



MONET2

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Authors

Coordinating Node	MONET Project
Steering Committee	MONET Project

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to bring together the responses that we received from the Questionnaire that was sent out to MONET Members in order to assess their feelings on the Self Sustainability of the Network after the end of the European Commission funding period.

The analysis drawn here is from twelve responses received to the Self Sustainability Questionnaire which was sent out with the January 2004 Newsletter and was also available online. Out of the 79 Members that the Network had at the time (End of Second Year Report - Deliverable NR2) this represents the views of just over 15% of the Membership. Thus this document is presented as an analysis of the responses to this questionnaire and not necessarily the views of the Network Membership as a whole.

2 Results

2.1 Results in Brief

The Questionnaire set out a series of services that the Network could provide for members and asked them if each service was something that they might value. The Members were then asked to state what level of annual fee (€60, €600 or €1800) they felt that such a service should be provided for. The results are as follows.

	Yes	% Yes	60	600	1800
Newsletter					
Once a Year	3	25	3		
Six Monthly	4	33.33	4		
Quarterly	10	83.33	8	1	
Monthly	3	25	1	2	
MIR					
References	7	58.33	4	1	
Full Papers	7	58.33	2	2	
Website	12	100	8		
Student Bursaries	6	50	1	4	2
Travel Arrangement	6	50	1	4	1
Travel Funding	7	58.33	1	4	2
Summer School	10	83.33	1	4	1
Workshop / Conference Organisation					
Attending MONET Events	12	100	5	4	

Organisation events for Members	8	66.67	2	3	1
Funding for Members own events	5	41.67	1	4	
Funding for Members Attendance at Third Parties	3	25	1	1	1
Publications					
MONET Reports / Publications	11	91.67	5	3	
Discounts off other Organisations Publications	4	33.33	1	3	
Info Updates					
FP6 / EU Issues	10	83.33	6	3	
Task Group Specific Issues	10	83.33	8	1	
Wider Issues	7	58.33	4	2	1
Member Requested Issues	6	50	3	3	
Funding Searches	8	66.67	3	3	2
Networking / Partner Search	10	83.33	6	2	1
MBS&QR Community Building	9	75	4	3	1
Has MONET Been of Benefit to the MBS&QR Community	Yes - 11 Don't Know - 1				

2.2 Responding Institutions

The following table shows the Institutions that responded to the Questionnaire and the abbreviation that they are given in the rest of this document. Institutions are listed in the order in which they responded.

Abbreviation	Institution Name
Larissa	Technical Educational Institution of Larissa, Greece
Jena	Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany

Giessen	University of Giessen, Germany
Imperial	Imperial College London, UK
Vienna	Vienna University of Technology, Austria
Anon	-
P.A.I.	Public Authority of Industry, Kuwait
INRIA	Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique, France
Piemonte	Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale “Amedeo Avogadro”, Italy
Sevilla	Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
PIK	Potsdam-Institut für Klimafolgenforschung, Germany
Anon	-

2.3 Detailed Results

Please note that ‘(Yes)’ is placed where the respondents did not tick the ‘Yes’ box, but have stated that they would pay for the service. In this circumstance we have reasoned that if they stated that they were willing to pay for the service then they do in fact value the service.

	Newsletter				MIR	
	Once a Year	Six Monthly	Quarterly	Monthly	References	Full Papers
Larissa			YES		YES	YES
Jena	YES 60	YES 60	YES 600			
Giessen			YES 60			
Imperial			YES 60			
Vienna			YES 60			
Anon			YES 60		YES 60	YES 60
P.A.I.				YES 60	YES 60	YES 60
INRIA		YES 60				
Piemonte	YES 60	YES 60	YES 60	YES 600	YES 600	YES 600
Sevilla			YES 60		YES 60	YES 600

PIK	YES	(YES)	(YES)	(YES)	YES	YES
	60	60	60	600	60	60
Anon			YES		YES	YES
			60			

	Website	Student Bursaries	Travel Arrangement	Travel Funding	Summer School
Larissa	YES				YES
Jena	YES				YES
Giessen	YES				YES
	60				
Imperial	YES		(YES)		
			600		
Vienna	YES	YES		YES	YES
	60	60		600	600
Anon	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	1800	1800	1800	1800
P.A.I.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	60	60	60	60
INRIA	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	600	600	600	600
Piemonte	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	1800	600	1800	600
Sevilla	YES	YES	YES	YES	
	60	600	600	600	
PIK	YES	(YES)		(YES)	(YES)
	60	600		600	600
Anon	YES				YES

	Workshop / Conference Organisation			
	Attending MONET Events	Organisation events for Members	Funding for Members own events	Funding for Members Attendance at Third Parties
Larissa	YES			
Jena	YES	YES		
Giessen	YES			
	60			
Imperial	YES			
	600			
Vienna	YES	YES	YES	
	60	600	600	
Anon	YES	YES	YES	YES
	600	60	600	600

P.A.I.	YES	YES	(YES)	YES
	60	60	60	60
INRIA	YES			
	60			
Piemonte	YES	YES		
	600	600		
University of Sevilla	YES	YES	YES	
	600	1800	600	
PIK	YES	(YES)	(YES)	(YES)
	60	600	600	1800
Anon	YES	YES		

	Publications	
	MONET Reports / Publications	Discounts off other Organisations Publications
Larissa	YES	
Jena	YES	
Giessen		
Imperial	YES	
	600	
Vienna	YES	
	60	
Anon	YES	YES
	60	600
P.A.I.	YES	YES
	60	60
INRIA	YES	YES
	600	600
Piemonte	YES	
	600	
Sevilla	YES	
	60	
PIK	YES	(YES)
	60	600
Anon	YES	

	Info Updates			
	FP6 / EU Issues	Task Group Specific Issues	Wider Issues	Member Requested Issues
Larissa				

Jena	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	60	600	600
Giessen	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	60	60	60
Imperial	YES			
	600			
Vienna	YES	YES		
	60	60		
Anon	YES	YES	YES	YES
	600	600	1800	600
P.A.I.	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	60	60	60
INRIA	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	60	60	60
Piemonte	YES	YES	YES	
	600	60	600	
Sevilla		YES		
		60		
PIK	YES	YES	(YES)	(YES)
	60	60	60	600
Anon	YES	YES		

	Funding Searches	Networking / Partner Search	MBS&QR Community Building	Has MONET Been of Benefit to the MBS&QR Community
Larissa				YES
Jena		(YES)	(YES)	YES
		60	600	
Giessen	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	60	60	
Imperial				Don't Know
Vienna	YES	YES		YES
	600	60		
Anon	YES	YES	YES	YES
	1800	1800	1800	
P.A.I.	YES	YES	YES	YES
	60	60	60	
INRIA	YES	YES	YES	YES
	600	600	60	
Piemonte	YES	YES	YES	YES
	600	600	60	
Sevilla	YES	YES	YES	YES
	1800	60	600	
PIK	YES	YES	(YES)	YES
	60	60	600	

Anon		YES	YES	YES

	Comments
Larissa	I do believe that MONET is useful and will continue to work. Although I have checked some of the services, as usually when it comes to the point of having to pay for some of them, it is hard to agree.
Jena	I don't see the point in paying for membership and then asking for the money back by way of bursaries, travel funding, funding non-MONET events, etc. It seems simpler to have everyone fund themselves, is that OK. But perhaps if the idea is to provide scholarships (small) for less advantaged folks, then perhaps OK.
P.A.I.	Please keep it going!!!
PIK	600€per year is simply currently not available; I indicate what seems possible for 60€ More work on environmental issues would increase the likelihood to obtain this money.

3 Analysis

3.1 Introduction

In general the responses were favourable. There was not a single service that we suggested (the list of which was drawn from the services that we 'do' perform for our Membership) that was deemed to be of no interest to any respondent. In actual fact there was no service that was not thought favourable by at least 25% of respondents, with two of the selection receiving approval from 100%: these were the 'Website' and 'MONET Organised Events'. Over three quarters of the services were deemed important to at least 50% of the respondents and 37.5% being deemed important to at least 75% of respondents.

Of particular interest were 8 services for which all of the respondents who stated they had an interest in, were willing to pay for. This is especially interesting as it is only one of these: 'Discounts of other Organisations Publications', which is not currently offered by MONET. The complete list is as follows:

- Newsletter
- Travel Arrangements
- Travel Funding
- Funding for Members own Events
- Funding for Members Attendance at Third Party Events
- Discounts of other Organisations Publications
- Information Updates (both 'Wider Issues' and 'Member Requested Issues' fall into the 100% payment bracket)
- Funding Searches

The services which were rated as important by more than 80% of the respondents are as follows:

- Newsletter (Quarterly)
- Website
- Summer School
- Attending MONET Events
- MONET Reports and Publications
- Information Updates on -
 - Framework Programme 6 / General European Union Issues
 - Task Group Specific Issues
- Networking / Partner Search

3.2 Financial Weighting

In order to get some indication of the value that Members place on services it is necessary to look at both what they would be willing to pay for them as well as how many Members would be willing to pay. It may be that more revenue may be raised by many Members paying a smaller amount, as opposed to a few Members paying a larger amount or it may be the other way around, depending on the type of service. This factor has to be weighed against how much resources / time is required to provide that service. The website, for example, only requires 'producing / updating' once and is available as a service to as many Members who wish to pay for it. Member / occasion specific services, however, like travel arrangement, require doing on an *ad hoc* basis whenever a request is received from a Member.

In order to get some idea of the overall financial weight, and therefore value to the Network, of any service, the following table shows the overall financial value of each service. This figure has been reached by an aggregation of the number of positive responses that were given for that service multiplied by the cost that each respondent gave that service. Therefore if three Members have given a value of €60 to a service, its financial weighting is 180, as opposed to one Member giving a value of €1800 which has a financial weighting of 1800.

Service	Financial Weighting
Newsletter	
Once a Year	180
Six Monthly	240
Quarterly	1080
Monthly	1260
MIR	
References	840
Full Papers	1320
Website	480
Student Bursaries	6060
Travel Arrangement	4260
Travel Funding	6060
Summer School	4260
Workshop / Conference Organisation	

Attending MONET Events	2700
Organisation events for Members	3720
Funding for Members own events	2460
Funding for Members Attendance at Third Parties	2460
Publications	
MONET Reports / Publications	2100
Discounts off other Organisations Publications	1860
Info Updates	
FP6 / EU Issues	2160
Task Group Specific Issues	1080
Wider Issues	3240
Member Requested Issues	1980
Funding Searches	5580
Networking / Partner Search	3360
MBS&QR Community Building	3840

Ordered Financial Weighting

Service	Financial Weighting
NL - Once a Year	180
NL - Six Monthly	240
Website	480
MIR - References	840
NL - Quarterly	1080
Info on - Task Group Specific Issues	1080
NL - Monthly	1260
MIR - Full Papers	1320
Publications - Discounts off other Organisations Publications	1860
Info on - Member Requested Issues	1980
Publications - MONET Reports / Publications	2100
Info on - FP6 / EU Issues	2160

Events - Funding for Members own events	2460
Events - Funding for Members Attendance at Third Parties	2460
Event - Attending MONET Events	2700
Info on - Wider Issues	3240
Networking / Partner Search	3360
Events - Organisation events for Members	3720
MBS&QR Community Building	3840
Travel Arrangement	4260
Summer School	4260
Funding Searches	5580
Student Bursaries	6060
Travel Funding	6060

This ordering of the financial weightings shows some interesting trends, for example, the Network would receive less than €200 extra per annum for producing a Newsletter every month as opposed to every quarter. For the efforts involved this would suggest that a better return on resources / time would be received from producing a Newsletter every three months.

It is not unsurprising that the respondents gave a higher value weighting to factors that would see funds returned to themselves, such as the two joint highest value services of Student Bursaries and Travel Funding. What is interesting, however, is that the respondents seemed to value the assistance with such things as almost as valuable. Funding Searches was just behind the top two for weighted value, showing that access to knowledge of such processes and procedures is something that our members may value. After Summer School (which would be MONET Funded) the following five services Info on - Wider Issues, Networking / Partner Search, Events - Organisation events for Members, MBS&QR Community Building and Travel Arrangement are all issues where we would not be providing funds. It is interesting to note that members value not only our expertise but that we are willing to provide services that would be time consuming (rather than just costly) for them to do themselves.

4 What the Community Think

As well as the responses to the Questionnaire, we have been discussing this topic with the community as a whole. MONET held discussions with the delegates at this year's Qualitative Reasoning (QR'04) and Principles of Diagnosis (DX'04) Conferences and all who took part stated their support for the continuation of MONET. Both of these communities voiced their opinion that we should turn MONET into a strategic back bone for the MBS&QR Community as a whole. We must look into what services the community would benefit from, what could be maintained and how these could work.

To aid this, Members have requested that we open up MONET resources to a wider and continually expanding audience. The two conference Communities agree that there should still be a need to 'register' for use of the MONET Information Resource (MIR); however they felt that after the end of the MONET2 funding period everyone should be able to freely register themselves if they wish. The Coordinating Node is now making the necessary alterations to the website and database to ensure this

will be put into action. The DX Community were especially in favour of continuing the resources and also wanted an electronic version of the Newsletter. They suggested that this could be in a simple email format. One idea suggested was that the Chair of DX/QR could take care of the production of the Newsletter, however, as these Chairs are usually very busy, so this work could be done by the committee. We could possibly use the Chair to 'drive' the Newsletter forward, but have another specified person to compile it. This may be an excellent opportunity for an emerging expert / student in the field to gain experience and exposure. The 'Artificial Intelligence in Education' Community has used this type of electronic Newsletter / Journal and we should investigate how successful they have found this. If we are to do this we need to have an agreed structure, although getting agreement may be hard as we have two communities (DX/QR).

All the MBS&QR community agree that the Summer School should be continued if possible and we should look into sources of funding for this, perhaps through an FP6 Specific Support Action proposal.

5 References

'MONET Project Twenty-Four Month Report - January to December 2003' Deliverable NR2
http://monet.aber.ac.uk:8080/monet/docs/tg_minutes_and_reports/co-ord/nr2_v2.3.pdf

6 Document History

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7 Annex One : Self Sustainability Questionnaire

What services do / can we provide?	Please indicate which of services you might wish / are of value to you	Which of these services would you expect to be included in the following annual subscription fees?		
		€60	€600	€1800
• Newsletter				
○ Once a Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Six Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• MIR				
○ References	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Full Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Student Bursaries				
○ Right to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Right to apply for	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Travel Arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Travel Funding				
○ Right to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Right to apply for	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Summer School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Workshop / Conference Organisation				
○ Holding MONET	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Organisation for Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Funding for Members own	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Funding for Members Attendance at Third Parties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Publications				
○ Reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Discounts off other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Info Updates				
○ FP6 / EU Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ TG Specific Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Wider Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
○ Member Requested Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Funding Searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Networking / Partner Search	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• MBS&QR Community Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>