

ESSA@work
Ruhr-University Bochum
5th – 7th March 2014

ESSA@work is a meeting concept where any modeler can receive and give support on simulation work in progress. During the workshop, a group of participants and experts will discuss the simulation projects of the participants and overarching topics or questions which arise are discussed in small parallel discussion groups.

- Experts: Prof. Klaus G. Troitzsch
Prof. Michael Roos
Prof. Simone Alfarano
- Organizer: Anna Klabunde (anna.klabunde@rub.de, +49 234 32 23107)
- Schedule: Wed: Welcome (09:00), presentations, joint dinner
Thu: presentations and group discussions, joint dinner
Fri: group discussions, Résumé, closing (13:00)
- Finances: Participation is free of charge. However, participants have to cover their personal costs for travelling, accommodation and meals, including (voluntary) joint dinners.
- Venue: The workshop takes place at Ruhr University Bochum, Universitätsstr. 150, 44801 Bochum (Germany) (room to be announced)
- Application: If you want to participate please fill in the application form and send it to anna.klabunde@rub.de no later than 14 January 2014. Please consider that due to a limited number of presentation slots it may not be possible to consider all applications.
- Important dates: Application deadline: January 14, 2014
Notification of acceptance: January 22, 2014

ESSA@Work

Information for Newcomers¹

ESSA@work is a meeting concept dedicated to the presentation and discussion of hands-on simulation work - meaning that you can discuss your work at any stage of your simulation project. The level of experience and academic ranking are no criteria for the group composition - everyone is welcome. The workshop is supported by experts who have a long experience in doing research and especially (agent-based) modeling.

The participants will have a diversity of backgrounds but a joint interest in agent-based modeling. Therefore the main potential for useful feedback relates to problems and questions related to the method (e.g. parameterization, validation, analysis of simulation results etc.). The diversity of disciplines, experiences and the work discussed provide insights that can be stimulating, refreshing and brings work forward. The participants are thus all peers that make up a unique support group.

Every participant has one hour to present and discuss her/his work. How this hour is used (more time for presentation or for discussion) is up to the participant! Different to a presentation at a conference, you are not 'selling' your work, but ask for the contribution of peers. The aim is to improve the quality of your work, to be able to discuss your thoughts and ideas with people that travel with you into the depths of your code or model when necessary. The clearer you communicate about your work and formulate your questions, the more you get out of it. You should go home with an idea/decision/plan to continue your work, having made a step forward.

The organizers will collect overarching topics or questions that arise during the presentations of individual work. Based on these observations some topics for group discussion in small parallel discussion groups will be jointly defined. These group discussions are another part of the workshop.

A good atmosphere is very important for the quality of the meeting. To be in a (new) group where you share your work before everything is thought through can feel a little risky. This endeavor might take some mental hurdles to overcome when discussing your work that is not 'finished' yet. However, asking and receiving support in the process of developing your work is crucial:

- you win time by not reinventing the wheel,
- you get in touch with people that are valuable for your work,
- you make progress in a quite short amount of time,
- you get new inspiration
- AND gain very much stimulation and fun!

To ensure the good atmosphere, we moderate the meeting. In the end, however, atmosphere is the task of us all. Being part of this group does not mean to lean back and consume, but to actively participate. In other words: being interested and open to new/different ideas, listening to each other, engaging in discussions, asking for clarification and, very importantly, always giving constructive feedback. This is the spirit in which our group functions and succeeds.

¹ This text is based on the ESSA@work mission statement (<http://www.essa.eu.org/essa-work/>) authored by Iris Lorscheid, Frithjof Stöppler and Nanda Wijermans