

IRCNC, Alexandroupoli, 29-30/09/2008

**Issue of enhancing network operation:
example of a common tool that may help**

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Current shortfalls

- Insufficient cooperative works between network members
- WG on economics
 - *Quite virtual*
 - *No real membership*
- Not sure that the other WGs are more active
 - *In the sense of conduct of common research action*
 - *So, what's wrong?*

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Conditions to network operation

- Common goal
 - *Pre-Requisite of mutual knowledge*
- Common tool
- Contextual opportunity
- Dedication to doing something more than our daily work
 - *Soft word for "being foolish"?*

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Conditions met in the ISSCRI Project

- More about at <http://www.isscri.org/welcome>
- "Integrating Social-Science Research into the cotton reform implementation lined with the international outlook"
- Three specific objectives
 - *Launching self-sustained national processes of interaction with EU Cotton Policy*
 - *Contributing to international mutual understanding on cotton production, in particular between Europe and Africa*
 - 1st international research conference on cotton policies
 - *Setting up a cotton sector specific research network on socio-economic issues*
 - Development of a new tool

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**Watch on cotton policies
and sector stakeholders**

- Through the diffusion of a Newsletter
 - *English and French*
 - *Reaching 1400 cotton people all over the world*
 - *Possible to extend to more technical issues, other than policies*
- Well appreciated...but very demanding

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ISSCRI conference on cotton policies

- Conference communications
- Forthcoming Special issues in 2 journals
 - *In English: by the end of 2008*
 - *In French: second semester of 2009*
- Attendance from Mediterranean countries
 - *Greece*
 - *Spain*
 - *Syria*
 - *Turkey*
 - *France*

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Rationale for a common literature referencing tool

- More and more people are showing concern to the impacts of cotton production
 - *Positive or negative ones*
- Concern has become more appropriated by the international community
 - *Concern being taken into consideration by regional or international aid agencies*
 - *New mandate to ICAC about SEEP (Social, Environmental & Economic Performance of Cotton)*
- Literature review is pre-requisite to any relevant and well-conceived research work
 - *But information on existing works is not widespread*
 - *Ignorance on how balanced the existing works are with regard to various societal concerns*
- An open access data base can help
 - *To record and let know*
 - *To analyze what the impacts so far are addressed, hence revealing what needs to be coped with more*

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Targeted data base

- Something simple
 - *Rather limited number of information to record*
 - *There yet exist software for the management of bibliography data base (see Endnote)*
- Nevertheless something original is needed
 - *Limitations of the current practice: reference to keywords are not clear enough about the societal concerns addressed*
 - *More relevant to deal with "key issues" related to societal concerns*
 - Matter of innovation
 - Option of hierarchic thesaurus

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Lessons learnt on data bases

- Feeding is critical
 - *But time consuming*
 - *Feeding must be shared*
 - Decentralized feeding has to be considered
 - Internet is helpful
- Data base must benefit from some room for evolution
 - *Hard to fix the modalities of the variables once or all*
 - *Even the architecture of a data base might need some adjustment*

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A single Internet tool for various networks or sub-networks of researchers

- **SLIRE**
 - ***Scientific Literature Reference Internet tool***
- **Specificities of thesaurus according to researchers' groups**

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First version of a new tool almost completed

- <http://www.slire.net/slire/index.php?&lang=en>
- Demo
 - *Search within SLIRE*
 - *Elaboration on hierarchic thesaurus*
 - *Specificity of multi-thesaurus*
 - For distinct research networks
 - ...or for distinct WG of the same network
- How to join-in

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First version of a new tool almost completed

- Still room for improvement
 - *e.g. enabling simply the paper characterization for various thesaurus*
 - *Or making the tool fully multi-lingual (English, French, Spanish...but not Greek)*

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