Establishing a Europe-wide Network of Dynamic Microsimulation Modellers: Challenges and Opportunities

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Establishing a Europe-wide Network of Dynamic Microsimulation:

Goal of this presentation:

☑ to initiate a discussion on why and under what conditions and characteristics such a network could be useful for its partners
☑ to present our efforts so far and our aspirations for the future

Overview of this presentation:

☑ The initial efforts
☑ What would be the purpose of this network?
☑ What concrete tasks should this network take up to achieve its aims?
☑ What logistics are required to float this idea into the future?
☑ Conclusions
The initial efforts

☑ September 18\textsuperscript{th}, 2009: initial email inviting people/institutes to become partners

☑ very good response indeed

☑ and then things went south...

We decided to abandon this attempt for several reasons

☑ we would not stand a chance without forming a bigger consortium

☑ the conditions for the bid were unfavourable (e.g. accessibility)

☑ we were left with very little time

☑ we considered a compromise, but without success
So now we revive the idea!

Why may collaboration and information sharing benefit us all?

- high development costs and less scope for learning through scientific channels
- need for information sharing pertaining to highly practical issues
- model design needs to anticipate new directions of policy debates
- generate critical mass for some projects

Why should this network be European?

- window of opportunity in Europe
- research and development is becoming European and so should research networks
- already we see important collaborations happening on the European level
What tasks should this network take up?

**initial or take-off stage**
- organize a small-scale and informal workshop in each year where there is no IMA conference
- stimulate mutual learning by actively making available working papers of ‘members’ or otherwise unpublished material.
- develop and make available a ‘who-is-who’ of MSM developers
- stimulate and (in a later phase) organize stages, exchange projects and visiting fellowships
- Compete in national or European research projects (ESF, FP8, Marie-Curie, COST, ...)

**future stages**
- organize stages, exchange projects and visiting fellowships
- Using/ implementing a common platform
- Consider developing a EU-wide model
What logistics are required to float this idea into the future?

- We do not have the ambition to develop an overly formal and heavy organisation, requiring formal partnership and imposing all kind of restrictions!

- Provide for an organisational and technical structure
  - Organizational structure: home organisation, initiators
  - Technical structure: webpage with upload and download facilities

- Organize the next workshop in Vienna for 2012

- We plan to write a summary report on the basis of this presentation and your contributions, and which will form the basis of future activities in this network
Conclusions

☑ We do not have the ambition to develop an overly formal and heavy organisation, requiring formal partnership and imposing all kind of restrictions! (at this initial stage)

☑ We feel that there is a need for a lean and rather informal network that
  ☑ facilitates co-operation, mutual learning and information sharing
  ☑ in a later stage may develop into a platform to compete in national and European research projects

☑ However, we can not do this alone, so we need your
  ☑ support, both now and in the future
  ☑ comments
  ☑ cheers
  ☑ active participation in the discussion that will take place today and tomorrow
  ☑ maybe your suggestions for others that might be interested in this network!