

1st Meeting of the Advisory Board of the DIGEP

“Department of Excellence” project.

Torino, 14/12/2018

The 1st meeting of the Advisory Board (Alexander Dolgui, Aldo Geuna, Alexis Tsoukiàs, Raquel Xalabarder) took place at the premises of the Department of Industrial Production and Management (DIGEP) of Politecnico di Torino the 14/12/2018. The meeting was organised on the following schedule:

- 15.30pm Meeting of the Board.
- 15.45pm Visit of the Department.
- 16.30pm Presentation of Scientific Achievements.
- 18.00pm Discussion with the Coordinators.
- 18.30pm Private discussion of the Advisory Board.

At the first meeting of the Board it has been unanimously agreed that this board will be chaired by Alexis Tsoukiàs. The detailed schedule of the meeting is attached as Annex 1. The following report summarises the discussions within the board in terms of recommendations to the Department and the Project Managers.

1. General Comments

The Advisory Board is honoured to assist the Department of “Industrial Production and Management” is running, monitoring the project “Department of Excellence”.

That said it is important that a number of formal requirements get fulfilled in a near future in order to frame correctly the work of this Advisory Board.

- We need a formal letter nominating the Board and describing (briefly) the mission of the Board and its duration.
- We need a short description of the duties of the Board and what is expected to be returned after each meeting of the Board.
- Within the above documents it should be specified how the Board’s report is expected to be used by the Department and the Project managers once received.

2. General Remarks.

The board was positively impressed by the scientific quality of the presentations and the willingness of the Project Manager and the Head of the Department as well as the heads of the research areas implied in the project to pursue the activities described in the application form (for which the funds have been received).

The board was equally worried by the potential delay in finalising the development works concerning the new laboratories to be constructed as well as the acquisition of the new equipment (although we understand this could be a time-consuming process).

The board very much appreciated the interdisciplinary character of the project as well as of the scientific challenges within it. We consider that this aspect should be preserved and guide the future actions within the project.

3. Specific Remarks

Despite the excellent presentations and the lively discussion, the Board was unable to completely clarify two issues related to the acquisition of the new equipment.

- It is not clear how the new laboratories will relate with the existing and how their activities will be coordinated.
- It is not clear how the new equipment will help in improving existing research, training and dissemination activities, besides allowing the establishment of new ones (if any).

4. Next meeting expectations.

For the next year meeting the Advisory Board would prefer a whole day meeting, including some scientific demonstrations about research results obtained thanks to this project as well as some presentations of experiences conducted within the new laboratories (in case these are operational), possibly involving third partners (and clients).

The Board would appreciate to have (a couple of weeks before the meeting) a document summarising the activities and the achievements of the project. However, in this document the Board would like to see answers to the following issues:

- A more detailed presentation of the project management and how this is related to the Department management;
- A more detailed presentation of the time schedule concerning the realization of the foreseen works;
- A presentation of results the project allowed to obtain which would have been impossible without this funding;
- A presentation of trans/interdisciplinary activities pursued thanks to this project as well as an assessment of the risks related to this aspect of the project.
- A list of unexpected results, events, achievements (if any) the project allowed to hold.

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