

Research Project Database AgEng - Update -

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21st Annual Meeting of the Club of Bologna
November 13-14, 2010
Bologna
Italy

1. UNACOMA represents a high number of small and very small Italian AgEng enterprises
2. Those SME's (and also SME's worldwide) have less or even no access to international research activities
3. It might be of great benefit for future development (and competition in a global market) of SME's to create
 - simple
 - fast
 - specialised
 - and in native language useableaccess to the worldwide research activities

In what way can we (the Club) contribute to this challenge ?

Existing databases worldwide

(by Ettore Gasparetti et al.)

- + High number of DB's available worldwide
- + Mainly related to the needs (expectations) of the origin countries
- + ...
- + ...
- + ...

- Not typically related to the needs of AgEng SME's
- Often in the native language of the country
- Not detailed enough
- No or difficult access to results and publications
- No or no advanced tools for retrieval (search)

German research project database

(by Hermann Auernhammer et al.)

- + Specified to the needs of German Ag machinery manufacturers and agricultural research institutions
- + Contains projects and institutions
- + Has advanced search functions (tools)
- + Has a concept for updating and archiving
- + ...

- In German language only
- Not all institutions are willing to join
- Not all institutions are willing to contribute and update
- Less interest from SME's and larger manufacturers
- ...

CoB Research Project Database - Demonstrator (by Roberto Oberti, Luigi Bodria and Hermann Auernhammer)

- + Related to the German Research Project Database
- + Bilingual with “English” as the scientific communication language
- + Based on MS EXCEL
- + Structure related to the “expected needs” of UNACOMA AgEng SME’s
- + Restricted number of key words
- + Realized and demonstrated at the 20th Annual Club Meeting in Hannover
- + ...

- Only some projects for testing and retrieval
- Still bugs
- No interaction with UNACOMA AgEng SME’s
- ...

Project acquisition prior to the 2010 Club meeting



Central and North Europe (by Hermann Auernhammer)

Action plan (C + N Europe)

1. Collection (Email addresses) of persons and institutions
2. **First project call** with project information and pre-defined “project fill-in forms” (August 18), all receivers were asked
 - to nominate 2 of their research projects
 - complete the “fill-in forms”
 - return the completed forms by mail to Roberto Oberti and CC to Hermann Auernhammer
3. **Reminder** to those with no reaction to the first “call” (October 8)

Statistics (C + N Europe)

No.	Country	Colleagues	Returned projects (first call)
1	Austria	3	1
2	Belgium	3	
3	Denmark	1	
4	France	1	
5	Germany	25	5
6	Netherlands	2	
7	Norway	1	
8	Poland	1	2
9	Russia	1	1
10	Sweden	1	
11	Switzerland	1	
Total		40	9

→ **Poor (or better very poor) reaction !!!**

Possible reasons

- Willingness
- Work overload
- No information about the Club of Bologna
- No understanding of the objectives
- Less valuation compared to reviewed papers
- Additional database input of same projects
- Language problems (nomination in English)
- Confidential projects
- Forgotten
- others

expectation

own remarks

often not given

sometimes (may happen)

seldom (one reply)

?

may be the main reason

very often (main problem?)

may be

no (only 2 should be nominated !)

no (reminder !)

??? **What's to do** **???**

Following the line

Still

- we have no responses from SME's
- we don't know what they really need (want do have)
- we don't know about their possible benefits

Therefore

- A reasonable number of SME's (small, medium sized and larger ones) should be involved in a field test
- A questionnaire could provide comparable information
- Additional personal interactions with SME's could bring after that more, more precise and more detailed information

And after that !!!

Following the line

Let's assume that SME's agree with the created demonstrator:

- How can we attract researchers to work with ?
- What's the best way for updating ?
- Should colleagues from outside Europe been integrated ?
- Who takes care and responsibility ?
- ...
- ...

Alternative strategies

SME's show less interest or have no specified opinions:

- Is there any chance to link existing DB's together (minimize multiple input of same projects; same data) in an European or a worldwide attempt ?
- May a summary of links to worldwide DB's be a solution ?
- Could/should there be a mailing list with programs of international (and national) AgEng Conferences informing about ongoing research activities and research projects ?
- May publishers inform SME's about contents and special topics in their journals ?
- ...