



## EUNET Annual meeting 8-10 October 2007

Report by the External Scientific Advisory Board  
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The External Scientific Advisory Board advises the Institution Board and the I3 Coordinator on all scientific and managerial issues concerning the strategic line of Project. The External Scientific Advisory Board is in charge of writing an annual statement about the Project's development and status including its role with respect to developments in the Americas and in Asia

We will write our annual statement based on the presentations at this meeting, on the reports of this meeting and on the annual report.

**We are very impressed by the good progress the EUNET Community has made and presented. We thank the organizers for the organisation of this very successful meeting.**

The project is now in its maturity and the presentation at this annual meeting show that it is - generally speaking - on good track.

The annual report will cover the status of the project at the end of the year that coincides also with an accumulation of milestones. We understand that a number of these milestones will be just passed because of some “stretching” in their interpretation, hiding some real delays of a few months. This is fine, if the delay can be recuperated with parallel work in the next months. If however this delay is serial with the future steps of the project, this would be a concern, and the managers of the JRs should make soon a careful rescheduling to be discussed at the Steering Committee.

It is rather important that the Annual Report comes in time, unlike last year.

We have seen with pleasure that some of the weaknesses pointed out last year have been improved: the transnational access has now a number of requests and the rate of publication has increased compared to last year.

On the latter, it would be nice to see a further increase, including reports of this annual meeting, both plenary and parallel sessions.

On the former we notice that the number of requests has increased, however these requests are ALL from the EUDET community! This brings us back to the comment we did at the annual meeting 2006: The community of the potential users of the EUDET infrastructures is larger than the EUDET community itself and we should address in a practical way the question:

*WHO will use the infrastructures that we are building and WHEN?*

We reinforce this statement and we believe that EUDET should invest some resources to solve this problem in a proactive way. Potential users in HEP, nuclear physics and industry should be identified and contacted to make them aware of the possibilities of using EUDET infrastructures.

This question is correlated with another difficult question:

*What is the future of EUDET beyond the present phase?*

As was mentioned during the Institution board the big success of the present EUDET is that it has created a community. This result is even more relevant of the infrastructures that have been built. It would be beneficial for the projects to continue in the future with a similar structure. However the world around EUDET is changing and – triggered also by the EUDET success – a much larger European community is bidding for the next call.

*Shall EUDET team up or run in competition on parallel projects?*

This is a question that you should ask AFTER you have defined the scientific content of the next project.

*On the managerial side we are now ok with the expenditure.*

We see that Joachim is preparing a tight schedule for the annual report. A delay like last year can have serious repercussions on the funding of the project.