



Memorandum of Understanding

This document is a joint Memorandum of Understanding to which the following bodies are party:

- *Freie Universitaet Bozen / Libera Università di Bolzano (UniBz)*, in the person of the legal representative, Dr. Friedrich Schmidl, President of the University Council,
- *Universität Innsbruck (Unilbk)*, in the person of the legal representative, Prof. Hans Moser, Rector,
- *Università degli Studi di Trento (UniTn)*, in the person of the legal representative, Prof. Massimo Egidi, Rector.

1 Premises

We state

- that each party is investing substantial resources towards the strengthening of its teaching, research and technology transfer programs in Information Technology (IT);
- that in the IT sector, the universities of Bozen/Bolzano, Innsbruck, and Trento have common interests in all the areas they are investing, namely teaching, research and technology transfer.

On March 9-10, 2001, a first meeting was held in Seefeld to discuss collaboration in IT among the three Universities.

On May 18, 2001, a second meeting was held in Bozen/Bolzano. During this meeting the possibility of jointly creating a new Institution called

The Bolzano Innsbruck Trento Joint School for Information Technology

was discussed, hereinafter called BIT School.

2 Objective

This Memorandum constitutes an agreement which commits the rectors of the three parties to study the feasibility of the BIT School and to do whatever is needed for its establishment.

The overall goal of BIT School will be that of coordinating, helping, facilitating and pushing the collaboration and synergy among the three parties with the goals of

- fostering the development of IT within the three parties and the corresponding regions as fast and solid as possible;
- fostering the collaboration in IT among the three parties and corresponding regions;
- doing whatever needs to be done to ensure that the teaching and research programs will be internationally (European and world level) recognized as leading programs.

3 The BIT School

All the aspects concerning the BIT School, including legal, administrative, management, budgetary aspects will be defined as an output of the activity of a working group (see Section 4).

Some of the key aspects defining how the BIT School will operate can however be stated at this point in time, and are given below in this section:

The BIT School will act in coordination with the three parties. The power of the BIT School will be limited by the autonomy of the three parties. The three parties may delegate some of their power to the BIT School in order to allow it to implement some of its activities.

It is intended that the BIT School will have a budget, which will be defined by the working group WG1.

The Bit School will start and coordinate a set of activities with the goal of achieving the objectives listed in Section 2 above. A list of such possible activities, which typically might be executed by the BIT School, is given below:

- Joint PhD Program
- BIT professorships
- Exchange of professors, courses, students
- Startup and management (with the technical support of the three parties) of a data highway among the three parties, and sharing of infrastructure
- Definition and control of common quality standards
- Common marketing and name
- Joint research projects, possibly with the three provinces as users (Region as a lab)
- Joint fund raising (for instance at the EU level)
- Fostering the development of a common economic area. The BIT School will act in order to attract new companies and to enhance collaboration with the existing companies in Tyrol, Trentino and South Tyrol.

4 Working Groups

A set of working groups will be activated with the following goals:

Working Group WG1

The working group WG1 will be responsible of defining all the aspects concerning the BIT School, including legal, administrative, organizational, management, budgetary, and startup aspects.

The working group WG1 will act as the “coordinating committee” of all the preparatory activities aimed at the startup of the BIT School, done also by other working groups during the period between when this Memorandum is signed and when the BIT School will start to operate. All the decisions made by the working groups will be subject to final approval by the working group WG1.

When acting as coordinating committee, WG1 will have the power to start other working groups.

Members of the working group WG1 will be, for any party, the Rector or delegate of his and another person nominated by the Rector.

Working Group WG2

The working group WG2 will be responsible of defining all the aspects of the joint PhD Program, including scientific, organizational, teaching aspects. This group will have two members from each of the three parties.

5 Actions and Timetable

The working group WG1 will start to operate immediately and will define a precise working plan about the detailed development of the single activities.

6 Non Disclosure

Any official statement or disclosure about the BIT School will have to be preliminarily agreed by the three parties. The announcement of the BIT School will be jointly given by the three parties.

Signed inon

For UniBz
The President
Dr. Friedrich Schmidl

For Unilkb
The Rector
Prof. Hans Moser

For UniTn
The Rector
Prof. Massimo Egidi