

## Report of Activity of the Industry Working Group since October 2009 till April 2012.

At the first gathering of the potential members of the industry Working Group in Warsaw (May 2008) it was agreed that the main objective of the IWG is to foster cooperation between research and industry in the field of biomedical engineering, which should lead to *speed up transfer of research ideas to products*. To reach this aim it is necessary to realize following exemplary actions:

- Research should convince industry to invest in the risky areas,
- Industry should inform the research side in which areas is the best market,
- To create agreements between universities and industry regarding to implementation of the practical education,
- To analyze the areas in which industry and research really cross ways,
- To promote new areas, which are growing very fast in the biomedical engineering field.

*To ensure that work of the IFMBE's IWG will be useful, we should at first attract industry. We should find what kind of information from the research area will be attractive for them.*

### 2009

The main conclusion of the IWG meeting in Munich realized in September 2009 is as follows (see [Minutes of the Munich meeting](#)):

“IWG is aimed to prepare an electronic platform for the exploitation of mutual interests, such as an **“Atlas of Knowledge”** devoted to gathering information regarding research units, their equipment, field of expertise and contact data of the best research groups working in the field of biomedical engineering.

At the start we would like to limit this action to those research units located in the Eastern part of Europe and in Latin America”.

Plan of activity of the IWG after Munich meeting was as follows (see [Minutes of the Munich meeting](#)):

1. Contact industry and ask what data to collect.
2. Check if we can get this kind of information (if it is OK to save)
3. Create a form and convince the researchers using our personal contacts to feed data into the form.

### Activities during 2010

IWG activities during 2010 were as follows:

- As a starting point, a letter from the IWG to Prof. Dr. Joerg Vienken, Vice President BioSciences of the Fresenius Medical Care and member of the IWG was prepared asking about preliminary proposal of the data which should be collected in the “Atlas of Knowledge” Information Platform.
- The proposal from Fresenius Medical Care was received.
- A letter asking about new proposals and comments to the preliminary list of the data from Fresenius was sent to our other industrial members (Dr. Nicole Denjoy from

COCIR , Dr Bengt Nielsen General Electric and Dr Horst Siebolt from Siemens as well as Prof. J. Mizrahi from Technion University, Israel)

- In response to our letter we have not received any negative answers, which was interpreted as full acceptance of the list prepared by Fresenius.
- Preparation of the “Proof of Concept” for the “Atlas of Knowledge” and its distribution among all industrial members of the IWG with ask for acceptance.
- In response to our letter we have not received any negative answer. The final Table of Competence of the Atlas of Knowledge project is attached to this Report.
- Based on the initial activity of Prof. Joerg Vienken and Prof. Jan Wojcicki, IWG decided to contact the Chief Executive of EUCOMED Mr. John Wilkinson to consider joint activities concerning “Atlas of Knowledge” with IWG.
  - *Eucomed is the biggest organization which represents medical technology industry in Europe. Eucomed represents around 22,500 designers, manufacturers and suppliers of medical technology used in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and amelioration of disease and disability. Eucomed members include national trade and pan-European product associations and internationally active manufacturers of all types of medical technology. The mission of Eucomed is to improve patient and clinician access to modern, innovative and reliable medical technology.*
- IWG received positive answer from the newly elected Chief Executive of EUCOMED . Mr John Brennan, Director Technical & Regulatory Affairs of the EUCOMED was appointed as a contact person for this purpose.
- A meeting with Mr Brennan, Prof. Joerg Vienken and Prof. Wojcicki in Brussels took place in the EUCOMED office on 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 in order to discuss mutual actions.

## 2011

- An intensive e-mail exchange activity and a few telephone consultations between Prof. J.M. Wójcicki and Prof. J. Vienken as IFMBE IWG representatives and EUCOMED officers was finalized with issuing a Letter of Interest signed by Mr. John Wilkinson, Chief Executive of EUCOMED on 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2011, expressing in writing EUCOMED’s interest in work with the IFMBE on the “Atlas of Knowledge” project.
- A preliminary draft of an Agreement between IFMBE and EUCOMED on the “Atlas of Knowledge” project was prepared by Prof. J.M. Wójcicki and Prof. P. Ładyżyński, which was then discussed with Prof. Vienken, Prof. Voigt, Prof. Magjarevic, Prof. Krishnan and Prof. Goh. This work was finalized in a form of the initial draft of the Agreement.
- The initial draft of the Agreement was sent to EUCOMED for suggestions or approval at the end of August 2011. In the meantime the contact person in EUCOMED was changed to Mr. Rietschel, Manager Technical and Regulatory Affairs.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> corrected draft of the Agreement was returned from EUCOMED by Mr. John Wilkinson, Chief Executive of EUCOMED on 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2011.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> corrected draft of the Agreement was discussed by the Industry Working Group and the Administrative Council during the 5th European Conference of the

International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering held in Budapest, 14-18 September, 2011.

- The meeting of the IFMBE IWG took place during EMBEC IFMBE Conference on 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 (participants in alphabetical order: S.M. Krishnan, O.A. Lindahl, P. Ładyżyński, R. Magjarevic, J. Vander Sloten, J.M. Wójcicki, M. Zequera). The main topics that were discussed were related to financing and promoting of the “Atlas of Knowledge”. Some of the conclusions were included in the Agreement.
- It was decided based on discussions in the IFMBE AC and IWG that the hardware / software information platform for the “Atlas of Knowledge” should be located at the premises of the Nalecz Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering PAS which is headed by Prof. J.M. Wójcicki, who is also a head of the IFMBE IWG. This way the infrastructure of the “Atlas of Knowledge” could be controlled by IFMBE.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> corrected draft of the Agreement was prepared based on conclusions from discussions at the EMBEC Conference and further e-mail discussion among Prof. Voigt, Prof. Magjarevic, Prof. Vienken and Prof. Voigt.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> corrected draft of the Agreement was sent to EUCOMED on 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 together with a letter explaining changes that were proposed.
- EUCOMED accepted most of the proposed changes and sent back 3<sup>rd</sup> corrected draft of the Agreement with just few just few amendments and comments (29<sup>th</sup> November 2011).
- The amendments and comments made by EUCOMED were mostly accepted by IFMBE. However, the duration of the Agreement was proposed to be extended to gain enough time for the “Atlas of Knowledge” to be implemented and to be put on-line before termination of the Agreement. This resulted in the 4<sup>th</sup> corrected draft of the Agreement, which was sent to EUCOMED for acceptance on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2011.
- The final draft of the Agreement was sent back from EUCOMED on 16<sup>th</sup> of December, which was accepted by IFMBE and EUCOMED was asked to sign the document.
- The Agreement between IFMBE and EUCOMED on the “Atlas of Knowledge” project was signed by Mr. John Wilkinson in the name of EUCOMED on 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2012 and by Prof. Herbert Voigt in the name of IFMBE on 28<sup>th</sup> of February, which became the official signing date of this document.
- A preliminary schemes of the database and the information platform of the “Atlas of Knowledge” were designed (see attachment) and a programming team started to work on the project.

*The discussion between both parties concluded as follows:*

- *A high interest for the generation of an "Atlas of Knowledge" has been expressed by EUCOMED. Such an atlas should be used as a tool to stimulate both:*
  - *a mutual cooperation between industrial and academic partners and to define needs at an experimental, theoretical and educational level between the stake holders.*
- In October 2010 we have received by e-mail preliminary acceptance of our project by the CEO of EUCOMED.
  - In November 2010 Business Plan of the “Atlas of Knowledge“ project was prepared and sent to EUCOMED .
  - In November 2010 “Working Concept” of the website type system devoted to realization of the “Atlas of Knowledge” was prepared

#### **Activities in 2011:**

- The final version of the “List of the Data”, which create “Atlas of Knowledge” was prepared.
- After many months of action we have obtained Letter of Intent from the Chief Executive of the EUCOMED (see attachment).
- The draft of Agreement between IFMBE and Eucomed was prepared and will be discussed by the officers of the IFMBE.
- Start of the preparation of the electronic platform is planned at the end of the year.
- A seminar for go-decision at which rules for such a platform are discussed, can be scheduled at the end of the year.