

## INTEGRATED PLATFORM FOR TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN AGRO-FOOD SECTOR IN ROMANIA

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### Abstract

This paper aims at presenting the integrated platform for transferring knowledge and skills in agro-food sector, as a tool for facilitating information exchange between stakeholders: businesses, centres of research, educational and research in the food and agro-business sector, centres of business incubation in the food sector, clusters of SMEs, technology transfer centres. The methodology consists of a web application, whose features are detailed. Main results of research show that the platform generates savings of time and financial resources through a simplified procedure and provides opportunities for documentation and collaboration correlated to the real needs of users.

**Key words:** collaborative space, unique integrated platform, knowledge community, SPID application, workflow

### INTRODUCTION

This article presents, in summary, the final results achieved in the project POL-EX-AGRA - Pole of excellence in agro-food sector, results materialized in a web application, SPID™, in fact a tool for interactive, flexible, which is part national and European policy to support knowledge-based society and economy.

POL-EX-AGRA project gathered in the period 2008-2011 a total of five partners in the sectors of agro-food research and development, economic education and agricultural private sector in Romania, who have collaborated to complete

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the collaborative platform. Attracting as many players in the field, to quickly and competitively interact in a shared and dissemination oriented virtual space, in the global performance of key knowledge and skills available, helps to improve knowledge management system by identification and full valuation of existing knowledge and skills in this key sector of the economy.

**Material and method**

Collaborative Platform is an instrument interactive, intuitive, flexible, and easy to use by all community members involved in the process of creating and managing contextual intangible values.

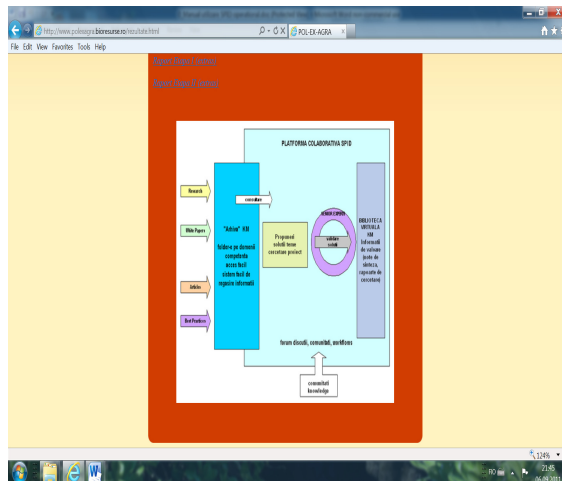
The platform has broad applicability for actors interested in the economy, such as businesses, including core research, educational and research and development institutions in the food and agribusiness sector, business incubation centres in agro-food sector, clusters of SMEs , technology transfer centres etc.

SPID application



SPID™ is a web-based application developed through collaboration of project partners; it is an interactive technical support, allowing users to structure control and effectively manage all the resources involved in execution of projects and processes in their organizations to improve overall performance.

**Fig. 1- Collaborative platform SPID™**



The main functions of SPID™ system are:

- document management and utilization of information;
- continuous processes' improvement and change management;
- skills management;

- management of performance (dashboards and information-decision circuit).

SPID™ has two components:

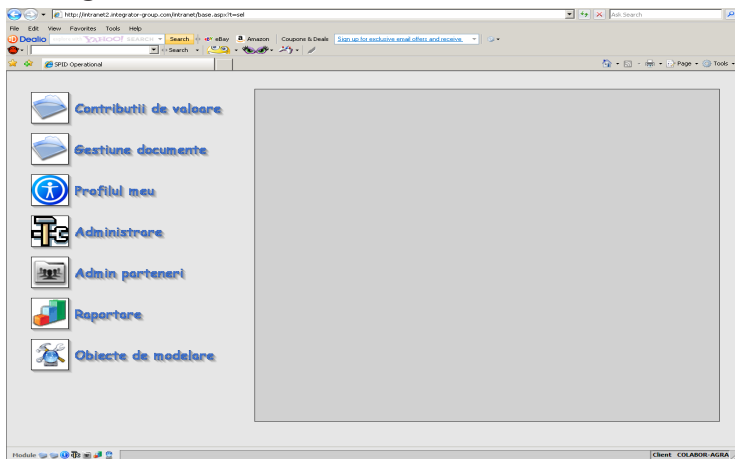
- OPERATIONAL SPID – Collaborative platform: document management, working flows management, continuous processes’ improvement, skills management, information-decision circuit)
- STRATEGIC SPID for Organisation Analysis and Strategic Dashboards.

OPERATIONAL SPID is a web-based application, whose main features allow a more efficient management of information, documents and processes within an organization. Platform SPID is a very useful tool in managing complex projects, allowing both consultants and experts team of clients to accomplish their missions successfully, including:

- Transfer of skills;
- Reorganizing processes to cope with an integrated environment;
- Full documentation of processes and systems so as to help reduce maintenance costs etc.

For accessing OPERATIONAL SPID system one should enter the server address of browser: <http://intranet.integrator-group.com/>

**Fig. 2 – Screen of functionalities OPERATIONAL SPID**



SPID system allows sending and tracking documents on preset workflows - routes / predefined destinations of documents, according to internal procedures and quality system, mentioning the actors involved the type of action (information, approval) and deadlines.

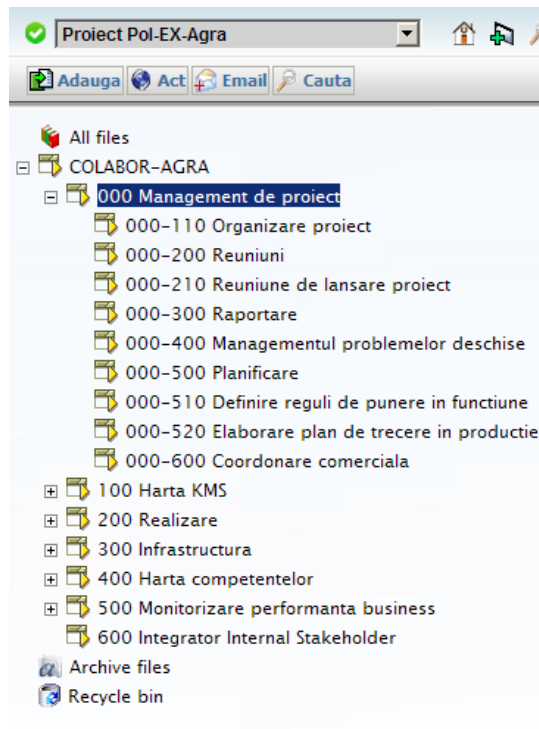
By setting these default workflows and routes compliance between internal communication and collaboration and the quality system is supported and errors of communication and collaboration due to human factor are reduced as much as possible.

Workflows can be several types:

- editing;
- information (the user is informed about a new document or allocation of tasks);
- approval (by this workflow, the user is informed of the document, and by accepting it, we can see whether or not he is aware; also, a document can be submitted for approval by a supervisor and he may approve or reject the document);
- negotiation (with this workflow the value of a document can be negotiated and recorded).

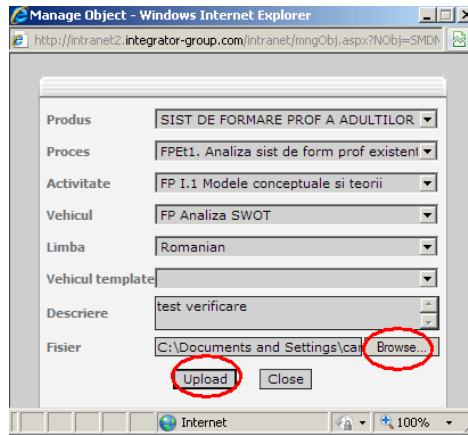
The structure of projects and processes is defined considering the specific demands of each company.

**Fig. 3 – Folders structure of POL-EX-AGRA project**



To load a new document in the system, the cursor should be positioned on the folder one wish to load. Clicking on this icon, a window appears that allows selection of document attributes (product, process, activity vehicle, the language, template document - if such a template is available), the field describing the document and which can be filled in, and search, loading and out of the window buttons.

Fig. 4 – Window for loading the attributes of a new document in the system

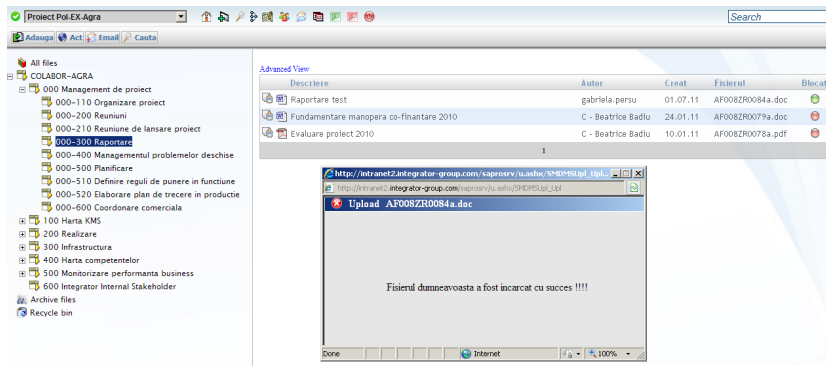


After selecting attributes (product, process, activity, vehicle, and language) two options for loading the document in the system are available:

- using a template (standard document). In this case, after completing the description, the load button is pressed;
- without using a template (other documents), in this case, select the location of the document to be loaded using the search button, then press the upload button.

After loading control (upload) the folder list of documents is updated and the loaded new document will appear first. The system completes automatically the document attributes in the loading window.

Fig. 5 – End of loading a new document in the system




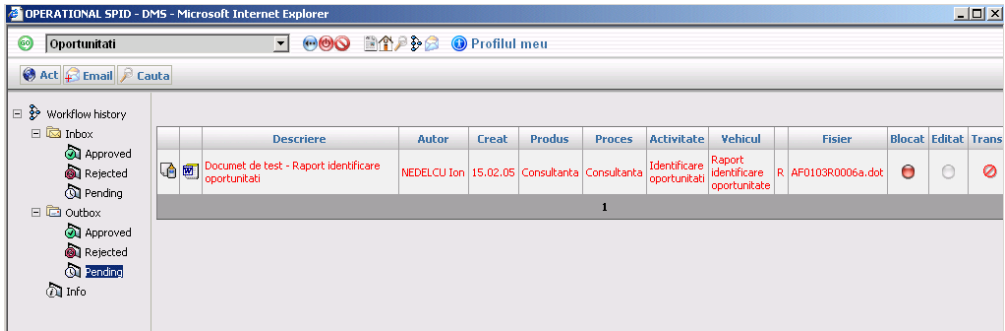
To access historical information on uploaded documents within workflows accessible to a person or have the recipient, one should click on the icon  located on the top bar. This provides access to a new window.

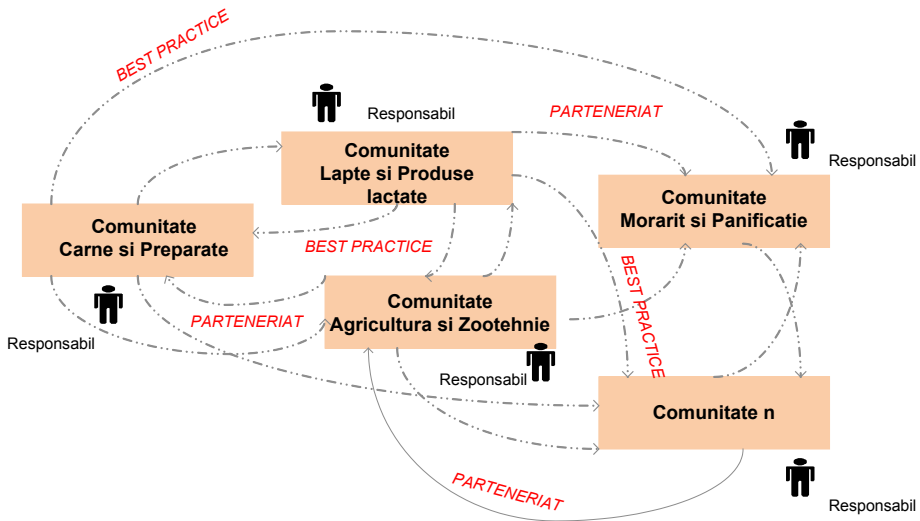
Fig. 6 – Accessing information history related to uploaded documents



Information is classified in categories: Inbox and Outbox. Each category contains the list of approved, rejected and pending files.

Creating a collaborative contextual platform of management is a response to the need for simplification and flexibility to quickly and organized access to a wide range of documentary resources - information of vital interest to those involved in the development of agro-food sector in Romania

Fig. 7 – Adding value to information to the community level through an active partnership



## CONCLUSIONS

Increasing performance in the context of collaborative work stimulates the creative process by facilitating unlimited and organized access to innovation products already existing (modular structure of the platform allows any user to belong to one or more communities).

Single integrated platform generates savings of time and financial resources through a simplified procedure; it offers possibilities for documentation and collaboration in correlation to the real needs of users (users can easily identify the information that solves the best specific problems in context, and can work interactively to enhance the research process).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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