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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 18th, 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- stimulate mutual learning by actively making available working papers of 'members' or otherwise unpublished material.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!