



Email subrena.harris@npl.co.uk to receive email notifications of the latest newsletter and forthcoming Measuring the Impossible Network (MINET) events.

REPORTS ON RECENT Mtl EVENTS

MINET Workshop 2

**Awareness, perception and interpretation:
measurements vis-a-vis the complexity of life**

8 - 9 October 2008, Rome, Italy

This workshop was one of a series of events organised by the MINET project, aimed at achieving a deeper and wider understanding of the themes under investigation in the "Measuring the Impossible" (Mtl) field.

Researchers from the 14 Mtl projects, together with other experts and scholars, met to discuss the progress and scientific achievements of the Mtl projects. A total of 43 researchers participated.

Programme

The welcoming address was given by Fabio Feudo, Executive Director of Laboratory of Citizenship Sciences (LSC, Italy), and this was followed by an introduction to the workshop by Gerie van der Heijden (Biometris, The Netherlands) who encouraged discussion and participation. Gabriele Quinti and Alessandra Cancedda (LSC, Italy) offered a sociological perspective on innovation in scientific measurement and presented the results of a survey of Mtl projects. Giovanni Battista Rossi (University of Genoa, Italy) then closed the opening session by sharing some basic ideas on multidimensionality from the representational measurement theory point of view.

The remainder of the workshop was devoted to researchers from the various Mtl project teams, who presented the results obtained so far in the individual projects and discussed a range of relevant theoretical and methodological issues.



Just some of the 43 attendees at MINET Workshop 2

The workshop was highly successful in achieving its goal of encouraging better understanding and closer cooperation between Mtl projects, as demonstrated by the stimulating discussions that took place and by other outcomes such as:

- Similarities between projects were identified, and suggestions of alternative methods of investigations/methodologies were offered as solutions to problems
- Offers were made by project teams to use each other's equipment in experiments (e.g. PERCEPT and FUGA)
- Planning joint project meetings (e.g. between MONAT and Syntex)

Many of the participants expressed their interest in the important results that are now being produced by the various projects, and said that it would be a great loss of research and effort if these findings could not be continued in a new programme. Ideas were therefore exchanged on possible future projects and issues that should be researched that would advance the Measuring the Impossible field, and possible channels of funding and institutional frameworks were identified.

More information on Workshop 2 is available on the [MINET website](#).

The presentations from Workshop 2 will be available to eMINET members via the "Members only" part of the MINET website. Join eMINET [here](#).

Future MINET Events

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Think Tank D | 13 May 2009, The Netherlands |
| Workshop 3 | 14-15 May 2009, The Netherlands |
| Workshop 4 | Nov 2009, UK |

MINET Think Tank C

Uncertainty measurement when measuring the impossible

9 - 10 October 2008, Rome, Italy

About forty researchers involved in the MINET project participated in the third MINET Think Tank event, which focused on uncertainty. After an introduction by MINET Workpackage 3 Coordinator Leslie Pendrill (SP, Sweden), participants listened to an educational lecture by professor Leonardo Cannavò (University of Rome La Sapienza) on the topic: "Uncertain Measures? A Comparison between Causal and Systemic Sciences from the Viewpoint of an Applied Methodologist", followed by a presentation from Giovanni Battista Rossi (University of Genoa) on sources of uncertainty.

Break-out discussion groups then debated the following questions:

- Is it possible to establish a typology of uncertainty sources for "measuring the impossible" research projects?
- What is the relationship between the concepts of uncertainty and those of validity and reliability?
- What approach should be used in situations where there are no known "laws" relating the measured quantities, such as those known in physics, and indirect measurement is necessary?
- In cases where it is impossible to quantify uncertainty, is it possible (or even advisable) to find alternative, non-numerical ways to state uncertainty?

Some initial comments and answers were given by the groups and reported in plenary. However, consideration of these crucial issues will continue until the end of the project and possibly even beyond: MINET Think Tanks were conceived as permanent fora for discussion of issues related to the measurement of complex phenomena that are dependent on human perception and/or interpretation.

For further information on the topics covered during MINET Think Tank C, please visit:

<http://www.measuringimpossible.net/> or [here](#)



MINET at IMEKO TC1 - TC7

Symposium on Man, Science and Measurement

3 - 5 September 2008, Annecy, France

MINET researchers played key roles in organising the 12th IMEKO TC1-TC7 Joint Symposium on "Man, Science & Measurement" and filling it with novel scientific content. The symposium, held in Annecy on 3-5 September 2008, explored emerging challenges and novel concepts in measurement science from an anthropocentric point of view.

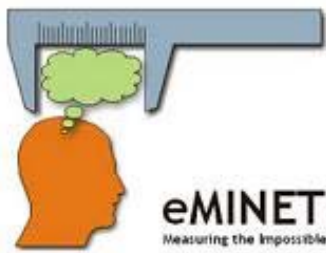
The symposium focused on the role of measurement science in human activity, considering measuring systems as instruments for improving the human perception of the world and the knowledge of human activities and characteristics. Topics covered included measurement of visual appearance, image quality measures, uncertainty evaluation, and haptics systems for reproducing tactile sensations.

In the first plenary session, Giovanni Battista Rossi (University of Genoa) gave a talk on "Some key concepts and terms in measurement having a cross-disciplinary impact", while Teresa Goodman (National Physical Laboratory, UK) spoke for the MONAT team about the "Measurement of naturalness". In session 2, Francesco Crenna, Matteo Panero and Giovanni B. Rossi explained the fundamentals of "Measurement of perceived sound intensity accounting for individual differences" and in session 4, the MEMORY team presented "A wireless sensor network platform for modelling space perception during saccadic eye-movements".

For the details of this event, please visit:

<http://www.measuringimpossible.net/> or [here](#)

NEWS FROM Mtl PROJECTS



eMINET

[eMINET](#) is a new network which brings together people who have an interest in the Measuring the Impossible (Mtl) field. Mtl researchers are from all fields that may have beneficial inputs to an Mtl project and include researchers from many different scientific disciplines, from psychology to metrology to social science. A contacts database has been set up for registration of interest by: researchers; individuals from funding organisations; the European Commission; and all others with an interest in this type of research.

Why join eMINET?

There are many benefits to joining the eMINET network:

- Access to a network of contacts with an interest in developing the Mtl field
- Notification of and participation in MINET network events such as workshops and think tanks, where cross-disciplinary discussions, sharing of expertise and development of best practice can take place
- Access to the "Members only" area of the MINET website, which contains presentations from previous MINET events and other useful information not available to non-members
- Potential for developing new research projects falling outside of traditional disciplines and new cross-disciplinary collaborations

Interested?

Please register [here](#)



Measuring emotions: a White Paper from Feel Europe

The Feel Europe project, led by the Fraunhofer-Institut für Biomedizinische Technik (Germany), has just completed a "White Paper" which summarises all the results of the project (particularly the workshop on measurement of feelings and emotions). It consists of 30 pages and includes the various points of view on the state-of-the-art, new possibilities, novel technologies, application fields and ethical considerations concerning the measurement of feelings and emotions. The White Paper is going to be submitted to the European Commission, and is aimed at national and international politicians, policy-makers, project investors, researchers and developers.

For further information please visit: <http://www.feeleurope.org/>

Presentations from MONAT and SynTex at the "Materials and Sensations" Conference

The progresses of MONAT and SynTex were presented at a conference on the topic "Materials and Sensations" held in Pau (France) on October 22-24, 2008. For MONAT, Florian de Boissieu (CEA/LETI, France) talked about "Texture exploration with an artificial finger", and Ruth Montgomery (NPL, UK) explained what happens when "Measuring physical and visual material properties to determine the perceived degree of naturalness". For SynTex, Brian Henson (University of Leeds, UK) proposed "An effective engineering approach to the understanding of tactile perceptions and their relation to surface properties", while Stefan Thumfart (Profactor, Austria) presented the "Feature based prediction of the perceived and aesthetic properties of visual textures."

Joint SynTex and MONAT Meeting at The National Physical Laboratory, UK



[Click here to visit the MONAT pages on the NPL website](#)

As a result of the coordination provided by MINET, exchange initiatives by Mtl projects are flourishing. On 12 November 2008 members of the SynTex and the MONAT consortium met at The National Physical Laboratory in Teddington. These two projects (the former focusing on emotions associated with textures, the latter on the perception of naturalness of materials) show several similarities, and therefore they decided to deepen their mutual knowledge.

Following an initial presentation of both projects by the coordinators, a detailed discussion emerged about several aspects of the projects. In particular, different ways of setting up the psychophysical and neuroimaging experiments were discussed and partners shared their complementary experience on visual and tactile experiments. The computational approaches and modelling methods were also compared and discussed. Finally the project partners agreed to share samples and images and to test each other's model.

All participants were in agreement that this joint meeting had been very beneficial for both projects and a follow-up meeting in May 2009 was spontaneously arranged.



<http://www.syntex.or.at/>

Presentation of MINET at European events

Janko Drnovšek (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) presented the MINET initiative during the General Council of IMEKO (International Measurement Confederation), to 150 delegates of national member bodies of IMEKO, in Budapest, Hungary, 9-10 September 2008.

For further information please visit: <http://www.imeko.org/>

Janko also chaired a round table discussion on "Measuring the Impossible Network" during the 2nd Symposium on Laboratory Experiences in Application of HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025, in Opatija, Croatia, 24-27 September 2008. This was attended by 200 people, and was organised jointly by the Croatian Metrology Society (HMD) and IRMM (Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements).

For further information please visit [HMD](#) and [IRMM](#)

At RMO 2008 (the 1st International Symposium of Regional Metrology Organisations: "Metrology, Testing, and Accreditation – Breaking the Trading Barriers", Dubrovnik - Cavtat, Croatia, 12 – 15 November 2008) Janko Drnovšek and Gregor Geršak chaired a session on "Measuring the Impossible Network – MINET" during the workshop on "Breaking Through".

For further information, visit www.rmo2008.org



MINET Repository

The MINET repository is an online resource containing references to journal papers, online articles and other sources in areas of research relevant to the 'Measuring the Impossible' theme.

The areas of research referenced in the repository are important for any current and future research project.

The MINET repository is found here:
<http://minet3repository.wordpress.com/>

The MINET repository is actively seeking more references to **Measurement Techniques** in particular:

<http://minet3repository.wordpress.com/measurement-domains/measurement-techniques/>

Please visit the repository to contribute!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINET Think Tank D

Decision-making and impact assessment

13 May 2009, Wageningen, The Netherlands

How can decisions be made based on perceptual measurements? What are the impacts of these measurements? These are some of the questions that will be debated at MINET Think Tank D, which will be held in Wageningen on May 13 2009.

For further information, please visit:
<http://www.measuringimpossible.net/> or [here](#)

Two international metrology events in 2009

Two important metrology events will take place in the oncoming months:

The XIX IMEKO World Congress of Fundamental and applied Metrology will be held in Lisbon (Portugal) on 6-11 September 2009.

There are plans to hold a special session related to the 'Measuring the Impossible' area.

For further information, please visit: www.imeko2009.it.pt

The 14th International Congress of Metrology "Added value through better measurement" is being organised by the Collège Français de Metrologie in Paris on 22-25 June 2009.

A paper about the MINET project has been accepted for oral presentation at this congress. The paper is entitled "Measurement of Perception: A European Network <Measuring the Impossible>", to be presented by Leslie Pendrill (SP, Sweden).

For further information, please visit:
www.metrologie2009.com

MINET Workshop 3

14-15 May 2009, Wageningen, The Netherlands

The third of the Workshop series organised by MINET will also take place in Wageningen, on 14-15 May 2009. The workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss a range of topics and issues of interest to researchers in the Mtl field and their application in the areas of the physical, natural, psychological and social sciences. Presentations will be clustered by topic or discipline (psychometrics, psychophysics, human perception, neuroscience, physical and physiological measurement, modelling, etc.) and the programme will also include time for discussion and debate.

Further information on this event can be found [here](#).

MINET Workshop 4

November 2009, London, UK

The final MINET Workshop will be held at the National Physical Laboratory, London, in November 2009. This will be an opportunity to present the final outcomes from the projects funded under the EU NEST Measuring the Impossible programme and to discuss the future of research in this important emerging field.

Further information on this event will be available on the [MINET website](#) shortly.

For More Information

For further information on MINET activities or any of the EU NEST Measuring the Impossible projects, please visit the MINET website:

<http://www.measuringimpossible.net>

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION

Measuring the Impossible after NEST: what are your ideas?

At the last MINET Workshop in Rome, the need was raised by participants to start to outline a new programme (or roadmap, or set of roadmaps), for the continuation of collaborative research in the Measuring the Impossible field after the end of the EU-NEST Pathfinder initiative. It was suggested that such a programme could identify the relevant theories and methods, the instrumentation to be used and developed, the characteristics to be measured (i.e. the measurands) and the relevant application areas.

An Expert Group is being established as part of the MINET project to work on this task, but input from all MINET partners is crucial. What are your suggestions and ideas in this respect?

Please e-mail any suggestions and ideas to Subrena Harris at subrena.harris@npl.co.uk