



1st Quarter 2009

Dear Reader,

Our newsletter provides you with information about recent developments in the European Project COLL-PLEXITY, in particular, about the progress in our project. Moreover, you will find relevant news about upcoming events in the field of complexity and collaboration research. We hope you will enjoy reading it.

Your COLL-PLEXITY team

Current state of the COLL-PLEXITY project

Having the final Generic Model of Complexity (GeMoC) at hand we are now finishing the validation phase of the project. The test scenario was based on a workshop series that was conducted at Schiesser AG and Virtuelle Fabrik AG. The goal of this phase was to evaluate our developed model concerning two aspects. First, we tried to find out if the model considers all relevant aspects concerning complexity in guided and self-organized networks. The identified problems and the effect by the adjustment of certain system characteristics were discussed and, if needed, adjusted. Moreover the vertical and horizontal integration of the problems and the system characteristics into the framework of the Viable System Model were reviewed and compared to the praxis. Second, we discussed the applicability of the model in a practical environment focussing on specific problems. As a result the industry partners agreed on the meaningfulness, plausibility and applicability of the Generic Model of Complexity. Especially the revealed indirect effects would help to better understand complexity issues.

Besides the validation of the GeMoC we almost finished developing a "Complexity Management Manual" for network managers. The manual comprises a detailed description of our project results and also contains a generic guideline for the analysis of complex problems in networks using the GeMoC. This should empower network managers to control their networks in a more target-oriented way by giving them more transparency concerning the consequences of their actions.

Furthermore we prepared two joint papers. We are planning to present one of them at the next EUROMA (European Operations Management Association) conference in Göteborg, and the other one at the 2009 conference of Portland International Center for Management of Engineering and Technology (PICMET) in Portland.

Upcoming events

May 1-4, 2009: POMS Conference (Orlando, Florida, USA) www.poms.org

May 11-14, 2009: EURAM Conference (Liverpool, UK) www.euram2009.org

June 14-17, 2009: EUROMA Conference (Göteborg, Sweden) www.euroma2009.org

August 2-6, 2009: PICMET Conference 2009 (Portland, Oregon, USA)

www.picmet.org/new/Conferences/2009

September 21-25, 2009: ECCS Conference (Warwick, UK) www.eccs09.info

Please visit www.coll-plexity.net for further project information

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