

Welcome to Echo

We would like to introduce you to two new members of the ECHO team:

(L - R) **Christos KROKOS** (Greek) and **Jean-Noël HAUX** (Belgian).

Jean-Noël and **Christos** have taken on responsibilities in the area of technical support and will be administering the ECHO customer files as well as internal computer resources. They will also be involved in Customer training and in the general Help Desk activities.



BIOREP

Permanent inventory of biotechnological research projects in the European Communities.

Introduction

The BIORP project has resulted from the Call for Proposals for Advanced Information Systems in the Newsletter issued by Directorate XIII/A - New Technologies and Information Policy in the Directorate General for Telecommunications, Information Market and Innovation.

BIOREP-AIMS

The aim of BIORP is the creation of a database of ongoing biotechnological research projects in the EEC member states. The database aims at serving the scientists

(see page 2)

New database!

ARCOME



Produced by IDATE (Institut de l'Audiovisuel et des Télécommunications en Europe - France) and supported by the EEC and UNESCO, the objective of the new ARCOME database is to facilitate the information flow and collaboration amongst European researchers involved in the communications field.

ARCOME is also aimed at international organisations in need of experts in specific fields for their communications projects. The scope of ARCOME is a socio-economic approach of the information and communication research sector in Europe.

The database currently provides information on over:

- 1) 200 organisations, public or private research centers, groups working for

companies which are not necessarily research orientated.

- 2) 400 researchers and consultants.
- 3) 2000 publications (since 1980).

A user manual will not be produced for the ARCOME file, but further details on database structure and contents, show formats available, and on how to conduct a search in ARCOME can be obtained online with the command: INFO ARCOME

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ

Από τον Ο.Τ.Ε.
ειδοποιήκαμε ότι ορισμένες διευθύνσεις του έχουν αλλάξει. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες παρακαλούμε να επικοινωνήσετε με τις παρακάτω διευθύνσεις:
1. Για τεχνικό εξοπλισμό
Λεωφόρος Κηφισίας 99,
15 124 Αμαρούσιο, Αθήνα
Τηλ. 0030-(0)1-6118564,
telex: 219797
Υπεύθυνος: Κος Α. ΚΟΚΟΤΑΣ

2. Απαιτούμενα τέστ και διαδικασία της σύνδεσης.
Υπεύθυνος: Κος ΠΕΤΡΑΚΙΣ
τηλ.0030-(0)1-8653799,
telex: 210010

3. Έλληνες συνδρομητές και κοστολόγηση
Υπεύθυνος: Κος ΡΟΜΒΟΥ
ΥΠΟΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ
TELEX-DATA
Λεωφόρος Κηφισίας 99,
15 124 Αμαρούσιο, Αθήνα
Τηλ. 0030-(0)1-6118824,
telex: 215482

(BIOREP suite)

and policy makers in the academic research communities as well as the comparable echelons in industry.

Europe has to face the much stronger and more homogeneous R+D infrastructure of the U.S.A. and Japan in the field of biotechnology. It is hoped that by joining knowledge and expertise and with concerted action between the EEC member states that the above situation may slowly be altered.

A database like BIOREP, in addition to other available information sources such as bibliographies, grey literature reports, congresses, etc..., will provide people with a valuable extra information tool for conducting their research.

BIOREP does not only aim at registering research reports as early as possible (i.e. from their start or at least in the stage where research results are not yet documented in literature or in reports), so that collaboration and adjustments will be facilitated, but also aims at bringing related research projects together via a systematic classification and indexing system.

BIOREP project phases:

The BIOREP project activities commenced in March 1987. The project phases were identified and described as follows:

Phase 1: Feasibility assessment (8 months). Investigation of the possibility of cooperative agreement with national focal points with a view to setting up BIOREP.

Phase 2: Systems design (10 months). Design of the BIOREP system, collecting the input through the national focal points and preparation for the central tasks.

Phase 3: Loading on ECHO and marketing (6 months). Delivering the input to the ECHO service for loading, production of a printed directory and marketing and promotion of the service.

QUESTION MARK

Information services market programme*

DGXIII/B Information Industry and Market

I. Rationale and scope

With the rapid development of the new technologies, the increasing specialization of production processes and research activities as well as the growth of international trade in goods and services, information has become an essential raw material at all levels of economic and scientific activity.

Strengthening the European information industry's position on the world market in the area of information services is particularly important from both an economic and a strategic point of view. In order to become competitive and to survive on the market, information services in Europe must make the best possible use of the Community market potential and develop a system enabling users who are not specialists in information technology to make optimal use of the existing information.

To meet the new requirements of business and research for information on scientific, technical, economic and other matters, specialized information services, using modern computer resources and means of communication, made their appearance in the early seventies. The market which these electronic information services (professional databases) represent is still fairly small in Europe, but it is growing at a fast rate (of the order of 20-30% per annum). Its turnover could grow from 1 500 to over 10 000 millions ECU in ten years' time.

The Community has already contributed to the development of the information services market in Europe by backing up the

development and utilization of advanced information services with new information technologies. This policy has been executed in the form of three consecutive action plans on scientific and technical information and documentation (1975-1983), followed by a five-year programme on the development of the specialized information market in Europe (1984-1988).

The main results of these programmes had been the creation of Euronet DIANE, the first European telecommunication and information network, the development of over 100 advanced information services, the setting up of systems for full text storage and diffusion (DOCDEL) and the introduction of a pilot network for information services in materials.

A new plan of action for setting up an information services market called Information Market Policy Actions (IMPACT) was approved by Council on 26 July 1988. In order to attain the objectives of IMPACT covering the years 1989-1990, the following measures shall be undertaken:

— the establishment of a European information market observatory to stimulate the

provision of fuller statistics, and, in order to keep the Commission informed in drawing up its policy, to identify the European Community's competitive strengths and weaknesses in the sector;

- presentation to the Council of proposals which will aim at eliminating legal, administrative and technical barriers to the establishment of an information market;

- the improvement of the conditions for transmitting and accessing information services, in particular, through greater standardization and simplification;

- the preparation of initiatives concerning the role of the public sector in the information market, to improve the synergy between that sector and the private sector;

- the launching of pilot and demonstration projects which will act as catalysts for the development of a European market;

- the preparation of specific action for the benefit of libraries, further to the Council Resolution of 27 September 1985;

- promotion of the use and further development of European information services available on the market.

Setting up a European information market observatory

There is little reliable economic information on the information market. The main purpose of the European information market observatory, which will take the form of a simple network of correspondents, is to reduce the uncertainties regarding the market by encouraging improvements in the quality and availability of data on the market and drawing up a review of the information available at European and world level to be used by decision-makers in politics and business.

Eliminating technical, administrative and legal barriers

The main issues presently studied in order to prepare relevant report proposals are: intellectual property, computer fraud, authentication of electronic transactions, liability of information services, protection of personal data and the confidentiality of searches carried out by the users of information services.

Improving conditions of transmission and access to information services

With regard to the conditions of transmission and access, there needs to be a well-developed infrastructure in telecommunication services. Even if the development of this infrastructure is already part of other programmes, the existing environment still needs to be developed in order to simplify transmission and access to information services and to promote standardization. In addition a Community policy is required to prepare postal services for the challenge that represents the completion of the internal market by the end of 1992.

Actions to increase the synergy between the public and the private sectors

In Europe the public sector has a dynamic influence on the supply and use of modern information services. Consultations between representatives of the public and the private sectors are being organized with a view to laying down Community guidelines concerning:

- transnational access to non-confidential data held by the public sector for processing and marketing by the private sector;
- codes of practice for improving the synergy for the provision of value-added information services by the private and the public sectors;
- the role of the public sector as a possible customer for launching innovatory services.

Pilot/demonstration projects

The main objective of pilot/demonstration projects is to develop new, advanced types of information services which are easily accessible to potential users who are not familiar with information technologies. This will open up the market for these services to a much wider population than before. Pilot/demonstration projects are therefore intended to act as a catalyst to the development of the information services market in key areas. On the basis of an analysis and evaluation of the 715 replies received from the call for expression of interest published in 1987, various priority areas for pilot/demonstration projects have been selected. These areas include patent information, image banks, tourism information, information on standards, inter-library collaboration, road transport information and intelligent interfaces to electronic information sources.

The projects will be co-financed by the Commission and must conform to certain established criteria. Within five priority areas, companies and institutes interested in these projects will be invited to reply to calls for proposals.

Pilot projects in the two other priority areas concerning patent information and inter-library collaboration will be defined with the relevant bodies and executed following appropriate procedures.

Other areas may be added later to complement the seven originally chosen. Preparatory work in other areas, such as feasibility and definition studies or working group meetings, will be undertaken as and when needed.

Preparatory work for a specific project for libraries

The 90 000 libraries in the European Community form an indispensable network for the dissemination of information for business and research.

As a follow-up of the Council Resolution of September 1985,

the Commission is preparing a specific programme for library cooperation throughout the Community. It is foreseen that in the course of 1989/1990 a proposal for a decision on this programme will be forwarded to Council and the European Parliament.

In parallel, preparatory work is underway on a few pilot/demonstration projects to encourage interconnection between libraries and the use of the new information technologies.

Reinforcement of measures to assist users

The user is faced with the multiplicity and complexity of existing database services. To guide users, the neutral help and training services offered by ECHO (European Commission Host Organization), which comprise in particular several directories and an information service, must be strengthened and complemented by new tools. ECHO is also a pilot centre for trying out innovatory services to simplify access to information. An awareness and publicity campaign is also planned on the use of the Community information services.

* Follow-up article to Press Release issued in ECHO NEWS No 2/88.

ECHO training

ECHO INFORMATION DAYS

ECHO will also be organising a series of Information Days in various towns in Europe as a promotional exercise for introducing ECHO's databases and services either for people who are considering access to ECHO but who would like some further details or for non-Users of online information who would like to find out more about ECHO and its relationship to the European online scene.

LOCATION AND DATES

London 12-13 Dec '88
(EDC's only)

Athens Mar '89
Thessalonica Mar '89
Stuttgart 6 April '89
Paris Mar/Apr '89
Brussels Mar/Apr '89

INTRODUCTION TO CCL

London 12-13 Dec '88
(EDC's only)
Athens Mar '89
Thessalonica Mar '89
Stuttgart 6 April '89
Paris Mar/Apr '89
Brussels Mar/Apr '89

DATABASE DAYS

Athens Mar '89
Thessalonica Mar '89
Paris Mar/Apr '89
Brussels Mar/Apr '89
Stuttgart 6 April '89

Users wishing to participate in any of the above events should contact the ECHO Help Desk at the address below:
ECHO Customer Service
B.P. 2373
L-1023 LUXEMBOURG
Tel. : +352 48 80 41 Tlx : 2181
Fax : +352 48 80 40

New - INFO address

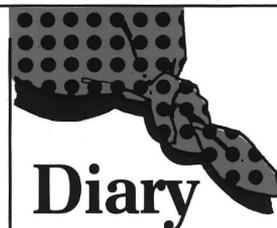
Registered ECHO Users may now check their addresses online with the following command:
INFO ADDRESS.

Users may then notify the ECHO Customer Service should any modifications be required via the MAILBOX Service.

Nouveauté - INFO address

Les utilisateurs ECHO enregistrés peuvent désormais vérifier en-ligne leur adresse en utilisant la commande suivante:
INFO ADDRESS.

Toute modification sera notifiée au Service Clients ECHO dans la MAILBOX.



Diary dates

ECHO will be represented at the following workshops, seminars and exhibitions over the coming months:

Exhibitions:

Thessalonica	3-7/11/88 INFOSYSTEM
Zurich	10/11/88 EURONET-DIANE WORKSHOP
Geneva	8/11/88 EURONET-DIANE WORKSHOP
Valencia	14-18/11/88 FERIA DE LA INDUSTRIA AUXILIAR
London	6-8/12/88 ONLINE '88
Amsterdam	6-9/12/88 EUROCOMM '88
Brussels	26-28/1/89 DATA '89
Oslo	9-10/2/89 OSLO ONLINE
Hannover	8-15/3/89 CEBIT
London	14-16/3/89 INFORMATION SHOWCASE
Gent	24/4/89-1/5/89 FLANDERS TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL
Düsseldorf	20-26/5/89 7 ^e Foire Internationale de la Fonderie

TED PRESENTATIONS:

London	11 Nov 88 INSPEC
Cork	24/25 Nov 88 Annual Conference Small Firms Assoc.

ECHO

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