–'Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teamwork in Consortial Research Networks by Information Technological Methods

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Harmonisation of the research work in distributed (both organisationally and spatially) networks and optimisation of effectiveness of teamwork can not be realised without the adaptation of up-to-date project management methodologies, and without the support of modern information technological background.

We apply a twofold approach to research and development (R&D) work: on the one hand, we utilise sharply defined policies to run R&D processes, on the other hand, the project management procedure is also specified in advance. These two processes have close associations at predefined milestones, and they jointly guarantee the achievement of the desired results. We can say, essentially, that the development process specifies the steps of work ("what to do?"), while the project management process describes the method of execution of these steps ("how to do?"). The documentation of both results and processes constitute the knowledge base of the research network, however, they are highly different.

We have developed a system architecture (hardware and software) that is especially suited to knowledge management, can organise teamwork and can also provide some of the tasks of integrated marketing-communications.

The general principles are illustrated on the example of Advanced Vehicles and Vehicle Control Knowledge Centre that is established at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics and supported by the National Office for Research and Technology. The actual implementation is based on Neptun.NET that is already in use at BME.