

9-12 March 2010, Budapest - Hungary.

Final Report

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Regional workshop on "Development of Thematic Knowledge Networks", in the framework of "Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development" (CIARD), to be held in Budapest, Hungary in March

18 March 2010 GAK - Hungary – Budapest – Godollo

Background

In 2008 the Godollo Agribusiness Division of St Stephen University, Godollo, Hungary accommodated a regional training workshop for portal managers and coordinators of thematic communities in the AW Network. The organizer and the participants defined together the structure and functionalities of the Content Management System (CMS) empowered version of AgroWeb pages; installed the selected CMS on the AgroWeb CEE test server in Hungary and customize AgroWeb National, Regional and Thematic pages to the CMS format. Participants prepared and/or modified from existing sources a set of resource materials for the training workshop by conversion of existing design and structure into CMS enabled pages

The European Regional Workshop of ESCORENA took place in Poznań/Poland in April 2008 (http://escorena.net/Workshop_Poznan/index.htm). Achievable goals for the establishment of Internet-based knowledge sharing approaches for the ESCORENA network were defined to contribute towards better sustainability of the network. The workshop was attended by 23 participants from twelve different countries, representing the network coordinators of ten networks under ESCORENA, the network secretariat and focal point, the FAO Headquarter and Regional office for Europe the Agriculture museum network and the focal points of AgroWeb Ukraine and Poland.

In 2009 with the financial support of FAO REU and technical support of FAO HQ, a new server was set up in Rome to serve as common technical background for the AgroWeb CEE Network, ESCORENA and the Thematic Knowledge Networks operational in the framework of ESCORENA in the region. The new web server is based on the Typo3 Content Management System, aiming to contribute to the streamlining of the agricultural information and knowledge sharing services.

Prior to the forthcoming European Regional Conference in Armenia in May 2010, already established agricultural advisory research information network members and new network candidates were invited to the biannual Thematic Knowledge Network Workshop to Budapest, Hungary. The main goal of this workshop was to

- 1. present the actual status of network development,
- 2. introduce the common CMS environment set up at FAO in Rome,
- 3. practice CMS skills,
- 4. create and customize content

during the course of the three days event, in support of educational, research, food and nutrition and other expert fields.

Organization

Communication

The workshop was announced and participants were invited using information and communication tools offered by existing AgroWeb Portal services, as well as by electronic mail communication.



While web based communication tools worked quite well, serious problems have been observed in email communication due to the fact the several participants' e-mail accounts are under domains which are temporally or permanently listed among spam sending ones (see DNSBL, Domain Name System Blacklists for further reference: http://www.dnsbl.info/, for instance ...@mail.ru) thus were flagged by the organizer's mail server as spam and filtered out into the incoming mail folders. This problem could only be resolved by checking all messages in spam folders each day (hundreds of them) and selecting relevant ones to the workshop. In the future it is suggested to create new e-mail address solely for the use of organizing the event.

Independent sub-webpage was set up inside the AgroWeb Hungary site under www.agrowebcee.net, where the organizer had access to create and modify content. Demonstration was also the purpose of using AgroWeb server. URL address: http://www.agrowebcee.net/awhu/tkn-workshop-2010/

Menu structure:

- Program
- List of Invited Participants
- Practical Information
- E-Mail Quick Registration
- Full Online Registration
- Photo gallery



Technical services

Technical services related to travel, board, social program and other organizational details were provided in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Accommodation

The following services were provided by Hotel Benczúr

- **** Single Rooms
- Full board
- Faraway dinner
- Airport transfer Service on request
- Car parking

Social event

Welcome dinner was held in Paprika Restaurant on 9 March 2010 nearby the Hotel.

International Travel

- Air: 15 participants
- Ground (train/car): 4 participants

Technical equipment

 Mobile computers (laptops) were provided upon request of participants who could not bring their own. • Backup mobile internet router was operated.

Secretariat

- Workshop package was prepared and given to each participant.
- It was possible to use telephone communication by the secretariat desk.
- Information to participants, answers and solutions for special requests were provided each day of the event.

Local services – such as the room, wifi internet, projector, flip chart, coffee, etc - were provided by FAO.

Professional results

The organization of a capacity building workshop was essential to ensure that all networks are enabled to migrate their content and services to the new environment. Around 25 participants were invited to the event from CIS, Russian Federation and CEE countries, some of whom were also acting as resource persons.

By the end of the training, new national entry points were created, using the common structure and features developed under Typo3 content management system. Small expert teams were developed to provide further assistance to all thematic knowledge network members on their specific needs.

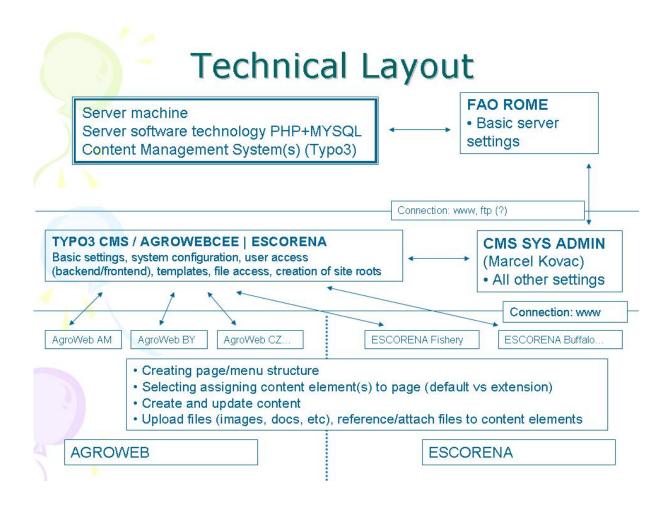
Main components:

Sessions

- Introductory presentations
- Country presentations
- Network presentations
- Content Management Systems -technical and Practice session
- Discussion session

Presentation of the network

Current status and ongoing activities related to Network coordination was presented by Mr. Michal Demes. The central structure, layout and advantages of using Typo3 CMS was introduced by Mr. Marcel Kovac. Possibilities, advantages at the node level was presented by Mr. Laszlo Papocsi. He also introduced an example of Typo3 based platform development with some more advanced features in a FAO TCP project in Armenia.



Advantages

- Decentralized content management
- Reuse & share
 - o content objects, templates, design elements etc
 - functional modules, communication channels (news, yellow pages, question & answer)
- Customizable access authorities
- Prior familiarity with CMS of core AgroWeb stakeholders
- Shared templates & structures facilitate process of migration of AgroWeb content
- Country authors able to publish without programming skills
- Central hosting of AgroWebsite(s) avoids server constraints
- FAO-HQ resource group with CMS expertise

Challenges

- Significant work involved in preparation of CMS elements
- Acquisition of CMS skills by various AgroWeb actors
- Migration of existing website content
- to balance between
 - o feeling of individual ownership (vs.)
 - collaboration in common structural and design patterns

The physical and logical architecture of AgroWeb and Escorena networks were presented for participants.

Hands on training

- The main architecture of Typo3 backend content admin interface was presented to participants by the two CMS experts.
- Typo3 Training materials were provided for download from website or copied to participants laptops on request.
- Agrowebcee.net Help is accessible from the website: http://www.agrowebcee.net/help/

Content creation, migration and update

Already established Agroweb national users could start updating or migrating content to server running at FAO HQ in Rome.

Setting up new nodes

The number of installed network sites was extended.

AgroWeb:

- 1. AgroWeb Greece: http://www.agrowebcee.net/awgr
- 2. AgroWeb Croatia: http://www.agrowebcee.net/awcr

Escorena:

- 1. Agromarketing Network: http://www.agrowebcee.net/agromarketing/
- 2. Buffalo Network (migration from test server): http://www.agrowebcee.net/buffalo/
- 3. Cotton network (in follow up phase): http://www.agrowebcee.net/cotton/
- 4. Flax network (in follow up phase) http://www.agrowebcee.net/flax/
- 5. NCDN Network (migration from test server):
- 6. Olive Network: http://www.agrowebcee.net/olive/

Progress (comparison of task list 2008/2010)

There was an action plan prepared at the closure of the regional training workshop for portal managers and coordinators of thematic communities in the AW Network held in 2008 in Godollo, Hungary. The list of tasks was discussed by the participants. The process was coordinated and moderated by Mr. Stephen Rudgard, Officer-in-Charge of the World Agricultural Information Centre. The actions/steps for 2008 listed below are quoted from his closing presentation. In the table below we do a side by side comparison of planned tasks in 2008 ad completed tasks in 2010.

2008*	2010
Actions/Steps	
Step 1: Preparation of technology aspects	
Consultation in March 2008	Done
FAO + core AgroWeb resources persons	Done
Expected Outputs:	Done
templates	
structure	
hosting	
instruments/tools	
 national portals in up to 4 countries (proofs of 	
concept)	
Step 2: Knowledge exchange networks - ESCORENA etc	
Consultation in April 2008 (Poland) , – FAO + Network	Done
Coordinators	
Expected Outputs:	
 identification/enabling of pilot networks 	Done
 network capacities (coordinators and members) 	Done/continuous effort
 network purpose checklists 	Partly done
(needs/demands/capacities)	
 functional requirements (systems) 	Partly done
Step 3: Learning - May/June 2008, FAO + core AgroWeb	
resource persons	
 evaluations of pilot CMS experiences 	Partly done (by Hungary)
 documentation of benefits of CMS pilots 	Partly done (by Hungary)
action plan	Partly covered in this document
·	

^{*}Based on WS 2008 to do checklist.

As it is visible from the comparison, most of the tasks planned in 2008 are accomplished or partly accomplished by 2010. Those not yet fully done are listed in the follow up action plan task list in next section below.

Follow-up

List of tasks

To do steps in the follow-up phase of the workshop:

1. Tasks not fully completed between 2008-2010 (according to the comparison above)

- 1.1. network purpose checklists (needs/demands/capacities)
- 1.2. functional requirements (systems)
- 1.3. evaluations of pilot CMS experiences
- 1.4. documentation of benefits of CMS pilots

2. Tasks discussed during the workshop

- 2.1. Continuation of content creation using Typo3 CMS.
- 2.2. Testing new extensions, especially some of those capable of Web2 functionalities, such as Blog, RSS, Wiki and some other community oriented services.
- 2.3. Experiment with creating one or more user extension(s), in order to achieve specific functionalities (content modules) under Typo3.
- 2.4. Keep on searching possible further points of value added benefit of using Typo3 system under the Agroweb scenario, such integration and/or reuse of common content elements.
- 2.5. Set up a system to report bugs and requests (for instance "Mantis" Bug Tracker).
- 2.6. Publish workshop photo gallery the photos of the event will be published at this URL: http://www.agrowebcee.net/awhu/tkn-workshop-2010/gallery/

3. Tasks recommended after the workshop

- 3.1. Setting up sub-portal entry points at the central (agrowebcee root) level. There might be similar need in case of AW entry points/sub-pages too (comment by AgroWeb Kosovo).
- 3.2. Content of national Agroweb pages differs from country to country. For the future comparison of the data provided, it is suggested to have some kind of uniform content. In that way, some parallel analysis between countries would be possible (comment by AgroWeb Serbia / Escorena NCDN Network).
- 3.3. It would be useful to question members of the workshop and also a larger audience (i.e FAO staff in REU/SEU and NGO, university staff using the AgroWeb, Escorena websites) what they would like to see on the websites, what useful information is needed that is not available and what needs to be updated (comment by FAO Agromarketing resource person).
- 3.4. Agroweb/Escorena sites should be made more attractive in terms of display for the user, similar to FAO main webpage (comment by FAO Agromarketing resource person and ESCORENA webmaster). In addition, more photos could also be added. In this regard it would be good if two people were designated as the "modernization web design masters" of the two sites.
- 3.5. Agroweb link needs to be put at a more prominent place on the REU website. It should also be placed on FAO main website (comment by various participants).

The comments provided in point 3.1-2-3.) are somewhat related to points 1.1. and 1.2, e.g. definition of needs, requirements and the related system plan should also address such issues.

Conclusion

In the context of the long history of Escorena network and also the 12 years existence of AgroWeb platform this workshop might be observed from the outside as a just another step in the way of never ending technical development. However, a relatively very important step was taken by concluding this event by each participant. Network members expressed their unified will not only to use common content management tools and solutions, but also to cooperate more closely and more effectively by sharing, publishing and reusing knowledge to support sustainable agriculture and food security.

The workshop achieved the well-informedness of participants about the technical architecture of the new server environment. Network representatives had the opportunity to learn basic techniques and some advanced skills in managing content under the Typo3 Framework. Several network members started or continued the migration of their pre-existing content to the new platform. Other network members created their first web—based appearance under Typo3 during this workshop.

In order to achieve a simple quantitative and qualitative analysis of developing Thematic Knowledge Networks one can observe some basic data derived from comparing tasks defined in 2008 and evaluating the progress made until today. Based on such research we can conclude that both Escorena and AgroWeb networks continue to grow, change and adapt to new challenges. However several pending tasks are still uncompleted or unresolved (e.g. a well defined mandate, updated mission statement to meet today's requirements such as of Web2/Web3 communities, definition of needs and demands in standard way, etc).

ANNEX

ESCORENA Network Report

This annex to the Report on the FAO TKN 2010 Workshop in Budapest, Hungary is devoted to ESCORENA matters.

The ESCORENA system (European system of Cooperative Research Networks in Agriculture) under auspices of FAO was represented by Mr. Michal DEMES, FAO Information Management Specialist, Ms. Maria Mackiewicz-Talarczyk, ESCORENA Secretariat, and Mr. Jorge Barriga-Bedoya- ESCORENA Web support, Institute of Natural Fibres & Medicinal Plants, Poznan, Poland.

In the Workshop took part as well Mr. Antonio Borghese from Italy —the coordinator of Buffalo Network assisted by Mr. Marco Mazii, Mr. Lorenzo Leon Moreno from Spain-representing the Olive Network, Mr. Ara Hovhannisyan – from Armenia- Coordinator of the new member- Apricot Network, Ms. Marija Ranic and Ms. Mariana Nikolic from Serbia of the newly affiliated Network for Capacity Development in Nutrition in Central and Eastern Europe.

Moreover the Organic.Edunet has become an affiliated partner of the ESCORENA Network. (represented by Ms. Maria Ntaliani and Mr.Thanos Makrandreou) as well as Agromarketing Network, represented by Olga Pashkevich from Belarus.

During the Workshop the history, background, objectives and future plans of the ESCORENA system — on behalf of Mr. Ryszard Kozlowski (who could not attend)- was presented by Ms. Maria Mackiewicz-Talarczyk. She expressed gratitude to FAO Regional Office for Europe in Rome, Italy for supporting the activities of ESCORENA for thirty four years and for the FAO Regional Office in Budapest, especially to Mr. Michal Demeš, who has encouraged Mr. Ryszard Kozlowski and the Institute of Natural Fibres &Medicinal Plants to act as ESCORENA Focal Point and who made it possible to launch, and constantly grow and develop (with a help of IT of FAO Rome) the ESCORENA website: www.escorena.net

She underlined as well that ESCORENA is the is an umbrella for cooperation between research institutions focused on food, agriculture and related fields. It aims to promote the voluntary exchange of information and experimental data, to support joint research projects and to facilitate the sharing of expertise, germplasm and technologies, especially from the more advanced nations to developing countries.

ESCORENA as the system of research Networks it requires the forum to present its scientific achievements (e.g. bulletin, journal etc.).

Representatives of five ESCORENA Networks present at the Workshop in Budapest discussed the proposal put forward by Prof. Kozlowski, Prof. Sirghie and Mr. Michal Demes of REU to publish one bulletin for all ESCORENA Networks (2 issues per year). This idea was welcomed as most of the networks do not publish their own newsletters and the diversified scope of topics could be very interesting. Publishing the bulletin only on-line will allow for cutting the costs of production and also will guarantee its visibility by linking it to the ESCORENA website.

Each issue of the Scientific Bulletin of ESCORENA will include papers of the diversified topics distinctive for ESCORENA Networks. The idea was approved by the FAO Regional Office for Europe

and Central Asia (Dr. Nevena Alexandrova -Agricultural Research and Biotechnology Officer of ESCORENA Focal Point at FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU).

More details about the proposal of the ESCORENA Scientific Bulletin have been given in a presentation, prepared by Ms. Ildiko Pocza of REU and Ms. Maria Mackiewicz-Talarczyk.

The ideas undertaken in this presentation are summarised below:

Why having a regular Bulletin?

- Not all the networks can afford publishing (lack of resources and few high quality material).
- All the networks can submit scientific or summarizing content.
- Articles on specialized topics will include cross reference to the relevant network portal.
- Increase visibility (external public).
- Opportunity (for participating experts and researchers).

Some networks already publish journal or newsletter, some do not. The Bulletin should be published electronically twice a year, should include 2-3 pages articles submitted by the networks. The volumes would include submitted articles in pdf (separate files), allowing the networks to add links (cross-references) to the full volume.

Purpose: the bulletin is an opportunity to call attention to the recent results, activities of the networks, not all networks can afford having publications (either printed or electronic) or issue complete scientific journal, the support of the secretariat would include the design and publishing, as well as promotion and editing, special issues of the Bulletin can be dedicated to international events, workshops, conferences of the thematic networks (such as the first volume).

Contribution expected from the Networks

- Submission of two articles a year
- Submission and regular update of distribution list
- Cooperation in the preparation and update of distribution list of libraries and information centres
- Insert cross reference to the Bulletin in their Network Portal.

What is the contribution of the ESCORENA Secretariat?

- Design the template for the bulletin
- Edit the volumes and publish the articles
- Prepare a short editorial for each volumes and share it for comments
- Approach the network coordinators for submissions
- Request the networks to update distribution lists
- Distribute the information to the list about the new volumes (ToC included.)
- Highlight the Bulletin on the website and report about new volumes in the News section.

Prepared by Ms. Maria Mackiewicz-Talarczyk, ESCORENA Secretariat, 7.04.2010

Registered participants

Person name	Network	Website
Ms. Galina Polyusuk	AgroWeb	http://www.agrowebcee.net/awru
Mr. Naser Krasniqi	AgroWeb	http://www.agrowebcee.net/awko
Mr. Bogdan Bazga	AgroWeb	http://www.agrowebcee.net/awro
Ms. Oksana Sivurova	AgroWeb	http://www.agrowebcee.net/awby
Mr. Aleksey Markov	AgroWeb	http://www.agrowebcee.net/awby
Mr. Marcel Kovac	AgroWeb	http://www.agrowebcee.net
Mr. Laszlo Papocsi	AgroWeb	http://www.agrowebcee.net/awhu
Mr. Thanos Makrandreou	AgroWeb	http://www.agrowebcee.net/awgr
Ms. Mariana Nikolic	AgroWeb	http://www.agrowebcee.net/awsr
Mr. Igor Stokovic	AgroWeb	AgroWeb / Animal Genetic Resoruces
Mr. Akylbek Kasymov	AgroWeb	AgroWeb Kyrgizstan
Mr. Jorge Barriga	Escorena	http://www.escorena.net
Mr. Antonio Borghese	Escorena	http://www.agrowebcee.net/buffalo
Mr. Marco Mazzi	Escorena	http://www.agrowebcee.net/buffalo
Mr. Ara Hovhannisyan	Escorena	http://www.agrowebcee.net/apricot
Mr. Andras Woynarovich	Escorena	http://www.agrowebcee.net/awhu/fishery
Ms.Maria Ranic	Escorena	http://typo3.gak.hu/index.php?id=76
Mr. Lorenzo Leon Moreno	Escorena	Olive Network
Ms. Maria Ntaliani	Escorena	http://www.organic-edunet.eu/organic/index.html
Ms. Olga Pashkevich	Escorena	Agromarketing Network
Ms. Maria Talarczyk	Escorena	http://ww.escorena.net

Program

9 March 2010, Tuesday

Tuesday afternoon – arrival to Hotel Benczur.

18-20h Dinner in Paprika Restaurant

10 March 2010, Wednesday

9.30h Morning session

- 1) Welcoming participants on behalf of FAO information and knowledge management activities, Michal Demes, Information and Knowledge Management Officer, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.
- 3) Introduction of participants
- 4) Presentation on the current status of AgroWeb website development by Michal Demes
- 11.00h Coffee break
- 5) Presentation on technical background of "agrowebcee.net" portal (Typo3 CMS) Possibilities, solutions, integration, customization. From the system admin perspective by Marcel Kovac and from the user perspective by Laszlo Papocsi.
- 6) Case study Agricultural Research and Advisory Information and Communication Network in Armenia, based on Typo3 and AgroWeb know-how, Laszlo Papocsi.
- 7) Presentation of actual use cases, needs and goals
 - AgroWeb Belarus by Oksana Sivurova
 - Apricot Network by Ara Hovhannisyan
 - ESCORENA by Maria Mackiewicz-Talarczyk
- 13.00h Lunch Break
- 14.00h Afternoon session
- 8) Content management basics by Typo3 example Presentation of how to create and manage content, users, design, structure, data, etc in Typo3.
- 9) Hands on training (each participate can experiment and practice in his/her own computer, guided by CMS experts)
- 10) Summary of 1st day problems and results
- 11 March 2010, Thursday

9.30h Morning session

Content creation, content transformation, content customization.

11.00h Coffee break

Content creation, content transformation, content customization.

13.00h Lunch Break

14.00h Afternoon session

Content creation, content transformation, content customization.

Summary of 2nd day problems and results.

Summary of main findings and conclusions for the preparation of the workshop report.

12 March 2010, Friday

9.30h Morning session

Preparation and discussion of the workshop report and related follow up activities.

11.00h Coffee break

Presentation of the report.

12.30 Lunch in Hotel Benczur

Afternoon - Departure

Signed list of participants (scanned)

Follow-up proceedings



Registration List



No	Name	Country	Signature
1	Ara Hovhannisyan	AM	98
2	Aleksey Markov	BY	Du la Co
3	Oksana Sivurova	BY	lief
4	Olga Pashkevich	BY	Forch 2
5	Igor Stokovic	CR	Mhorie
6	Maria Ntaliani	GR	CANTO .
7	Athanasios Makrandreou	GR	the
8	Andras Woynarovich	HU	0.4
9	Laszlo Papocsi	HU	you a
10	Antonio Borghese	IT	autowo Borgluse
11	Marco Mazzi	IT	Mores Myral
12	Akylbek Kasymov	KG	d. Lacourt
13	Naser Krasniqi	КО	Alumin'
14	Jorge Barriga	PL	Jorge Baniger
15	Maria Talarczyk	PL	Malerrayk
16	Bogdan Bazga	RO	Eller 5
17	Galina Poluysuk	RU	G-43
18	Marcel Kováč	SK	Morn
19	Marija Ranic	SR	Maprijo Paunti
20	Marina Nikolic	SR	Maring Nixolio
21	Andriy Rozstalnyy	FAO	
22	Thomas Moth-Poulsen	FAO	
23	Ildiko Pocza	FAO	JUSIUS
24	Jahan Kurbanova	FAO	
25	Eleonora Dupouy	FAO	
26	AnaMaria Hajduk	FAO	America / tojoh
27	Michal Demes	FAO	
28	Nevena Alexandrova	FAO	
29	LORENZO LEON	SP	
30			