Furthermore it has a simple presentation on the concept of Operational Plan for the Regions co-funder by the European Union, the document that approved by the Commission to implement a Community support framework and comprising a consistent set of priorities comprising multiannual measures and which may be implemented through resource to one or more Funds and to one or more of the other existing financial instruments. And also it contains same references for the relations between operators of information and management.*

Keywords: *Monitoring, Information system, Operational programmes, Institutional framework, Public service management.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The main part of this article is constructed by an extensive analysis on the MIS, the system that serves the needs of management at all key stages of which is the planning, implementation and monitoring. In this part we try to analyze the reasons that oblige the use of MIS, the objectives and the parts of its faction, the functions and controls which built into the system the Several applications which have been developed to provide efficient updating of the system and data utilization. In addition, we present the benefits of using it in project management and in public administration in general and in the Case studies analysis of the MIS in Operational Plan of Region Peloponnese.

II. METHODS

The fundamental principle of a Monitoring system is to allow users to capture data, process and disseminate information in a systematic way. Monitoring system enables us to measure trends of various indicators based on the data collected in the field. A monitoring system is vital in supporting

It is very important to know the strengths and weaknesses of the programme and provide sufficient

information to the decision makers to take initiatives to improve the quality of the Programme and also it allows measuring the expected objectives and outputs. In other words monitoring ensures that activities are on the right path by checking them, measuring progress towards objectives, identifying problems as they come up, identifying strengths that can be built up. Monitoring gathers information about beneficiary access to, use of and satisfaction with the operation outputs.

Different set of indicators (activity indicators, output indicators, objective indicators), which have been established in the framework need to be assessed or measured throughout the process.

Monitoring Information System (M.I.S.) is an informational system directly linked to management by objectives. The use of this system is imposed by the European Commission's requirement for uniform electronic exchange of data within Member States, as described in Regulation 1260/99 of 21 June 1999 and in regulation 438/2001 of 2 March 2001. The need for a unified information system for monitoring the progress of the Operational Programmes, Community Initiatives and projects of the Cohesion Fund, for the effective fulfillment of commitments, modification of measures, if there is any chance of it, and evaluating effects and results arising from interventions of Structural Funds in the Member States of European Commission.

The system is directed and it supports: all authorities concerned. Especially the Managing Authorities of regional areas, The General Secretariat for Investments and Development, The Monitoring Committees, The Supervisory Authorities, Ministry departments, regional authorities and the final beneficiaries, the competent services of the European Union, all the Operational Programmes, the Community Initiatives and the Cohesion Fund projects, all the Structural funds.

In particular these are analyzed as follows: 25 Operational Programmes including the 11 Sectoral Operational Programmes and National Sectoral Policies, the 13 Regional Operational Programmes (ROP), one for each of the 13 Regions of the country and it has allocated approximately 1/3 of available appropriations of structural funds for the period 2000-2006, and 1

Operational Programme of Technical Assistance designed to strengthen, support and improve the system for management, monitoring and controlling Community Support Framework and Operational Programmes.

The Cohesion Fund (C.F.) provides funding to projects or groups of projects or stages of projects which contribute to the achievement of the objectives in both the "environment" and "transport" field. In particular in the area of "environment" financial support is provided in areas such as supply of drinking water, sanitation and cleaning of sewage, solid waste management, possible measures for flood protection, forest protection, environmental upgrading and natural heritage. In the area of "transport", C. F. provides financial support to infrastructure projects of common interest for the development of the trans-European transport network (e.g. road transport, railway projects, viaducts, etc

The EU structural funds co-finance, apart from the Community Support Framework, and the Community Initiatives. These four Community Initiatives of European Structural Funds of the period 2000-2006, with total public cost amounted to 1.28 billion euro (of which the Community contribution is 918 million) of the period 2000-2006 are: EQUAL (equality in the labour market), LEADER + (rural development), URBAN II (urban development) and INTERREG III (trans-border, transnational and interregional cooperation). The MIS includes the following subsystems: CSF and Community Initiatives, Cohesion Fund, Programme public investments, Private Investment.

The purpose of MIS is management of information from the highest to the lowest level (project/subproject and payment documents). The coverage of all aspects of management includes economic object, physical object, timetable, administrative and institutional framework. Furthermore MIS covers all stages of management, in the context of the programming and implementation of projects and programmes. Serves a complex of activities involving changes, risks and interaction of many people, agencies and social groups. Risk can be defined as potential negative impact to an asset or project and or some characteristic value that may arise from present of future events. In practice risk is the combination of likelihood and impact. Likelihood is the probability and impact is the lasting change. These risks are generated by various sources for instance one of the risk sources is political situation. However in practice certain amount of risks is inevitable and certain amount is treatable.

For this reason, MIS includes functions and controls which are designed to meet the management requirements of each level of a tree analysis of CSF in operational programmes, Priorities, measures, Projects (acts) and parts of a project (sub-projects), and projects of the cohesion fund, per competent Public Service Management, to ensure that the demanded relations are

existed between the layers of decision making, so as to enable managers at every management level: to monitor compliance undertakings effectively, to initiate, if necessary, modifications of the programmes at various levels, monitor the rate of implementation, to assess effectively the results and the impact of the programme.

The MIS serves the needs of Management in all its essential stages, programming, implementation and monitoring, and also MIS covers the following subsections:

Programming referred to programmes, priorities, measures and sub-measures and financial tables, **Integration-Amended**, which covers information related to the identity and the programmatic data of projects and sub-projects and the processes of integration and the possible amendments, **Monitoring**, relating to information on progress in implementation of projects by the final beneficiaries, as to economic and physical object and the total progress for each level, **Cash flow**, (which evaluate the amounts to be recovered from the EU and their distribution, estimates of expenditure at the level of the measure, creating applications-payment credentials presented to the EU), **Controls** which monitor the procedures and the results of checks by the competent control authority, with any corrections or penalties which they accompany, the functioning of the **Monitoring Committees**, there, is recorded the composition of the committees, the roles and the agenda decisions.

For updating the system efficiently and the recovery of data, applications and services have been developed which allow an easy import of data (electronic submissions by final beneficiaries through the Internet) and an abstraction of data with multiple search criteria, depending on the year, as well as a variety of possibilities for analysis and visualization of data, tables, charts, statistical tools and geographic information systems depending on the requirements for information, publicity and management.

For the purposes of planning, monitoring, management and evaluation of MIS for the community support framework (CSF), the Community Initiatives (CI), the Cohesion Fund (CF) Program of Public Investments (PPI) and private investment (P.I.), established the special service titled "Service Integrated Information system (MIS)" in accordance with the national regulation (nr) 10195/144 DIOE/23.3.2001 and amended by nr/MIS 32178 1426/5.9.2005. The Special service of Integrated Information System is divided into four units.

The MIS takes all the authorities concerned, the Specific Programme Public Management Services, the General Secretariat for Investments and Development, the Monitoring Committees, the Supervisory Authorities.

In this article we present the data management of the operational programme 21 of the Peloponnese Region under (c) CSF.

In the introductory screen of the system, which is the collector of the raw data of the system, we see the managing bodies of MIS. In particular through the field “CSF” and “CI” coordination of all Community structural assistance is accomplished. It includes: **Strategy and priority axes chosen:** specific objectives quantifiable, estimate expected effects (improvement – fit-skills-employment). **Description and duration of the operational programmes with** specific objectives and priorities. **An indicative financing plan:** By priority axis, Per year, Per participation Fund, in the total amount of eligible public and private funding. **The provisions for implementing the Community framework** for the recommendations of a managing authority, arrangements for involving the partners in the monitoring. **Information on charges of preparation, monitoring and evaluation.**

The user chooses the subsystem “CSF” and “CI” from the initial menu and choose access to OP 21 Peloponnese which includes all speeches by sector in the region of Peloponnese. Generally all regional OP include the following information: a. priorities , specific objectives valued by the amount , impact assessment. b. summary of measures (means implementing a priority axis), application priority, ex ante evaluation of measures, quantifying indicators, final beneficiaries (responsible for the execution of acts) financial plan, publicity measures, c. Financing plan by priority axis , by fund , per year d.. Provisions for the implementation of the operational programme, the managing authority, administration, monitoring systems, the mobilization and circulation of financial flows, measures and procedures to check on. Furthermore we present the procedure of monitoring the CSF and the accession of the process integration acts on OP.

MECHANISM for MONITORING the INSTRUMENTS of management : a managing authority for each assistance has the responsibilities: to collect data on the results of implementation, send to the Commission, the correct financial implementation, the Organization of the evaluation checks the fulfillment of the obligations regarding publicity and Community law, and the regular meetings to monitor the assistance.

The monitoring exercised by the Monitoring Committee designated by the Member State which controls the Administration, ensuring compliance with the guidelines and implementing rules. The Commission receives the knowledge through annual reports on the development of indicators, the assessment of the progress of interventions and monitor the quality of programming.

The first action to integrate an operation/project in MIS is the entry in the list of projects from the menu options in the line list (menu bar), the user selects the “**Integration-Amended**” and with the choice “project management” we are on the list of projects. In the screen are showed up fields that need to be supplemented in order to make the project entry in the list of projects. Specifically it is mentioned the measure,

the title, the category, the code PPI of the proposed Total Decision of Projects (TDP) and the starting and ending date of the project. When the user completes those items and stores them, project acquires a code number in MIS, that is unique for each project. This screen displays the fields “PROJECT DESCRIPTION” “PROJECT OPERATORS” and “LOCATION”, that collects a separate group information for the project in the system. Selecting the field 'DESCRIPTION' a special screen appears , where the user fill elements of the project such as the Physical Object, the intrusive and the stages of its evolution. Selecting the field "PROJECT OPERATORS" opens the screen in which the user fills the elements of the proposal implementation, operation, financing and monitoring. Finally, selecting the field “LOCATION” of the project shows up the screen that demands to fill data for the In addition to the "list of projects» completed : field for other Project monitoring reports where register data by the evaluation form of the project/operation, field “Integration Decision”, where is the decision of membership issued by the SECRETARY-GENERAL for the integration of the project in CSF region and the State of implementation of the project.

Flow of information

In this section we will describe the first stage of the procedure to join a project on the MIS. We will deal with the flow of information in MIS when you register a project on the list of projects, which is the first and the most important action to start inputting information for each project, because the MIS gives to its project a unique code number.

a. The overall accession process of a project includes the following steps: Invitation of interest of operators, from the Public Management Authority (PMA), Operators submit proposals and these proposals (projects) evaluated from the PMA, the responsible Ministry coordinated these positively evaluated proposals (projects)

b. Entry in the catalogue of projects of MIS.

Following the introduction of :

Concise technical fiches and other sheet from evaluation Adoption Integration Decision issued by each Secretary General.

Commitment available online funding

This procedure is done by the executives of unit B of PMA.

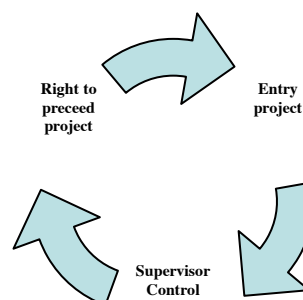


Figure 1. Staff of management Unit B

Once the strain of PMA receives the application must drew up the project evaluation sheet in accordance with the method and the criteria laid down in the invitation and enters in the system the proposal, the Project Evaluation sheet, the Concise technical fiche of the project and if it is negative, the procedure for inserting items in MIS stops there, and if there is a positive evaluation of the project is progressing in the import process by insert the **Integration** Decision. The supervisor of unit B controls the process through electronic input at each stage and enables the Manager to proceed.

Previously the user, apart from inserting data, had the ability to control the system of **Integration** Decision. In the course followed by simplifying the process input control in MIS and he is given authorization codes of other actions on the tab works, nowadays the supervisor retains only the control in the actions of Commitment available online funding and payments. Finally after the above procedure, monthly Statement of project expenditure can be selected where the monthly costs of the project are being recorded. Flowcharts, at the end of the article, reflect the flow of information during the project entry in the list of projects. The description begins from the time that the operators submit the application – proposal of a project on MIS under the CSF.

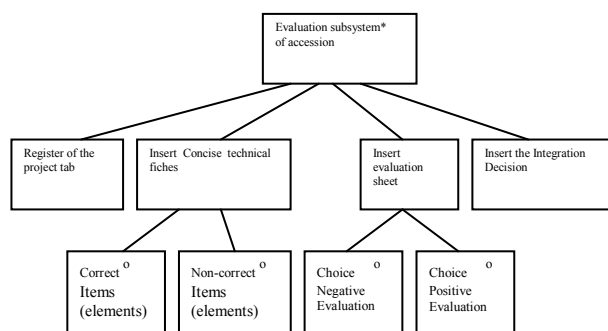


Figure 2. Representation of the structure of the Entry Programme.

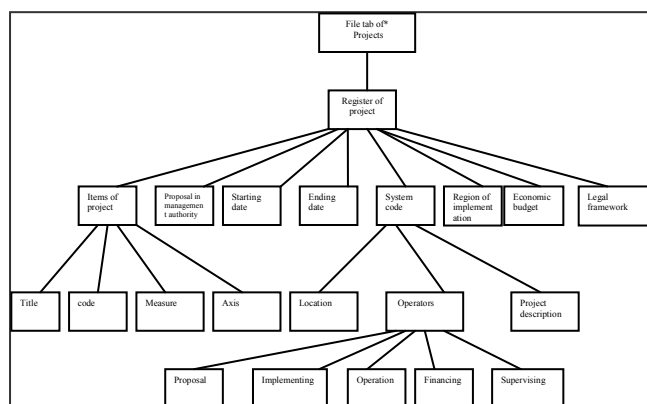


Figure 3. Representation of the project's file

III. CONCLUSIONS

The MIS, the part that concerns the OP of Peloponnese, includes evidence for 898

projects/activities with more than 1000 sub-projects, integrated into 34 active measures of CSF of Peloponnese, total co-financing of 714.039.577 Euros, which were carried out at an interval of ten years. In MIS were collected data on the extent of physical implementation of each project/action, which varies depending on the type of intervention. In addition, in MIS data base are saved Data for the physical implementation of projects by priority axis, measure and indicator, in accordance with the indicators of performance and the achievement of the objectives of indicators (for physical object), as well as many other information for the entire program or for each project/action. All this information helped evaluate, manage, control and implement these projects. The MIS was a useful tool for obtaining timely and key decisions, as well as to the proper management of the flow of funding and to the connection with the implementation of projects as well as to the rational handling of requests for payment of the total funding (public and Community expenditure) required at regular intervals. Now it is a component of the tank integrated projects within the framework of the previous programming period, both the ex-post control, and for the design of the new programming period.

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