

## **EICSTES DELIVERABLE D7.2**

### **MID-TERM REVIEW**

**External reviewers  
& CINDOC-CSIC (Coordinator)**  
September 2002

According to the Workplan as described in the Technical Annex , as soon as the first tangible results of the project became available (Summer of 2002), the consortium contracted two external experts to undertake a formal evaluation about performance and level of objectives fulfilment of the Project. This process is called Mid-term evaluation.

The procedure involves selecting experts from external institutions and granting access to the documents produced by the partners after signing an agreement of confidentiality.

Both experts devoted a period of about half a month to the reading of the Deliverables and the preparation of the reports. During this time they can contact the members of the consortium by email or phone for additional information or particular requests.

They were asked specifically to produce both a global report of the work done and the peer review of the deliverables involving analytical reports:

- D.2.1. Physical Internet Statistics
- D.3.1. Directory of EU R&D public system
- D.5.1. “Triple helix” case study
- D.5.2. Non web data collection and analysis
- D.6.1. Intermediaries taxonomy
- D.8.1. Development of Webindicators

Several colleagues with a field of expertise close to those developed in the project were contacted as candidates. Finally two of the them were invited to carry out the evaluation:

Dr. Wolfgang Glanzel (b. 1955), Senior Research Fellow in the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium, and

Dr. Michel Zitt (b. 1947), Head of the IBIS group in the Nantes LERECO/EDRA lab (INRA) in France

They are experts in scientometrics with a strong interest in development of indicators. They have an extensive experience for the analysis of both the theoretical and empirical aspects of the project.

The mid-term evaluation consists of the two reports sent by the referees, including two executive summaries, global overview and specific comments on the relevant Deliverables. A short curriculum of each reviewer is added for each report.

The results show EICSTES is a complex project with an innovative quantitative approach. Proposed objectives are being targeted but as some of them are really very ambitious some weakness points are becoming evident. Suggestions are made for incorporating more self-criticisms statements and to make some changes in the methods and empirical data compilation: Recommendations about several concerns on the feasibility of some analysis include flexible approaches (changing or reducing original proposal).

Consistency is not yet evident in the current stage of the work and reviewers made special emphasis in trying a tighter integration of the different workpackages reducing at the same time the level of contents overlapping.

Formal corrections are being made to the different state of art reviews and further work is suggested on the elaboration of the theoretical background of the project.