

CogniScope Offerings

Some of you have begun exploring the CogniScope software for collaborative design. If you have downloaded the free version of the CogniScope I software through the Institute's website, this eBuzz serves as a long overdue follow-up to invite you to join a user's group. The user's group will include users of three current versions of the CogniScope software:

CS I software as previously offered (free).

" The demonstration version of CogniScope II with limited capability (free).

" The full version of CS II (price to be negotiated with Leading Design International)

CogniScope II is a more user-friendly version of CS I; however, CS I carries a broader range of functions, including a trade-off decision structuring subprogram.

To review software options, go to <http://www.blogora.net/page/Cognisystem>, sign up as a writer, and post your thoughts. You will be prompted with an email recognizing that you have joined the user's group during the sign up process. In the coming months we plan to offer demonstrations, mentoring, and assistance.

Cyprus Update

The world is beginning to take notice of the Cyprus Civil Society Dialogue Project. The project is led by the Cyprus European Union Association (KAB) and funded by the United Nations from December 2006 through August 2008. Partners include:

" Turkish Cypriot: Cyprus Policy Centre

" Greek Cypriot: Cyprus Intercultural Training Initiative (CITI)

" International: Institute for 21st Century Agoras

The bi-communal Civil Society Dialogue project brings together civil society organizations from both sides of the island to share experiences and work to create a Citizen's Platform where ideas are discussed and an Action Plan is devised to build the new reunited Cyprus. The reunification project consists of three phases.

During the first phase a knowledge management team was formed to train participants, manage the dialogue, and guide the processes. Phase one was led by the International partner of the project -- the Institute for 21st Century Agoras. An initial series of 5 day dialogues made use of the online version of the CogniScope, called the WebScope. In these dialogues, local bi-communal veterans and individuals living abroad explored situational understandings and options for action.

During the second phase, a series of co-laboratories for face-to-face dialogue are taking place wherein the current situation is rigorously defined in terms of opportunities and barriers. This definition phase will move into a design phase using the Structure Dialogic Design Process (SDDP). Participants will be assembled into a number of workgroups where they will frame and compare approaches in the process of constructing an integrated action plan. The project builds upon the methodology used in Cyprus by Benjamin Broom in 1994-1995 under an effort funded by the Fulbright Commission. Many of the original participants in Dr. Broom's work remain active in the current effort.

The third phase will consist of a full day convention with International participation. At the convention, workshop results will be shared and discussed with the wider public. To aid in this discussion, the Civil Society Dialogue website will be opened to collect and post thoughts and ideas of all of the participants. The combined results of the local and international workshops, the convention, and the ideas contributed through the website will be used to guide construction of a Citizens' Charter for Cyprus.

The long term goal of this project is to build an enduring, bi-communal think tank which will continually generate ideas and policies and will take part in shaping the future of the island within the European Union. The Cyprus EU Association will host the think-tank and will support its activities by organizing seminars, conferences, workshops and fund raising activities. Other partners will also help supporting the think-tank with their expertise and experience.

Currently the Bi-Communal Dialogue project currently is in phase two, in the process of organizing and conducting multiple co-laboratories with respect to the following topics: economic integration, media, environment, political parties, strengthening CSOs/NGOs in Cyprus, 1960 Rights Two of three planned co-laboratories on economic integration and

the initial co-laboratory on media have been completed. The project also has hosted public lectures on the process that is being used: "Civil Society Dialogue and Technology of Democracy" given by Aleco Christakis on Thursday, 12 July in the Fulbright Center and an Open Media Literacy Seminar with 2 international experts on Monday, 16 July in the Fulbright Center.