



## 2<sup>nd</sup> EU - USA POMSEBES Working Meeting

in the framework of the 2008 Project Director's Meeting EU-Canada-US

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

February 17-18, 2008

### Attendants

Mostaghimi Saied, (*Virginia Tech*), USA

Wolfe Mary Leigh, (*Virginia Tech*), USA

Panagakis Panos, (*Agricultural University of Athens*), Greece

Nikopoulos Effie, (*Agricultural University of Athens*), Greece

### Work Group Assignments – Topics discussed during the Individual Consortium Meeting

#### ✓ **Guidelines for the 2<sup>nd</sup> POMSEBES Workshop in Hersonissos Crete, Greece**

The Guidelines for the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> POMSEBES Proceedings to be held between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2008, in Hersonissos, Crete were discussed and partners' tasks and specific deadlines as part of the feedback mechanism were set.

Group Members	Assigned Objective
D. Briassoulis*, S. Mostaghimi, D. Wulfsohn	Develop a uniform structure (framework) for compatible programs of the Biosystems Engineering discipline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Identify common goals and desired outcomes</li> <li>➔ Compatibility facilitating student mobility</li> </ul>
K. C. Ting*, M. L. Wolfe, H. Ramon, P. Panagakis	Describe the Biological/ Biosystems Engineering programs of study in the U.S. and the current trends in EU, focusing on Education and Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Compare 1 or 2 pairs of existing US-EU programs of study (highlight similarities – differences)</li> <li>➔ Suggestions</li> </ul>
F. Ayuga, G. Scarascia*, R. Kanwar, E. Nikopoulos#, G. Riskowski	Identify needs of industry (current and future employers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Propose ways to enhance visibility and recognition of the future graduates at both EU (for US students) and US (for EU students) (possible targets: related industry, other disciplines and public)</li> <li>➔ Propose possibilities for collaborative research projects</li> </ul>



(con.) Group Members	Assigned Objective
J. P. Douzals*, J. Fehrmann, P. Febo, A. Comparetti, (M. L. Wolfe)	(Based on Obj. 5 of 1 <sup>st</sup> Workshop) develop a pilot accreditation programme (in terms of policy / strategy) for the Biosystems Engineering discipline, in conformity to the existing accreditation process conducted by ABET in the US and by EUR-ACE in EU.  (Investigate the implementation status the European Standards on Quality Assessment and Assurance EQF; propose measures for the enhancement of its implementation).

\* Group leader

& The possible pairs to be compared are: i) University College Dublin-Virginia Tech and ii) University of Illinois–K.U. Leuven

# Questionnaire to be addressed to the industry/private companies (each partner will contact directly a selected number of national industries/private companies and additional feedback will be as well gathered electronically). **Questionnaire is attached. All individual replies will be sent to AUA.**

### **Group Leader Tasks - Deadlines:**

1) Develop a structured outline of topics to be covered within the corresponding assigned Objective and distribute the workload to group members.

**Deadline: mid/end of March 2008**

2) Gather material from all partners in the project. Prepare a presentation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop in Crete (21-22.06.08). Send a completed draft report (a Word document) also to AUA.

**Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2008**

3) The discussions that will follow and the conclusions reached during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop will be summarized and incorporated into a final paper-report<sup>1</sup>. Send it to AUA so as to be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> POMSEBES Proceedings.

**Deadline: end of August 2008**

### **<sup>1</sup>Paper - Report FORMAT:**

It should be organized as follows:

Title, Summary, Information Analysis, Conclusions / Recommendations, with supporting documents (e.g. individual partner information) provided in the appendix of the report.

It is anticipated that each report will be less than 10 pages in length.



### ✓ ***Future proposals on student exchange programmes***

The possibility of submitting a new proposal under the 2008 EU-US Call for proposals of the ATLANTIS Action on Excellence Mobility Projects was investigated.

Due to the time limit (submitting deadline: 02 April 2008) and especially by reason of the fact that one of the major requirements is the lack of already established MOUs (Memorandum of Understandings) between the partner organisations (*f.i.* AUA hasn't till now developed MOUs with other EU or US universities) we came to the conclusion that it would be better to submit this proposal next year under the 2009 EU-US Call for proposals. The US colleagues will ask which of the US universities have existing MOUs regarding students exchange with European countries and vice versa (the information about the current MOUs will help us identify the potential partners for the next proposal). EU partners are also requested to do the same. This item will also be put in the agenda of the Crete Workshop.

### ✓ ***Possibilities for development of collaborative research programmes***

Jens Fehrmann's idea on establishing a group with US Partners to discuss future developments in the Agricultural Engineering and Technologies (AET) area was also discussed. This initiative is organised under the umbrella of the Technology Platform MANUFUTURE (<http://www.manufuture.org>) and they are looking for new fields of research in the AET sector, for example by including material sciences, informatics, electronics, etc. (Up to now, four working groups have been defined on a) Quality and food security, b) Sustainable Plant Production, c) Sustainable Animal Production and d) Bioenergy). WGs experts are brought together in every single area from different European countries to discuss new emerging topics.

S. Mostaghimi said that at this point involvement in the AgrEng area will most possibly mean a step taken not in the right direction, in fact a step backwards, provided that in the framework of the current ATLANTIS project we have evolved into the BioEng area and we should better focus on the possibility of developing a student-based exchange programme in that area.

### ✓ ***Dissemination plan***

In terms of the project's dissemination policy the development of a leaflet was put on the table. It was agreed that a large number of copies should be produced and be distributed at the International Conference on Agricultural Engineering & Industry Exhibition (AgEng 2008 Conference, 23-25 June 2008) that will ensue our Crete Workshop as well as during the 2008 ASABE Annual Meeting to be held in Rhode Island, USA also this summer.

S. Mostaghimi and ML. Wolfe undertook the task of preparing a first draft version and the EU budget will most possibly financially support this initiative.



S. Mostaghimi said that he will urge the US partners to attend the AgEng conference as it will be a good opportunity to experience the latest developments concerning the scientific and technological findings and know-how in the related area from the European perspective.

✓ *External Evaluation policy*

Mr. J. Dooley had operated as the POMSEBES external evaluator for the first year (11.2006-10.2007). During the Workshop for both EU and US Current Project Directors (organized by the EU Agency and FISPE respectively), it was stressed out that the each project's Evaluation Policy is of high importance for the administrators. Therefore, it was agreed to ask again J. Dooley as well as to turn for a second evaluation to Mr. Bill Day, ex-President of EurAgEng<sup>1</sup> (who is familiar with our work and partners through the former USAEE-TN<sup>2</sup>), or/and to Prof. William Magette (Senior Lecturer in Environmental Engineering at the University College Dublin and former leader of the USAEE-TN Accreditation WG) .

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<sup>1</sup> European Society of Agricultural Engineers

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eurageng.org/usaee-tn.org>