



**FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1**

**Grant Agreement: 316087**

# **AComIn: Advanced Computing for Innovation**

**FP7 Capacity Programme  
Research Potential of Convergence Regions**

## **D7.8 Steering Committee Conclusions Regarding AComIn Performance Year 3**

**Prof. Galia Angelova, AComIn Coordinator  
(for the Steering Committee members)**

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## 1. PREFACE: STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AFTER YEAR 3

The meeting of AComIn Steering Committee after year 3 took place on 11 November 2015 immediately after the Closing session of the International Conference AComIn-2015 that was held on 10-11 November 2015 in Sofia, Bulgaria (see <http://www.iict.bas.bg/acomin15/>). The schedule was convenient since the Steering Committee members attended the conference, met the incoming AComIn post-docs and some incoming experienced researchers and had the opportunity to listen the individual presentations about project results.

Seven external Steering Committee members attended the meeting:

- Prof. Oleg Iliev (Fraunhofer ITWM, Kaiserslautern, Germany),
- Prof. John Domingue (Open University, UK and STI International, Austria),
- Prof. Virginio Cantoni (University of Pavia, Italy),
- Prof. Ivan Kalaykov (University of Örebro, Sweden),
- Dr. Ioannis Papamichail (Technical University of Crete, Greece),
- Mrs Karina Angelieva (AComIn Steering Committee Member in 2012, as Head of the Joint Innovation Center of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; now First Secretary of Education and Science, Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the Council of the EU),
- Prof. Kostadin Kostadinov (AComIn Steering Committee Member in 2012, as Scientific Secretary in ICT of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; now Vice-Minister of Education and Science).

as well as seven representatives of IICT-BAS:

- Prof. Galia Angelova (AComIn Coordinator),
- Prof. Svetozar Margenov, WP1 Leader and Director of IICT-BAS,
- Prof. Ivan Dimov, WP2 Leader and Chair of the IICT Scientific Council,
- Mrs Silvia Grozdanova, WP3 Leader and Administrative Secretary of IICT,
- Prof. Dimitar Karastoyanov, WP4 Leader,
- Prof. Gennady Agre, WP5 Leader and Scientific Secretary of IICT, and
- Mrs Desislava Ivanova, AComIn manager.

Four presentations were made from Bulgarian side (See Appendix 1 – the Meeting agenda), summarising the project progress and use of resources.

After the presentations of the IICT seniors, the Steering Committee members discussed the findings, asked questions and made comments regarding the project achievements in year 3 (and in general summarised their opinion regarding AComIn developments in months 1-36). Some plans for future work were discussed given that Work Packages WP1 - WP5 end their activities on 31 January 2016.

## 2. SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS IN YEAR 3

### Achievements in WP1 “Strengthening the IICT Human potential”:

Fourteen post-docs have been employed with long-term contracts in year 3 as shown in Table 1. They achieved excellent scientific results and published 82 peer reviewed papers (27 with Impact factor, 23 with SJR rank, see Deliverable D1.2 at <http://iict.bas.bg/acomin/deliverables.html>). Eleven of them delivered presentations at the AComIn conference too.

<b>Name of the Post Doc</b>	<b>Host professor</b>	<b>Starting date of employment</b>	<b>End date of employment or end date of Reporting period</b>
Dr. Stanislav Stoykov	Svetozar Margenov	16 October 2012	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Jean Michel Sellier	Ivan Dimov	19 November 2012	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Ivan Georgiev	Svetozar Margenov	2 September 2013	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Vladimir Kotev	Dimitar Karastoyanov	3 December 2013	31 December 2014
Dr. Volodymyr Kudriashov	Kiril Alexiev	12 August 2014	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Stanislav Harizanov	Svetozar Margenov	25 November 2014	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Emilia Abadjieva	Dimitar Karastoyanov	1 December 2014	31 October 2015
Dr. Mladen Savov	Ivan Dimov	5 January 2015	30 June 2015
Dr. Kristina Jakimovska	Dimitar Karastoyanov	6 January 2015	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Iurii Chyrka	Kiril Alexiev	6 January 2015	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Olga Kanishcheva	Galia Angelova	9 January 2015	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Aleksey Balabanov	Todor Stoilov	6 February 2015	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Konstantinos Liolios	Krassimir Georgiev	20 August 2015	continues working as of 30/09/2015
Dr. Jovana Ružić	Dimitar Karastoyanov	8 September 2015	continues working as of 30/09/2015

**Table 1.** Employed post-docs with long-term contracts in the period 1 October 2014 - 30 September 2015

Five experienced researchers have been employed for a short period of one month in 2015 (Prof. Ludmil Zikatanov, Prof. Darina Dicheva, Prof. Hristo Dichev, Prof. Milena Dobрева and Prof. Aleksandar Venc). They performed joint research, delivered lectures, organised User Communities and transferred technologies to companies and representatives of other public organisations.

Further information about the achievements of the incoming researchers can be found in Deliverable D1.2 about WP1 activities for months 19-36 (the period includes project year 3) at <http://iict.bas.bg/acomin/deliverables.html>. The internal reports about WP1 activities can be found at <http://www.iict.bas.bg/acomin> TEAM AREA, in Reports/WP1.

### Achievements in WP2 “Purchasing Smart Lab and Building User Communities”:

Smart Lab is installed successfully and fully integrated in the IICT computing environment. The delay in installation of the Speech Lab (the final delivery protocol was signed on 9 November 2014) is compensated by IICT staff activity – an annotated speech corpus is developed meanwhile, and a first speech-to-text prototype for Bulgarian speech is demonstrated.

Numerous innovation-related Workshops and Technology Transfer (TT) Seminars were organised in Year 3 in the following AComIn-related topics:

***Industrial Mathematics:***

- 28 June - 1 July 2015: [Workshop on Advanced Material Characterisation, Modelling, and Numerical Simulations](#)
- 14 September 2015: [Workshop on Mathematics in Industry](#)

***Material sciences:***

- 17 April 2015: [Microstructure Material Analysis](#)
- 18-19 June 2015: [Workshop on Advanced Techniques in NonDestructive Testing](#)

***Biomedical applications:***

- 4 December 2014 [Biomedical Simulations](#)

***3D modelling:***

- 18 April 2015 [3D Digitisation and Virtual Reality](#)

***Smart Lab applications:***

- 14-15 May 2015: [Workshop on Advanced Computing for Innovation – Industrial Applications](#)
- June-September 2015: [Know How Transfer on Speech Technologies](#)
- April-September 2015: [Know-How Transfer on Acoustic Imaging](#)

More details about the user-oriented activities can be found at [http://www.iict.bas.bg/acomin/user\\_communities.html](http://www.iict.bas.bg/acomin/user_communities.html) and in Deliverable D2.4 at <http://iict.bas.bg/acomin/deliverables.html>

**Achievements in WP3 “Networking”:**

In total, 34 visits were exchanged with the partnering sites in project year 3:

- 7 visits type “secondment” to Crete, Pavia and Amsterdam,
- 14 short visits – 8 outgoing visits to partnering sites and 6 incoming visits of partners.

More than 70 participations in International Conferences and Workshops were implemented, with accepted papers that acknowledge AComIn.

The list of networking activities and the internal reports about results of mobilities can be found at <http://www.iict.bas.bg/acomin> TEAM AREA, in REPORTS/WP3.

**Achievements in WP4 “Development of Innovation Policy and Knowledge Transfer Plan and Innovation Capacity Building”:**

Four patent applications were submitted as follows:

- The Bulgarian patent application BRAILLE DISPLAY (№ 111638, 29 November 2013 ) was submitted as a WIPO application (WIPO Patent Application No PCT / BG 2014 / 000038, 24 October 2014)

- The Bulgarian patent application NAIL (№ 111824, 18 September 2014) was submitted as a WIPO application (WIPO Patent Application PCT / BG 2015 / 000023, 23 July 2015 )
- Two applications are submitted to the Bulgarian Patent Office:
  1. Abadjiev, E. Abadjieva, D. Karastoyanov. Gravitational Enrichment Device, Bulgarian patent application, No 111918, February 03, 2015 and
  2. D. Karastoyanov, I. Yatchev, K. Hinov. Polarity Electromagnet, Bulgarian patent application, No 112130, September 30, 2015.

Another four applications are prepared for submission to the Bulgarian Patent Office, and one more – to WIPO. All submissions will be accomplished by 31 January 2016.

Six IICT projects related to AComIn topics that were funded by the Operational Programme Competitiveness were successfully completed in autumn 2014 – spring 2015. They all support closer cooperation between IICT scientists and Bulgarian SMEs.

In AComIn year 3 IICT has agreements for contractual research with 8 organisations, 7 of them companies. Joint technological developments and/or small projects for applied/industrial pilot research prototypes were accomplished with/for 14 institutions, 3 of them companies. Close contacts were established with 4 companies, 2 of them subsidiaries to large international business, with plans for future joint work. Pilot studies and developments were performed in 2 international collaborations with the Ruhr-University of Bochum (Germany) and the University of Pavia (Italy).

According to the IICT Sustainability Strategy, proposed by AComIn in project month 24, contacts to industrial users are a key for sustainable development of the institute. The most successful collaborations and establishment of liaisons with industry were initiated in Year 3 of AComIn. It has to be emphasized that International Users appeared for some devices (e.g. the industrial tomography) so international connections are another fruitful direction to be explored.

### Achievements in WP5:

AComIn has been recognised again as one of the most important FP7 projects that develops research capacity in Bulgaria:

- On 18 June 2015 Prof. Galia Angelova, the AComIn coordinator, received the Big Award PITAGOR of the Ministry of Education and Science, as successful leader of international projects for 2015;
- On 14 July 2015 the project was resented as “innovation driver” at the Meeting of the Science, Technologies and Innovation Expert Council to the Mayor of Sofia Municipality held in IICT.

The following events were organised in Year 3 of AComIn:

- 4 December 2014, Technology Transfer Workshop in Biomedical Simulations, Sofia, Bulgaria, with 31 participants;
- 17-18 April 2015, AComIn Doors Open Days – at the IICT premises in Sofia, Bulgaria, with more than 150 registered visitors;
- 17 April 2015, Technology Transfer Workshop in Microstructure Material Analysis, Sofia, Bulgaria, with 46 participants;
- 18 April 2015, Technology Transfer Workshop in 3D Digitisation and Virtual Reality, Sofia, Bulgaria, with 52 participants;
- 14-15 May 2015, Workshop on Advanced Computing for Innovation – Industrial Applications, Bankya, Bulgaria, with 66 participants;

- 8-12 June 2015, 10th International Conference "Large-Scale Scientific Computations" LSSC'15, Sozopol, Bulgaria, with 105 participants;
- 18-19 June 2015, Workshop on Advanced Techniques in NonDestructive Testing, Sozopol, Bulgaria, with 35 participants;
- 28 June - 1 July 2015, Workshop on Advanced Material Characterisation, Modelling, and Numerical Simulations, with 38 participants;
- 29 June 2015, International Workshop on Big Data in Education and Digital Collections, Sofia, Bulgaria, with 24 participants;
- 5-11 September 2015, 10th International Conference "Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing" RANLP'2015, Hissar, Bulgaria, with 164 participants;
- 14 September 2015, Workshop on Mathematics in Industry, Sofia, Bulgaria, with 43 participants
- 25 September 2015, International Workshop on Information Fusion, Sofia, Bulgaria, with 28 participants;
- Knowledge Transfer Meetings April-September 2015: Presentations to 12 Users (industrial and academic organisations) and Know-How Transfer on Acoustic Imaging;
- Knowledge Transfer Meetings June-September 2015: Presentations to 6 Users (industrial and non-governmental organisations) and Know How Transfer on Speech Technologies.

The list of events for awareness raising and reaching wider audience includes:

1. 24 May 2015, Sofia – Participation of AComIn in the First Children's Festival iCreate: Children's Workshops for Science, High Tech and Art, organised by the Contemporary Art Foundation in the Vivacom Art Hall;
2. 25 May 2015 – the AComIn coordinator Prof. Angelova participated in a Promotional presentation of the Exhibition "The Battle of Pavia" at Expo 2015 Milan, Italy, together with Prof. Virginio Cantoni and other representatives of the Computer Vision and Multimedia Lab of Pavia University;
3. June–November 2015 – Participation of AComIn in the Exhibition "The Battle of Pavia 1525" (Visconti Castle, Pavia, Italy), an associated event of Expo 2015 in Milan, Italy;
4. 14 July 2015 – AComIn presented at the Meeting of the Science, Technologies and Innovation Expert Council to the Mayor of Sofia Municipality held in IICT. This event was held together with the second Meeting of the AComIn Stakeholders' Committee. More than 40 participants attended the event.

Newsletters № 4 and № 5 were published in English and Bulgarian after project month 24 (September 2014) and project month 30 (March 2015). The publication date of Newsletter 6 is shifted to December 2015 as this issue will cover a longer period of 8 months, and will present information about the final scientific activity of the project – the conference AComIn 2015.

Movie 2 "AComIn: the Equipment" is produced in September 2015. Movie 3 "AComIn: the Results and the Users" is planned for January 2016.

The project site is supported regularly, and promotional materials (block-notes, pens, bags) are published by a provider selected after public procurement procedure.

Further information about WP5 activities can be found at

<http://iict.bas.bg/acomin/events.html>

<http://iict.bas.bg/acomin/news.html>

<http://iict.bas.bg/acomin/e-newsletters.html>

<http://iict.bas.bg/acomin/appreciation.html>



## Achievements in WP7:

WP7 ensured the smooth everyday implementation of the project activities.

In January 2015 IICT was audited by Earnst & Young who performed the audit for the European Commission. AComIn was one of the projects selected for auditing. No negative findings were encountered in the IICT financial practices, concerning AComIn. There is only a recommendation to change the format of the time-sheets.

In June 2015 IICT completed successfully the project DO 1-192 for national co-financing of AComIn and delivered a Report of 212 pages to the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science. This report describes the results of more than 30 PhD students and young researchers of IICT who (being non-eligible to participate in AComIn directly, due to its focus on young researchers) joined AComIn tasks and were supported by national funding.

During Year 3 the following procedures for public procurement were completed:

- tender for a company installing the Speech Lab in AComIn – completed on 9 November 2014;
- tender for selecting a travel office that provides accommodation services for the mobilities implemented within AComIn;
- tender for delivery of consumables for the 3D printer in AComIn SmartLab;
- tender for purchasing personal computers for the young researchers of AComIn, funded by the project DO1-192 for national co-financing of AComIn;
- tender to select publisher of the AComIn promotional materials;
- tender for selection of provider of office materials in AComIn.

## USE OF RESOURCES

The Use of Resources for the major AComIn budgets after month 36 can be summarised as follows:

Practically, the budgets for **Personnel** and **Equipment** are fully utilised. The remaining sums in “Personnel” are due to the fact that some person-months from the planned category “incoming experienced researchers with more than 10 years of experience – professors” were transferred to the personnel category “incoming experienced researchers with less than 10 years of experience – post-docs”. The younger incoming researchers has lower monthly rate which explains the under-spent personnel budget.

The **Networking** budget contains two major components: (i) for exchange with project partners (short-term visits and longer-term secondments) and (ii) for attending scientific events with accepted papers presenting AComIn results. There were several difficulties for implementation of **secondments**:

- The busy schedule of the (relatively limited number of) IICT experienced researchers who are the only eligible staff for secondments in AComIn;
- The busy schedule of the international partners who hardly accept guests and hardly travel even for short visits;
- The general shift to virtual exchange in ICT (including virtual work and communication, using skype and other forms of virtual meetings);
- The policy of AComIn Executive Board to monitor the efficiency and approve only productive secondments that bring sufficient Added Value to the research capacity in the institute. The secondment productivity is measured in terms of: (i) well-motivated working plan of the mobility, preliminary coordinated with the respective partners, which ensures sufficient research

productivity – i.e. results published in joint papers, in prestigious journals and conferences; (ii) planning of joint activities implying solid longer-term international cooperation with results that contribute to the AComIn objectives; (iii) implementation of activities with the partners that lead to involvement of younger IICT staff in the collaboration plans. So the Executive Board of AComIn introduced certain limitations for implementation of secondments, in order to increase the secondment Added Value.

As for the **participation in international scientific events**, the Executive Board also changed the policy for support of event attendance in reporting period 2. Incoming post-doctoral researchers were supported to present papers at international events. For experienced IICT researchers, support was provided mostly for attendance in conferences to present papers that discuss results obtained using the SmartLab equipment.

In the budget for **Dissemination**, the planned number of events is implemented (or will be implemented by 31 January 2016) with cheap prices (cheaper than expected). Due to the requirements of the public procurement procedures carried out to select providers for AComIn travels (airplane tickets) and accommodation (hotel booking), the selected travel agencies offer the cheapest tickets and cost-effective hotel booking. In this way some budget remains unspent because the plans are made with the maximal allowances for accommodation and average prices for airplane tickets. The cheaper offers of the travel agencies also imply partly the unspent budget in the **Networking** because the travels are implemented for optimal costs. Moreover, in the case of WP5 “Dissemination”, several project events in 2015 are organised in Sofia e.g.

- International Workshop on Big Data in Education and Digital Collections, 29 June 2015;
- International Workshop on Information Fusion, 25 September 2015;

in the IICT premises, which optimised the efforts and also the costs, and this is another reason for the unspent budget in **Dissemination**. The major concluding project event – the AComIn conference – is organised in Sofia as well. Furthermore, the Technology transfer seminars are organised mostly in IICT, because they are focused on the equipment – and this also saves costs for renting and transportation.

Regarding the budget for **IPR Protection**, it turns out that the fees for submission of international patents are meanwhile reduced (especially when a national application is extended to WIPO), so the planned number of patent applications in AComIn will be fulfilled but this requires fewer costs for fees.

The **Subcontracting** budget comprises all payments to other organisations that deliver services for IICT e.g. printing of promotional materials. The most essential difference between the planned budgets and the real ones are due to cheaper renting. As we said above, in many cases renting is avoided because the events are held in IICT.

### 3. ADDRESSING STEERING COMMITTEE COMMENTS AFTER YEAR 2

After year 2, the Steering Committee members made eleven comments and suggestions. They are taken into consideration as follows:

- (i) Give more autonomy to the young people who joined the team. Support them to become leaders.

**Done.** Dr Jean Michel Sellier and Dr Ivan Georgiev are already the youngest Associate Professors in IICT. In project year 3 they had the opportunity to organise their own groups of doctoral students and young researchers as well as numerous Technology Transfer Seminars. Both of them are encouraged to travel abroad or inside Bulgaria, to meet Users and form User Communities, and make independent plans for future activities.

A third procedure for Associate Professors position will be announced soon with potential candidate Dr Stanislav Stoykov.

- (ii) To support innovation, clarify the benefits for the inventors. Inform the potential innovation developers about the Bulgarian law and the regulations of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Clarify the license benefits for the software developers. Consider signing IP agreements within the AComIn team.

**Done.** In order to provide clarifications, some discussions were carried out with the Administration of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). Actually the relations between the institutions and inventors are specified by the respective Regulations of the Academy. IP agreements (within AComIn) between inventors from IICT and from other institutes are regulated by documents of BAS and IICT, similarly to all other projects.

- (iii) Focus on innovative research in hot areas and encourage other young people from the Institute (e.g. PhD students) to join the AComIn team and the developments driven by the incoming experienced researchers.

**Done.** Within the frame of the project DO 1-192 for national co-financing of AComIn, 33 young researchers and students of IICT participated in AComIn research activities in hot areas and joined the “groups of interests” organised by the incoming experienced researchers.

- (iv) Think about creation of an IICT satellite entity (e.g. spin-off) to sell services, in order to ensure incomes and maintain Smart Lab. Hire professional managers and sellers for this entity, do not rely on scientists to perform this job

**Taken into consideration.** Within the frame of the forthcoming Operational Programme (OP) “Science and Education for Smart Growth” (2016-2020) IICT is preparing the submission of several applications for “Centers of Competence” that, as more application-oriented projects, will require the formation of Innovation Structures. The satellite entity will be created according to the format required by this OP (2016-2020).

- (v) Do not advertise the Smart Lab devices but, instead, methods that integrate data acquired using the devices and end products (applications) based on these methods/data.

- (vi) Tools for general auditory have no chance for success. Identify who are the users and tailor the applications to them.

**Taken into account.** This is the goal of innovation developments whenever possible. For instance, among the list of “contracted research” developments in D4.3 “Final Report on Innovation Capacity Building Activities”, there is a project dealing with the implementation of a prototype for effective search of similar audio fragments with speech in Bulgarian language. This prototype exploits the

Speech Lab of AComIn and is based on original ideas for similarity search of strings that are transferred to speech processing. So there is a clear intention to produce applications based on original methods and specific SmartLab acquired data (and this is also seen with the CT-related projects). The AComIn seniors believe that it is only matter of time to find the suitable Users and Niches for other original implementations that exploit IICT know how generated in novel R&D tasks using the SmartLab equipment.

- (vii) When talking about practical applications to wider audience, organise the reports into understandable categories e.g. "*healthy living*", or "*social impact*" (how you help people), or "*economic impact*"

**Taken into account** and implemented e.g. in posters prepared for project events in year 3.

- (viii) Regarding the movie, the Steering Committee members find it good and professionally done. Part 1 "*AComIn: the People*" presents mostly information about the project. In the next two parts "*AComIn: the Equipment*" and "*AComIn: the Users*" there should be more information about project achievements (because the public wants to see primarily the results)

**Taken into account** and implemented in the third movie "*AComIn: the Results and Users*".

- (ix) It is time to reorganise the project site from a "WPs & Documentation"-oriented to "Public"-oriented. Put at the front page the postdocs' photos, video clips about results, success stories, counters with the number of hits, Twitter followers etc. Use LinkedIn groups, Twitter, ResearchGate, Youtube, Slideshare etc. The site update can be done by a professional web designer. The present content, oriented to project documentation and reporting, can be supported behind the link "*About the project*". Delegate part of the dissemination to the post-docs, let them upload results in LinkedIn, ResearchGate etc.

**Taken into account** and mostly implemented. Post-docs have their own pages and sites, their videos in Youtube, their LinkedIn groups and Twitter connections. However, the AComIn website was not redeveloped by a professional Web designer mostly due to insufficient funding.

- (x) The Steering Committee supports the idea to apply for a 6-months extension of the WP1-WP5 duration. This will help to establish better connections to companies and further develop the User Communities.

**Done.** The European Commission agreed with four months extension of WP1-WP5 duration.

- (xi) Prof. Cantoni suggests to identify the Bulgarian responsible for the Bulgarian stand at the Milano Expo (1 May - 31 October 2015) where one could advertise the results of the AComIn project as part of the Bulgarian exhibition (if any).

**Done.** It turned out that Bulgaria had no stand at Expo 2015 in Milan but IICT took part in the "Battle of Pavia" Exhibition, an associated event to Expo-2015, together with the University of Pavia and the Lab of Prof. Cantoni. Thus AComIn was advertised to (dozens of) thousand of visitors.

#### **4. FINDINGS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS OF EXTERNAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (PROF. OLEG ILIEV, PROF. JOHN DOMINGUE, PROF. VIRGINIO CANTONI, PROF. IVAN KALAYKOV, DR. IOANNIS PAPAMICHAIL, MRS. KARINA ANGELIEVA, PROF. KOSTADIN KOSTADINOV)**

In the discussion that followed the presentations, the Steering Committee members shared opinions about the high quality results presented by the AComIn incoming post-doctoral researchers at the conference AComIn-2015. They considered as success the top research achievements in theoretical areas as well as the applied results in various fields including 3D modelling. They highly appreciated the dissemination of AComIn expertise to broad audience like e.g. the participation of AComIn in international events like the Exhibition “The Battle of Pavia” that blends art and technology. The Steering Committee members also accepted the opinion of Prof. Kostadin Kostadinov, a vice-minister in Education and Science, that IICT after AComIn is the innovation leader in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and ICT innovation driver in Bulgaria due to the number of attracted SMEs and partners from large industry and the public sector, and the numerous contacts leading to agreements for “contracted research”. Prof. Kostadin Kostadinov also emphasized on the strong policy of IICT to apply for funding to the Operational Programme “Competitiveness” (2007-2013) – which was a good strategy to back up joint elaborations with industry.

The Steering Committee members also discussed the use of resources, in particular the appreciate the complete utilisation of budgets for Personnel (incoming experienced researchers) and Equipment. Regarding the highlighted under-spent budgets for Secondments and Networking, the Steering Committee members agree with the policy to implement mobilities and travels only if they bring sufficient Added Value, i.e. deliver results with the required high research quality and lead to long-term development and involvement of younger IICT staff.

Finally the Steering Committee members support the opinion that AComIn helped much for strengthening the research capacity of IICT, which is now quite prepared to submit proposals for “Centres of Excellence” and “Centres of Competence” in the forthcoming Operational Programme “Science and Education for Smart Growth” (2016-2020).

#### **5. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR JANUARY 2016**

In January 2016 the final dissemination event of AComIn will take place: the Doors Open Days on 15-16 January 2016.

The final Steering Committee meeting will be organised during the last week of January 2016, together with AComIn reviewers selected to perform project assessment in WP6.

## Appendix 1:

### Agenda of the Steering Committee Meeting after year 3



**FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1**

**Grant Agreement: 316087**

**AComIn:**  
**Advanced Computing for Innovation**  
**FP7 Capacity Programme**  
**Research Potential of Convergence Regions**

**Steering Committee Meeting after year 3**  
**11 November 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria**

**AGENDA**

**Author:** Galia Angelova

**Summary:** Agenda of Meeting №4 of AComIn Steering Committee  
in Sofia, Bulgaria on 11 November 2015

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## 1. Expected participants

No	Name	Role
1	Prof. Oleg Iliev, Fraunhofer ITWM Kaiserslautern, Germany	Project Partner
2	Prof. John Domingue, Open University, UK	Project Partner
3	Prof. Virginio Cantoni, University of Pavia, Italy	Project Partner
4	Prof. Ivan Kalaykov, University of Örebro, Sweden	Project Partner
5	Dr. Ioannis Papamichail, Technical University of Crete, Greece	Project Partner
6	Mrs. Karina Angelieva, First Secretary of Education and Science, Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the Council of the EU	Project Partner
7	Prof. Galia Angelova, IICT-BAS	AComIn Coordinator
8	Prof. Svetozar Margenov, Director of IICT-BAS	AComIn WP1/WP6 Leader
9	Prof. Ivan Dimov, Chair of IICT Scientific Council	AComIn WP2 Leader
10	Prof. Dimitar Karastoyanov, IICT-BAS	AComIn WP4 Leader
11	Prof. Gennady Agre, IICT-BAS	AComIn WP5 Leader
12	Mrs Silvia Grozdanova, Administrative Secretary of IICT-BAS	AComIn WP3 Leader
13	Mrs Desislava Ivanova	AComIn Project Manager
14	Mrs Ivanichka Maneva, IICT-BAS	IICT Chief Financial Officer
	Guests	
15	Prof. Kostadin Kostadinov, Vice-Minister of Education and Science	AComIn Advisor on Innovation
16	Mrs Zlatina Karova, Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science	Director of Science Directorate

## 2. Additional People to whom this agenda is distributed

No	Name	Role
1	Mr Olivier Brunet, European Commission	Project Officer
2	Prof. Asen Asenov, University of Glasgow, UK	Project Partner
3	Prof. Johannes Kraus, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany	Project Partner

### 1. Meeting location: **Best Western City Hotel**, Sofia

Complete address of venue: 6 Stara Planina street, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Contacts at the venue (in case of need): Hotel Reception

Telephone: +359 2 915 1500

Site: [sofiacityhotel.com](http://sofiacityhotel.com)

Coordinator's mobile: +359 888 865 618 (Galia Angelova)

## 2. Schedule for 9-12 November 2015

**9 November:** Arrival day

**10 November:** 9 am – 6 pm: AComIn Conference; final scientific event in the project

**11 November:** 9 am - 5:30 pm: AComIn Conference; final scientific event in the project

**11 November:** 6:30 pm - 9 pm: Steering Committee Meeting

**12 November:** Departure day



## Agenda Steering Committee Meeting 11 November 2015

Chair: Ivan Dimov

18<sup>30</sup> Opening

18<sup>30</sup> – 19<sup>20</sup> Galia Angelova, *Overview of AComIn Progress in year 3, including Use of Resources (WP1-WP5)*

19<sup>20</sup> – 19<sup>30</sup> Svetozar Margenov, *Added Value of Appointing Incoming Experienced Researchers in WP1 “Strengthening the IICT Human Potential”*

19<sup>30</sup>-19<sup>40</sup> Dimitar Karastoyanov, *Use of Equipment (WP2) and Overview of the Innovation Activities (WP4) in AComIn*

19<sup>40</sup>-19<sup>45</sup> Kostadin Kostadinov, *AComIn’s Role as Innovation Driver*

19<sup>45</sup>-20<sup>30</sup> Break for dinner; answers to questions about project progress

20<sup>30</sup>-21<sup>00</sup> Steering Committee Discussions regarding D7.8 (“Steering Committee conclusions regarding year 3”)

21<sup>00</sup> Closing