

General discussion on *Expanding SDG/agent-based activities in Europe, including the possibility of a second European SwarmFest in 2006 or 2007*

With László Gulyás (chair), Roberto Berchi, Andreas Kaempf, Marco Lamieri, Jurgen van der Pol and all participants.

During the first part of the discussion have been highlighted some suggestions to develop the agent based community, the diffusion of simulation techniques for complex systems study and the SDG activity in Europe.

The main goals are:

1. Develop Applications;
2. Standardization of tools;
3. Involve people from business and industry;
4. Let know the forthcoming events to a larger audience;
5. Success stories;
6. Coordination at European level;

Develop applications:

Agent based model are useful to develop not obvious research or applications. The best way to give visibility to the community is developing applications and publishing papers.

Standardization of tools;

Integrate the different tools available for agent based modelling can be useful. The Swarm Development Group is the most experienced and has developed a methodology for modelling: a second idea is to standardize just the methodology.

Involve people from business and industry;

It has been suggested to develop a more business oriented approach in order to open the community to business. The key points are how to present the results of models to business peoples.

Let know the forthcoming events to a larger audience;

In the 1997 there has been the first swarm event. Until now there is not enough visibility of our conference, fests and events out of the community.

Success stories

It can be useful to publish success stories of agent based applications in a repository.

Coordination at European level of related projects;

There are some European association dealing with complexity and simulations as the complex systems network of excellence "Existence" and the "European Social Science Association". The coordination of related projects is essential. It is important to create research groups in order to have a stronger impact on both the business and the academic community.

The second topic of the discussion was the possibility of a second Swarm fest in Europe next year or in 2007. Everybody agree that larger European community is in Italy but there are different ideas on who will organize the next Swarm Fest (or may be Agent Fest).