

## Memory protocol of the second working meeting

# Transnational Adapt-Partnership COP and TaT

250698-270698 at TaT, Rheine, Germany

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### ■ Participants

Cop                    Liisa Niemi, Tarja Slotte  
TaT                    Thomas Becker, Juergen Reckfort

### ■ Purpose of the meeting

- Return visit of COP at TaT
- Exchange of information and experience concerning the past activities within the respective national projects
- Working on the joint web presentation
- Planning future activities of COP-TaT co-operation

### ■ Time Schedule

250698	1030 - 1130	Visit to duesseldorf fashion house & APRIORI showroom, Duesseldorf
	1430 - 1530	Visit to clothing producer G.A.T., Gescher
	1900	Dinner, Rheine
260698	1000 - 1100	Showing TaT locations
	1100 - 1230	Negotiations I <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Report about the development of the national projects</li><li>– Situation at the moment</li></ul>
	1230 - 1400	Lunch, TaT
	1400 - 1500	Joint work <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Looking at web presentations of Finnish and German textile and fashion institutions</li><li>– Discussing the joint web presentation</li></ul>
	1230 - 1400	Coffee break
	1545 - 1630	Negotiations II <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Next steps</li><li>– Time table</li></ul>
	1800	Evening programme in Muenster
270698	1100 - 1300	Guided tour through the old town of Muenster
	1300 - 1400	Lunch, Muenster
	1530 - 1600	Guided tour through the Textile Museum Bocholt

## ■ Co-operation colloquy

### Negotiations I

COP and TaT surveyed the progress of their national projects.

#### COP

COP presented a chart containing the different components of the ADAPT project. For each component COP reported about the past activities, the actual situation and the further plans.

#### *Chart*

##### *National level*

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##### *Transnational level*

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#### TaT

##### *National level*

TaT reported that they were successful in finding an appropriate external consultant. This consultant provides not only the necessary technical and organisational know-how for implementing EDI and Electronic Commerce technologies within the companies of the planned enterprise system. As the consultant comes from an accepted textile research institution: the Institute for Textile and Process Engineering (ITV) Denkendorf – he is also familiar with the special features of the textile and fashion branch. As participant and technical consultant of the E.C.H.O.E.S. and the VIRTEX project ITV is furthermore at the technological front as far as the utilisation of new information and communication technologies for the textile branch is concerned ([www.itvd.uni-stuttgart.de/man](http://www.itvd.uni-stuttgart.de/man)).

TaT told COP about the plan for a first IT/EC transfer workshop arising during the working meeting in Denkendorf in May. The leader of the ITV Department of Textile Management, Prof. Fischer, promised to give a lecture similar to that of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EDI-Forum at Cologne in March 1998. The date of the workshop will be the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 1998.

At the latest until then TaT will have installed the obligatory project advisory board, consisting of representatives of regional economic development institutions (chamber of industry and commerce etc.) and other institutions related to the textile and clothing industry (employer's federation, labour union, research institutes etc.).

On the firm level past conversations showed up that firms are quite interested in working at the EDI/EC topic, but that it can be difficult to tie them up in the planned enterprise system. One barrier can be a traditional way of thinking more in competition and in classical client-supplier-relations than in terms of co-operation. Another barrier can be little risk consciousness. In addition to that different organisational and EDP starting positions of the firms have to be considered. Finally TaT has also made the experience that managers and EDP executives are often focusing only on technical aspects, i.e. they underestimate the expenditure for adapting their internal organisational processes and for training the affected employees.

At the moment one company is definitely participating in the TexNet project. The company is dealing with ecological colours and turns out to be the main promoter of the planned enterprise system. The above mentioned consultant has already started to work for this company. After a stock-taking of the company's EDP conditions he has begun to edit an online version of the firm's ecological data bank. A training course on the EDI/EC topic for the company's managers and employees will start soon.

The company is very much interested in creating an EDI enterprise system and takes a lot of action for finding system partners amongst existing clients and suppliers. Thanks to this engagement three further companies could be interested for project participation. Kick-off conversations already took place. The signing of co-operation contracts is imminent.

For further promoting TaT has created a TexNet project folder in German language which can be sent to interested companies and institutions. The folder contains more detailed information about TexNet, ADAPT and TaT. In addition to that TaT has published several articles (TaT Members letter, Synergie Journal, Wirtschaft aktuell).

Finally TaT presented to COP the handbook "Organisational Development and Vocational Training Within Small and Medium Sized Enterprises of the Textile and Clothing Industry of the Muensterland Region" as final outcome of the QUATRO project QualiTex, a precursory project of the ADAPT project.

#### *Transnational level*

Since the last meeting in February no further search activities were undertaken for finding an additional transnational partner, i.e. on the transnational level TaT still co-operates with only two partners: COP/Finland and NOVALYS/France.

TaT reported on the return visit of Mr Dufour from NOVALYS at TaT on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1998. Mr Dufour told TaT that his ADAPT project has annoyingly not yet been confirmed by the French national ADAPT authority. Mr Dufour had no explanation for this delay, except that of an inefficient bureaucracy, but he is optimistic to get the confirmation within this summer.

#### **Joint work**

- *Looking at web presentations of Finnish and German textile and fashion institutions*

COP and TaT visited selected homepages of Finnish and German textile and fashion institutions for giving an impression about the actual state of the art.

##### TaT

- [www.gesamttexil.de](http://www.gesamttexil.de) (employer's association of the German Textile Industry)
- [www.itvd.uni-stuttgart.de](http://www.itvd.uni-stuttgart.de) (German textile research institute)
- [www.modemarkt.de](http://www.modemarkt.de) and links to fashion producers, employer's association, relevant trade press
- [www.ibena.de](http://www.ibena.de) (Textile producer of the Muensterland region)
- [www.schneberger.de](http://www.schneberger.de) (Clothing producer of the Muensterland region)

##### COP

- [www.cop.fi/adapt](http://www.cop.fi/adapt) and links to companies participating in the ADAPT project of COP
- [www.tradepoint.fi/bigl](http://www.tradepoint.fi/bigl) (Clothing producer Luhta)
- [www.laitosto](http://www.laitosto) (Clothing producer)
- [www.vtt.fi](http://www.vtt.fi) (Technical Research centre of Finland)

- *Discussing the joint web presentation*

The ADAPT project of COP is already online. TaT presented the first version of its ADAPT website in German language. An English version will follow soon. Although planned at the first meeting a concrete proposal regarding the contents and layout of the joint ADAPT website could not yet be shown. COP and TaT agreed on TaT to submit the proposal of the joint web site as soon as possible.

COP told TaT about the plan to put a textile and fashion dictionary/handbook online. COP and TaT agreed that this dictionary could also be placed onto the joint website. For translating the dictionary/handbook COP suggested to assign a very qualified exchange student from Estonia. TaT promised to check whether this work could be financed through means of the TexNet project.

## **Negotiations II**

Regarding the work programme of the Transnational Document and further agreements of the first meeting COP and TaT evaluated the actual state of their co-operation and talked about next steps.

- *A: Examination and description of IT-based enterprise networks*

TaT and COP agreed that the examination and description of IT-based enterprise networks will remain an important part of the co-operation. In accordance with the work programme examination of IT-based enterprise networks was hitherto focused on a systematic Internet research and on literature relevant to the subject. TaT reminded of the particularly outstanding EU-projects E.C.H.O.E.S. and Virtex and of the forthcoming "Intelligent Textile Explorer" ([www.itexplorer.com](http://www.itexplorer.com)) as one outcome of the E.C.H.O.E.S. project. TaT invited COP to participate at the first transfer workshop in October 1998 for getting in personal contact to Prof. Fischer of the ITV Denkendorf, who is one of the main promoters of the E.C.H.O.E.S project.

- *B: Development of training courses*

COP and TaT still do not see a need for a *joint* development of training courses because of the different priorities within their respective national projects. However, COP offers to transmit information about contents and progress of COP training courses. TaT repeated the offer to assist COP in creating appropriate EDI training modules, if COP should plan to integrate the EDI topic into the training courses. Concerning the synergies of both projects, especially regarding the CAD and EDI topic, TaT pointed to the article: "Virtual Reality - The Technological Revolution within the Clothing Industry", being published in the German "Yearbook for the Clothing Industry 1998" and being written by Stefan Mecheels, leader of the Hohensteiner Institute, Bönningheim. COP presented to TaT a CD-ROM containing demo versions of a pattern design tool called PAD.

- *C: Internet based exchange of information/ D: Exchange of experience about new applications of Electronic Commerce*

COP and TaT agreed on the necessity for regularly exchanging information on the newest IT developments and firm applications they come to know within their own national working context. COP reminded TaT of the problem that many of the relevant information is only available in Finnish language. COP and TaT agreed to handle this problem as in the past – i.e.

COP should only transmit information in English or German language and report on the rest at the next transnational meeting. TaT will again collect even German-language articles and further information of interest and transmit it periodically to COP. COP and TaT also discussed possibilities of video-conferencing and tele co-operation. They agreed that the coordination for the purpose of creating the joint ADAPT website may be a good occasion for experimenting with tele co-operation.

Although a concrete date for the 3<sup>rd</sup> transnational meeting has not been fixed, COP and TaT agreed to possibly meet again in summer 1999, this time in Kokkola. COP suggested to combine the meeting with a study trip to interesting companies and institutions.

Kokkola and Rheine, 9 July 1998

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(Lisa Niemi)

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(Thomas Becker)

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(Tarja Slotte)

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(Juergen Reckfort)