



**E-CONS NETWORK (COMENIUS 3)
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING (extended to other E-CONS partners)
Sofia - Bulgaria**

The sixth meeting of the E-CONS Network Technical Committee started on 12th May 2007 at 10.00 a.m. including other partners who were also in Sofia attending the Third Meeting of the E-CONS Network.

Participants:

For SPAIN

Ms Blanca Berruete Cilveti

Head of Consumer Affairs Section
Department of Industry and Trade. Government of Navarra

Ms Pilar Guerrero Serrano

Head of Training and Education Section
National Institute of Consumer Affairs

Ms Natalia González Fernández

Teacher of the Education Department. University of Cantabria

Ms Luisa Camarasa Soriano

Head of Industrial Safety and Consumer Affairs Section
Department of Industrial Safety and Consumer Affairs
Government of Valencia

Ms M^a José López Ródenas

Head of Training and Education Section
Department of Industrial Safety and Consumer Affairs.
Government of Valencia

Ms M^a Carmen Agudo Ballesteros

Head of Information, Training and Education Section.
Department of Consumer Affairs and Community Health.
Government of Extremadura

Ms Socorro Rodríguez Fernández

Pedagogical Adviser of the Consumer Education Centres
Principality of Asturias

For the UNITED KINGDOM

Ms Sue Bailey

Professor of the London Metropolitan University

For BELGIUM

Mr Stefaan Hendrickx

Centre de Recherche et d'Information des Organisations de
Consommateurs

For PORTUGAL

Mr Mario Béja Santos

Head of Training Department, Instituto do Consumidor



For BULGARIA

Ms Bistra Vassileva
Professor of Varna University of Economics

For FRANCE

Mr Christophe Bernes
Head of Education and Training Projects
Institut National de la Consommation

For POLAND

Mr Tomasz Odziemczyk
Association of Polish Consumers

For HUNGARY

Mr Lewis Akenji
Association of Conscious Consumers

For ITALY:

Mr Andrea di Parma
Association for Consumers and Environment Protection (ADICONSUM)
Ms Rita Attisha
Association for Consumers and Environment Protection (ADICONSUM)

Chairing the meeting:

Ms Nieves Álvarez Martín
Director of the European School of Consumers
Department of Trade and Consumer Affairs. Government of Cantabria.
NETWORK Coordinator

Review of the activities and the commitments of the E-CONS NETWORK

The NETWORK coordinator checks each of the website's sections focusing on the extensions and proposals. It can be proven that all expectations on figures have been exceeded, for instance:

- The number of teacher teams registered in the NETWORK almost doubles the expectations. It was foreseen to achieve 1000 teams and we already have 1816.
- The number of teams using the section of partner search has increased; at the moment of the meeting almost 60 teams are looking for partners via the website of the E-CONS Network.
- The number of visits of our website is very high: more than half a million persons and more than one and a half million of visits.

- The data bases are running. They have a good number of records; however, some partners have not introduced all the records they have committed to in this project.
- The partners' projects that are interesting for the teachers can also be registered in the data base of experiences, it must not only be projects carried out by teachers.
- The forum is being used only a bit.
- The chat has been used successfully for the virtual meetings but in many cases the participation was very small because many partners do not have the authorization to use this communication method.

AGREEMENTS:

It is agreed to remind the partners of their commitments to introduce information in the data bases. All data has to be registered before the end of September. On the advice of Christophe Bernes, the webmaster will study another communication system, using a programme of public domain which runs very well for chats and which has fewer problems than the system which is being used at the moment.

Furthermore, the coordinator gives the following information:

- An external company (situated in Madrid) has evaluated the operation of the E-CONS website and the level of fulfilling the project's agreements. The results are excellent. Furthermore, they have made some suggestions to improve the effectiveness of the website which we are implementing. Other recommendations, that are more subjective, have not been taken over by the webmaster (for example: to change the red colour which indicates something important because they say that the contrast with blue is too strong) or the fact that some data can be reached only after making three clicks. It is important to consider that (even it has not been foreseen in the project) the website contains all controls of accessibility and it is being formatted to achieve its official approval.
- On the other hand, the website has been presented to a competition of the University Carlos III of Madrid. It is not an economic price but of big prestige. We will keep you informed on the results.
- The travelling notebook and the pilot experience being carried out by 45 teachers' teams of Cantabria have been mentioned. The results will be available on the website in September.



Review of the work groups' activities:

Group 1.- Databases

Stefaan Hendrickx, coordinator of this group, gives information on the development of the databases and focuses on the last one. He confirms that the NETWORK's webmaster has made all modifications proposed in the meeting in Murcia and now remains the introduction of data.

AGREEMENTS:

It is proposed that those member institutions of the NETWORK, which have an own database, should include a reference to the website in the corresponding section and send this reference to the coordination to include their data in the database.

In the entry form of projects, field "project type", the possibility of "others" should be included so that projects funded by the DG SANCO, the regional and national governments, etc. can also be inserted.

Group 2.- Educational Innovation

As the coordinator of this group, Elena Wolf (CI), could not stay for the meeting, María José López Ródenas (who is, together with Nieves Álvarez, Elena Wolf, Pilar Guerrero and Natalia González, one of the authors of the Didactic Manual for the Consumer Education) has informed on the development process of the didactic manual and its usefulness.

We should be very satisfied with the efforts carried out because we have a very useful manual for the Consumer Education.

The coordinator said that the didactic material "Cuentos contigo" (Tales with You) have been translated into English (available on the website) and into Portuguese (will be available on the website soon) and that all organizations have the right to translate and publish them in their languages if they wish so.

Group 3.- Web and virtual forum

As the coordinator of this group, Christophe Bernes, has already mentioned in another section of this meeting, he gives some details how to improve the possibility of virtual connection between the partners of the E-CONS Network.



Group 4.- Organization of meetings

The coordinator of this group, Mario Béja Santos, says that he is disappointed by the collaboration carried out with the CCN Network. He thinks that a better negotiation would have been necessary to achieve more speeches proposed by the E-CONS Network because some of the first day's speeches seemed not to be very adequate.

A discussion is raised on this subject and the conclusion is that, for next occasions, we have to know better the speeches proposed by other networks in order to negotiate their suitability.

Group 5.- Evaluation

Natalia González Fernández, coordinator of this group, gives her ideas for the internal evaluation of the NETWORK that should be carried out at this stage. She will send her proposal to the coordination in order to start the process.

We should not forget that the didactic manual has to be evaluated by the teachers.

Publishing of the Didactic Manual:

The coordinator gives an update on the procedure carried out in order to publish the material:

- 1.- All manuals in all languages have been designed in colour.
- 2.- They have been sent in PDF format to some partners to check them and to give the final approval as well as to send price offers to the coordination in order to publish the manual in their countries in colour and in black and white.
- 3.- The manual could not be sent in PDF format to some partners because there have been problems with the Cyrillic letters in the procedure of creating the PDF document out of the design programme "Page Maker". Therefore, the manuals are now being converted in another programme as this problem cannot be solved in Page Maker.
- 4.- As soon as the coordination has received the price offers from the partners, it will be decided what is the cheapest place to publish the manual.
- 5.- The CD-ROM will be edited in Spain. It will be the same format for everybody and sent to all partners.



6.- The manual should be published as soon as possible, until mid September at the latest.

The material's copyright is shared by all partners. Each partner can distribute the manual as well as change or sell future editions.

Justification of the E-CONS project

The grant of the European Commission for the E-CONS project ends in September. The coordination will continue with this project, with or without grants, and hopes that all partners will also continue.

All partners agree.

The justification process of the project is as follows:

- 1.- The coordination will remind the partners of what they still have to justify.
- 2.- The partners have to send the justifying documents to the coordination before the end of September.
- 3.- The coordination would like to submit the justification to the European Commission at the beginning of October in order not to wait so long for the final payment.

The coordinator gives information on the new project presented to the European Commission. It is a very interesting project and necessary in order to close the circle of activities and services which the E-CONS NETWORK provides for the teachers. The online courses and the travelling notebook will be very useful.