

HUMANIST Newsletter

Editorial



Dear Reader,

I'm delighted to announce you that eight members of the HUMANIST Network of Excellence (NoE) have joined the HUMANIST

Virtual Centre of Excellence (VCE) and signed the by-laws of the Virtual Centre of Excellence, and that other partners of the HUMANIST NoE who shall be ready to sign the by-laws before the end of the project shall be founding members of the VCE.

The Virtual Centre of Excellence has thus come to existence.

This important milestone for the life of HUMANIST is the crowning achievement of a first step for the HUMANIST Network.

The completion of this first step opens a new adventure: the Virtual Centre of Excellence.

I wish to this Virtual Centre of Excellence to be as successful as HUMANIST NoE, and to bring all its expertise to the enhancement of knowledge in the domain of Human factors applied to Intelligent Transport Systems.

Jean-Pierre Médevielle

*President of the HUMANIST VCE,
Deputy General Director of INRETS.*

Virtual Centre of Excellence

Future of the HUMANIST VCE

A RECOGNIZED EXPERTISE

The main objective for the future of HUMANIST is to have the best scientific expertise on Human Machine Interaction and Human factors applied to road Intelligent Transport Systems.

This objective is critical at a time where Human Factors and Human machine Interactions are recognized by both Industry and Policy Makers as key concepts for development of innovative intelligent transport systems.

It is then of utmost importance for the European competitiveness and for the European citizens to structure and organise the European Research in this domain, what the HUMANIST VCE will do.

THREE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

At operational level, the HUMANIST VCE will be organised around three types of activities: Core Activities, Reinforced Cooperation Activities and Corporate Activities.

Core Activities are mainly to exchange on scientific topics with high interactions with Stakeholders. They are usual

activities of a modern scientific society, and will be:

- ▶ Exchange on Scientific topics
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Management

The Reinforced Cooperation Activities which are more innovative and integrative activities that are structuring the supply side of research both in its content and processes will be:

- ▶ Activities for new generation of scientists
- ▶ Development and promotion of Scientific research agenda and Expertise

- ▶ Development of Soft Infrastructure

The Corporate Activities which are financially self-sustainable activities are offering services either to the members of the HUMANIST VCE or to customers outside the Network will be:

- ▶ Training Activities for professionals
- ▶ Project Implementation. ■

The incorporation VCE board

Jean-Pierre Médevielle (INRETS), President

Rob Eenink (SWOV), Secretary

Evangelos Bekiaris (CERTH-HIT)

The HUMANIST VCE members



CDV



CERTH-HIT



DTF



FACTUM



INRETS



ISEC



SWOV



TOI

Virtual Centre of Excellence

The Achievement of a long and fruitful Process

THE INHERITAGE OF THE HUMANIST NOE

- The signature of the HUMANIST VCE by-laws is the result of a rich process.
- The main actions to set up the HUMANIST VCE have been achieved during the first phase of HUMANIST existence. HUMANIST has been, during this period of time (2004-2008), a European Project aimed at IVIS and ADAS Human Machine Interactions. It has been a Network of Excellence (NoE) gathering 24 partners and involving about 125 researchers and 40 PhDs. Its budget has been of more than 8 millions Euros with a contribution of the European Commission of 5.36 Million Euros.

The partners of the HUMANIST NoE have carried out a variety of activities covering the full range of actions that a Research Institute has to implement to achieve its goals:

- ▶ Scientific results and processes
- ▶ Encouragement of researchers mobility
- ▶ Sharing of research infrastructure
- ▶ Setting up of electronic tools to ease information exchanges
- ▶ Training activities
- ▶ Interactions with stakeholders
- ▶ Dissemination
- ▶ Governance and management

This has been made in strong relationship with other eSafety projects or Working Groups such as RTD WG, INCO WG and HMI WG.

AN INNOVATIVE PROCESS

- In parallel with these activities that were aiming at experiencing new ways of working in Europe and at defining the content of the HUMANIST VCE, the partners carried out dedicated actions for setting up the HUMANIST VCE.

To invent a suitable organisation for the sustainability

of HUMANIST, a two and a half year process has been implemented. The starting point of the process was the issue of the Intermediate version of the Business Plan, at fall 2005. The purpose of this document was to present a first set of solutions, called scenarios, to launch the discussion between partners. The release of this first document was pursued by many discussions within HUMANIST consortium and outside the Network.

Within the Network 6 meetings involving all partners at all level were held. Furthermore, a working group was set up to implement the results of the discussion.

Finally, on 14th March 2007, the Assembly of the HUMANIST NoE acknowledged that the proposed project for the HUMANIST VCE was appropriate and that the signature process could start.

In parallel, a benchmarking process has been followed outside the Network. This process has been implemented through discussion with many Stakeholders such as:

- ▶ European Commission
- ▶ Industry within the Scientific Advisory board
- ▶ ECTRI and FERSI organisations
- ▶ Other NoEs

The Humanist experience can be used by other Networks of Excellence and demonstrate that federating research institutes and universities is practicable as long as they are constantly involved in the process.

This process is also a good indicator of success for the VCE, which has been built up on robust foundations. ■

HEADQUARTER OF HUMANIST VCE

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Athens, signature of the by-laws of the VCE by the members who joined on the fourth of December 2007.



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