



Visit of a delegation from University of Athens to Inria Méditerranée 14-15 February 2012

This is the second exchange in the framework of the bilateral agreement between Univ. of Athens and Inria Sophia Antipolis - Méditerranée. The first was a visit of an Inria group to Athens, in May 2010. The agreement was officially signed in September-October 2010.

Participants

Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, University of Athens:

- Prof. Ioannis Emiris (Coordinator of bilateral agreement, Director of Division on Theoretical Computer Science),
- Prof. Ioannis Stavrakakis (Deputy Director of Department of Informatics and Telecommunications),
- Prof. Yannis Ioannidis,
- Prof. Manolis Koubarakis,
- Assoc. Prof. Elias Monalacos

Inria Sophia Antipolis – Méditerranée:

- Gérard Giraudon, Jean-Pierre Banâtre, Marie-Claude Sance-Plouchart, Jean-Claude Bermond, Jérôme Chailloux (ERCIM), Denis Talay, Yves Bertot, Chadi Barakat
- Rachid Deriche, Walid Dabbous, Jean-Pierre Merlet, Théo Papadopoulos, Jean-Daniel Boissonnat, Georges Drettakis, Bernard Mourrain, David Coudert, Frédéric Cazals,
- Michel Riveill, Philippe Lahire, Francine Diener (Univ. de Nice – Sophia-Antipolis).

Program

Tuesday 14/2

11.00 Arrival at Inria (G.Giraudon, Y. Bertot, J-C. Bermond, J-P. Banâtre)

Department of Informatics & Telecoms : Overall presentation and Research

11.15 Research in Algebraic and Geometric computing (I. Emiris)

11.30 Research in Networks (I. Stavrakakis)

11.45 Research in Data management (Y. Ioannidis)

12.00 Research in Artificial Intelligence (M. Koubarakis)

12.15 Research in signal/image processing, predictive modeling, systems biology (E. Manolacos)

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Research and Outlook

- ✓ Département of Informatics & Telecoms (I. Stavrakakis)
- ✓ Inria's European relations (J.P. Banâtre et J.C. Bermond)

After 15.30 : J.P. Banâtre et Y. Ioannidis.

15.30 Coffee Break



16.00 Student exchange / Masters

MSc programs in Athens (I.Stravarakakis, E. Manolakos, 15' each)

MSc CompBioMed (T.Papadopoulo + Francine Diener, 15' each)

MSc Ubinet (J.C. Bermond et Philippe Lahire, 15')

ERASMUS, double diplomas

18.30 Team presentation: Athena – Medical Imaging (R. Deriche)

Wednesday 15/2

09.30 Team presentation: Geometrica – Geometry (J.D. Boissonnat)

10.00 Team presentation: Mascotte – Graph/Network Theory (D. Coudert)

10.30 Team presentation: Planète – Networks (W. Dabbous)

Coffee Break

11.10 Team presentation: Edelweiss/Wimmics – Perception, Cognition, Interaction (O. Corby)

11.40 Team presentation: Galaad – Algebra, Geometric Modeling (B. Mourrain)

12.10 Team presentation: Reves – Graphics, HCI (G. Drettakis)

12.50 Lunch

14.10 Team presentation: ABS – Structural Bioinformatics (F. Cazals)

14.40 Team presentation: Coprin – Robotics (J.P. Merlet)

15.00 Team presentation: Tosca – Stochastic systems (Denis Talay)

15.10 **Conclusion and future work** (G.Giraudon, J.C. Bermond, D. Talay).

17.00 Leave for the airport

Discussion

We repeated that the 3 main goals of collaboration are: (a) student exchange and (b) research collaboration, which are of primary importance. (c) collaboration on software and innovation, at a second level for now. We decided to plan a French visit to Athens in late May 2012, so as to have some tangible outcome by September 2012.

Tools for achieving these goals

Research

- Jérôme Chailloux (ERCIM) confirmed the possibility of joining ERCIM.
- Marie-Claude Sance-Plouchart (Inria) presented EuroMéd 3+3, which now includes Greece and Egypt as « non-full » members; the next call shall be in mid-2013. Jean-Pierre Banâtre (Inria) presented the EIT ICT Labs (<http://eit.ictlabs.eu/>) one of the first three Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) selected by the European institute of Innovation and technology (EIT) to accelerate innovation in Europe. It covers formation, research and business. It has 5 initial main nodes (Berlin,



Eindhoven, Paris, Helsinki, Stockholm) plus now Trento. Inria is a core Partner and in charge of the research. Sophia Antipolis is an affiliate Partner (related to Paris node) concerned on research with the « web of people ». The university and its partners are implied in the master school ITA (Internet Technology and Architecture) In a master school any foreign student can follow the KIC master school program (see <http://eitictlabs.masterschool.eu/programme/>) by doing his first year in one node (for ITA Paris, Stockholm, Berlin) and his master 2 in a different node (for ITA Sophia Antipolis can be chosen among the 6 nodes).

- Jean-Pierre Banâtre also presented other international collaborations such as a « Lifestyle » grouping with Fraunhofer and Philips. A lighter form of collaboration is also « Inria at Silicon Valley », with contacts with both UC Berkeley and Stanford University.
- In the discussion it was mentioned that a Labex (Laboratory of Excellence) was granted by the French Ministry (on February 14th). It is called UCN@Sophia (when the user is at the heart of the network). It includes activities in education by research and valorization. This Labex will strengthen the collaborations inside the new Campus STIC (planned for September 2012). It involves I3S and LEAT (laboratories CNRS /UNS), Inria, and Eurecom.
- Ioannis Emiris mentioned his involvement in the FET Flagship « FuturICT » (futurict.eu), which may be related to the Labex.
- We discussed the possibility of FP7 funding for collaboration at the institutional level within program INCO.
- Also there could exist a possibility of seed (mainly travel) funds for targeted bilateral research projects that aim to set up a long-term contact. That can be a specific program analog to the old COLOR program: <http://www-sop.inria.fr/COLOR/> which could imply teams in some foreign countries.

Education

There were presentations of the masters on both sides. In particular at Sophia-Antipolis there are two international tracks of the Master 2 in Computer Science (Master IFI). The lectures are in English and grants are given to the best students. Théo Papadopoulos and Francine Diener presented the track Computational Biology and Medecine; Jean-Claude Bermond presented Ubinet (Ubiquitous Networking and Computing). For Athens, Elias Manolakos presented the international program in Computational Biology and Medecine.

Moreover:

- We discussed the possibility of joint PhD and Msc theses supervision, of teaching short intensive courses (especially in the English-speaking Masters above). These may lead to stronger collaboration between the related Masters programs, including the possibility for students to spend a semester and take courses from the “sister” program.
- Erasmus Mundus is undergoing major restructuring now and we decided to wait for the new calls to consider possible joint demands. A second possibility for collaboration at the Masters' level is funding from the “European Office of Youth” (www.officemediterraneendela jeunesse.org). Yet another possibility is to use the existing Erasmus exchange between the departments of Informatics in U. of Athens and U. of Nice.
- More generally, we discussed the possibility of organizing joint thematic Schools or Conferences.



- U. of Athens is part of Inria's "International Internships Program", which offers Internships to Inria's teams for 3-4 months. These can be combined with a Bsc or Msc thesis. The application deadlines are typically around December and June for internships in the summer and winter, respectively. For targeted (fleche) internships to a team where a specific topic exists, the call is open without a deadline; interested parties should take direct contact with each other.
- Francine Diener presented the EMMA Erasmus program between European and Asian Universities.
- Ioannis Emiris informed of his contacts with Rachid Amlaiky, Responsible for University and Scientific cooperation in the French embassy of Athens. There was a meeting of the two of them and Bernard Mourrain on 10 Jan. 2012 in U. Athens.