

## **Memo re the Hungarian national user group meeting of 11 March 2002**

The Hungarian national user group held its start-up meeting on 11 March 2002. Members of the group are:

- Mrs. Linder Erzsébet Eperjesi, head of department at the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, representing data users in the group,
- Mátyás Gáspár, President of the Hungarian Association of Telecottages,
- Tamás Koltai, statistician from the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, representing data users in the group,
- Kálmán Kovács, owner of a firm which provides Internet services, representing micro-entrepreneurs in the group,
- Sándor Szarvas, high-ranking decision-maker, Deputy Head of Division for Employment Policy at the Ministry of Economy, initiator of telework in Hungary,
- László Z. Karvalics, owner of a research institution dealing with ICT issues and also with dissemination in education.

Also participated in the meeting: Judit Lakatos, responsible for WP5; Csaba Makó, manager of the STILE project, Péter Tamási, co-ordinator of the Hungarian group of the STILE project.

First Csaba Makó introduced the members of the user group to the EMERGENCE project from which STILE had developed, then he explained the role and the aims of the STILE project.

Judit Lakatos, an executive officer at the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, responsible for WP5 of STILE, has told the group that there has been a(n optional) telework module in the Hungarian manpower survey since 1992, which is EUROSTAT conform, but the data they get by it are most probably not precise. She thinks that the questions they ask – also applied by EUROSTAT – cannot grasp the essence of the problem. She expects help from the user group in formulating more precise questions to get a more realistic picture regarding telework in Hungary. They make their survey in 60,000 households. She raised the problem of how to choose the sample of 200 to be surveyed in the STILE project. She distributed the sheets they use in their module and asked the members of the group to give their opinions and ideas in two weeks' time. She mentioned that the Irish material came a bit late, she has not answered it yet, and as she would like to incorporate the group members' opinions about it as well, she will write her response in a month's time.

In the discussion that followed the question was raised what kind the user group should be. It was noted that most of the Hungarian group members were rather distant- or e-employers and not employees. It should be made clear in what ratio employers and employees should take part in it. It was also raised that the concepts in the list of indicators for the survey were not clear either. Telework and e-work can be defined in a narrow and in a broad sense too. Which one should be adopted in this project? Questions asking for motivations are completely missing. Why is one worker an e-worker and another doing very similar work not? An unambiguous definition of telework and e-work would be needed, which, however, is not an easy task as it can be approached from various aspects: e.g. character of the work, place of doing the work, the technical side ("infrastructure"), etc. It was also raised that someone should take part in the European user group meeting to clarify these queries.

Also using the comments and opinions of the user group members, Judit Lakatos will write a summary of the user group issues by the middle of April.