

EUSYSBIO Workpackage 8

First Report

Tasks

1. Draw a scientific map of SB in Europe
2. Organize workshop on standard procedures
3. Establish strategy for sharing resources
4. Create electronic journal for European Systems Biology

Status

Task 1. Three extensive files are under construction of persons, institutes and companies, listing all available information about the people and groups that are active in the field of Systems Biology in Europe. A web-based database will be constructed with this information, allowing all interested parties to search for potential connections or collaborations on a European scale. These data will become searchable on the website.

Task 2. A well-attended Workshop on Standards was held on October 10, 2004 during the 5th International Conference on Systems Biology in Heidelberg. An audience of approximately 140 scientists discussed 11 presentations and delivered comments that were simultaneously recorded on screen for all to accept or amend. The results of these deliberations will be the subject of a separate report, but the initial outcome of the workshop was the pressing need for better validation of assays and models, agreement on the parameters to be measured and on the modeling software to be used. In conjunction with the European Sciences Foundation another workshop will be held in the spring of 2005, in Gosau, AU. The standardization process can be followed on the EUSUSBIO-WP8 website www.eusysbio.net

Task 3. No new activities were developed with respect to task 3.

Task 4. As a first activity for a journal, a website was opened: www.eusysbio.net .

An inventory was made of the needs for a journal for Systems Biology and of current activities in this respect. Two activities are relevant here. In November 2004 the IEEE started publishing a printed journal called 'Systems Biology'. The first issue bears the date 'june 2004'. Although these initiatives may seem to diminish greatly the need for another Systems Biology journal, we nevertheless identified the persons responsible for the biological sciences (including Systems Biology) at the world's largest publisher Elsevier BV, also publisher of the Cell series. In the meantime an appointment has been set up to discuss Elsevier's potential role, the formation of an editorial board, recruitment of referees and how to organize electronic publishing via a website of a full-text searchable journal.

Seeing that others are understandably active in publishing this rapidly expanding field, another publication was organized, i.e. a book defining what Systems Biology is in practice, edited by Alberghina & Westerhoff, to be published in the spring of 2005 by Springer Verlag.

