

CURE

Developing the Croatian Underwater Robotics Research Potential

This FP7 project is Support Action type of project that is implemented by the University of Zagreb (UNIZG), Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (FER), Department of Control and Computer Engineering (ARI), Laboratory for Underwater Systems and Technologies (LABUST). The project was awarded at the FP7-REGPOT-2008-1 call for the period 2009 and 2012 (36 months).

The project aims at reinforcing the Croatian S&T potential in underwater robotics with the help of coherent set of measures focused toward:

- supporting and mobilization of human and material resources;
- developing strategic partnerships with well known research centers in EU;
- dissemination of scientific information and research results;
- facilitating communication between LABUST and research entities having similar scientific interests in EU and also other stakeholders in the region;
- improvement of LABUST responses to socio-economic needs of the country and region especially related to Adriatic Sea.

The ultimate goal of CURE is to prepare ground for R&D integration of the LABUST into FP7 program. Integration may find its way in terms of R&D proposals, scientific cooperation or business contacts based on technological innovation. Expected impacts are in upgrading the RTD capacity and capability i.e. the human potential, the number of new researchers and training of research staff, improvement of research management, strengthening the research infrastructure and the quality of research, enabling better integration in the ERA.

Support actions that are planned:

- purchase of new equipment – unmanned underwater vehicles (AUV and ROV), sensors (side-scan and multi-beam sonar, USBL, acoustic communication modem, CTD sonde, ...);
- employment of 4 researchers and one expert returning from abroad;
- joint missions at sea with EU collaborators from Italy, Ireland and Portugal;
- autumn field training *Breaking the Surface* that will enable exchange of expertise between researchers from EU and countries from the east coast of the Adriatic Sea. The first BtS2009 was held in Murter and Kornati National Park between October 5th and 11th, 2009 (see <http://bts.fer.hr>). The next BtS2010 is planned in the same place between September 27th and October 2nd, 2010.
- spring workshops that will serve the purpose of clustering and exchange of information among end-users, industry, SMEs, RTD players, policy makers, governmental bodies responsible for the sub-sea domain. The first workshop will be organized April 1st and 2nd, 2009 at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Unska 3, Zagreb.
- round tables will be specifically planned during workshops for the policy makers in order to raise awareness about underwater robotics role, capabilities, solutions to various problems, and legislative problems for end-users.
- web-site <http://cure.fer.hr> and data base (operational soon) will enable better dissemination of CURE results, promotion and information collection about all stakeholders in underwater systems and technologies.

Stay tuned for more informations about the CURE project activities during 2010 that will be posted in journal *Brodogradnja*. For more information about the CURE project contact the project coordinator, prof.dr.sc. Zoran Vukić. (e-mail: zoran.vukic@fer.hr, personal web site: <http://labust.fer.hr/zvukic>)

FP7 Capacities
SA type of project

