

MINET – A European network on Measuring the Impossible

M. Gröning

Department of Psychology/Gösta Ekman Laboratory, Stockholm University, 9 Frescati hagväg, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden,
mikael.groning@psychology.su.se



MINET-project fundamentals

The FP6-project "Measuring the Impossible Network" (MINET) [1] coordinates the 14 ongoing research-projects within the FP6 activity "New and Emerging Science and Technology" (NEST) action line Pathfinder/Measuring the Impossible (Mti) [2]. The MINET-project is coordinated by Professor Birgitta Berglund at the department of Psychology at Stockholm University and has 22 partners from 11 EU-countries. The project started on February 1st 2007 and will run for 36 months. The total MINET budget is 1.73 million Euros, of which 1.5 million Euros are provided by the EC. The members of the MINET steering committee are: professor Birgitta Berglund, chair, Stockholm University; professor Janko Drnovsek, University of Ljubljana; professor Leslie Pendrill, SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden; Dr. Gerie van der Heijden, Biometris at Wageningen University and Research Centre; professor Giovanni B. Rossi, University of Genova; Ms. Teresa Goodman, National Physical Laboratory.

The Measuring the Impossible

The interdisciplinary nature of the "Measuring the Impossible" area raises many challenges, both in linking related but so far uncorrelated developments in many disparate disciplines/interdisciplines as well as meeting an ever-increasing demand for measurement as a basis for decision making. That is, human interpretation of qualitative information. As proposals for future projects are put forward, it is therefore essential that mechanisms be in place to facilitate science communication and interdisciplinary creativity among the researchers in the Mti-projects, but also in the evolving wider European community.

The Mti initiative focuses on the advancement of interdisciplinary science in soft measurement in any application area. The initiative refers to a variety of different kinds of application areas where *human perception and interpretation* is involved. On the one hand, perception and interpretation are human functions (mental or brain) which are primarily studied in psychology and neuroscience, on the other hand these functions are used for measuring various types of phenomena in a vast number of interdisciplinary application areas.

The measurement of phenomena, which are holistic and multidimensional in nature, is a complex task in itself. In this framework, social aspects of complex phenomena are also

involved. It should not be forgotten that human interpretation takes place in the context of social relations, which calls for social science involvement. The research projects under the Mti initiative look to support interdisciplinary research and novel investigative methods that will significantly advance the understanding of human perception and interpretation of complex phenomena.

MINET aims

MINET aims to achieve longterm integration and advancement of the science of measuring complex, holistic quantities and qualities across all relevant areas through Europe. The objectives are to:

1. increase the productivity of Mti projects by interdisciplinary transfer of knowledge on complex measurement, creative interaction and cooperation across application areas;
2. initiate a longterm integration of a broader European community in the advanced science of complex measurement in all relevant fields;
3. facilitate an insightful and wider understanding of the measurement concept across disciplines and its implications in any field of application;
4. improve European scientific competitiveness through the development of competent interdisciplinary expertise and new topics for future Mti projects.

MINET actions

The objectives will be achieved by two main actions:

1. maximizing synergies, boosting creativity and promoting fast progress in the exchange of interdisciplinary knowledge, experience and development of complex measurement through discussion and training: science communication, interdisciplinarity, creativity, terminologies and theories of measurement, and application areas.
2. defining, organizing and managing of a core network of Mti projects, an extended network of the evolving European community including interactive networking with NMIs, and an Internet based Information Center for interactive discussions, dissemination and transfer of scientific knowledge and common activities.

Practical coordination activities are:

- a) study-visit program
- b) think tanks
- c) workshops/seminars
- d) training course

Exchange and transfer of knowledge on good practices for complex measurement will positively impact commercial and scientific activities in Europe, e.g., for manufacturing perception delivery on products/buildings/public spaces, and stimulate research projects on new topics.

References

1. www.minet.wordpress.com (2008-06-04)
2. European Commission. *Measuring the Impossible – A NEST Pathfinder Initiative*. ISBN 92-79-03854-0



**SIXTH FRAMEWORK
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