

# TwinTide Newsletter

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## About the TwinTide Newsletter

The **TwinTide Newsletter** is a communication tool used for publicizing the activities carried out by the COST Action IC0904 TwinTide network to the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) community. The current issue is dedicated to the **TwinTide Training School TUTOREM** which was organized in Autumn 2012, in Bled, Slovenia.

The online version available at <http://twintide.org/newsletter/>

## TwinTide Training Schools

The overall goal of TwinTide is to integrate and foster research and practice on design and evaluation methodologies for computing artefacts across sectors and disciplines. The realisation of this goal can be facilitated by providing young HCI researchers with training opportunities through leveraging the diverse expertise and research projects being integrated in the Action. This specific objective underpins a series of TwinTide Training Schools.

The first one was called DEVISE 2011. It was held in November 2011 at the University Residential Centre, the small medieval hilltop town of Bertinoro, Italy. The main aim of the school was to enhance participants' theoretical and practical understanding of emergent design and evaluation methods for innovative interactive systems.

Based on the encouraging success of and insights gained from DEVISE '11, we organized the second training school called TUTOREM (<http://www.le.ac.uk/compsci/people/elaw/tutorem>). It was held in Autumn 2012 in a very scenic place – Bled in Slovenia. The overarching goal of TUTOREM was to improve participants' understanding of significant *research methods* commonly or increasingly used in the field of HCI. The responses to the call for participation were very keen, implying a strong need for training on research methods.

The good news is that TUTOREM will return to Bled this year. Details will soon be announced in the website: <http://twintide.org>. HCI PhD students in their early years will be much welcome to apply for **TUTOREM 2013**.

## TUTOREM 2012

The organization of **TUTOREM** was coordinated by Effie Law (University of Leicester, UK/ETH Zürich, Switzerland) and Gilbert Cockton (Northumbria University, UK). In addition, Matic Pipan and Tanja Arh (Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia) took care of all the facilities required for local organization.

44 post-graduate HCI students from 16 European countries attended 3 full-day intensive training. TUTOREM covered concepts and practical skills of several common, significant research methods in HCI (i.e. survey design, statistical methods, interviews and qualitative data analysis) and also emergent ones (i.e. decision-making models, ethnographic approaches, and narrative-based methods). Research ethics was also included. Besides, to lay the foundation for future collaboration, students formed small groups to work on a mini-project on a specific topic.

TUTOREM could only be so successful because the seven excellent lecturers shared their rich knowledge and experience and spent their precious time in interacting with the students. Here they are:

**Prof. Paul van Schaik**  
Teesside  
University, UK



**Prof. Gilbert Cockton**  
Northumbria University,  
UK

**Dr. Siân Lindley**  
Microsoft Research



**Prof. Jan Gulliksen**  
KTH, Sweden



**Dr. Dominic Furniss**  
University College  
London, UK



**Prof. Bojan Srdjevic**  
University of  
Novi Sad,  
Serbia



**Dr. Jettie Hoonhout**  
Philips Research, The  
Netherlands



<http://twintide.org/>



## Yves Bochud

Swiss Distance University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland

"Since I started to work in the field of HCI nearly one year ago, I felt as if it was time to get some up-to-date input concerning research methods in this field of research and to affiliate with other researchers in the domain of HCI. When I looked at the program and the list of invited speakers, it was clear to me that I would like to join the TUTOREM 2012 in Bled, Slovenia, for this purpose.

Due to my psychological background I was really interested on the fact how people with a more technological approach carry out research and approach problems in the field of HCI. Because the participants came from different fields of research it was really interesting for me to discuss matters concerning HCI and how it is related to the PhD-thesis of each participating person. From that point of view, the TUTOREM was a great opportunity for building connections / getting in touch with many PhD students and researchers who work in the field of research (especially because I'm not working at the university). Because the background of participants was very broad, these discussion revealed many different ideas and valuable inputs for my own research. The lectures were of very high quality and I'd like to thank the lecturers for their effort and insightful talks and workshops. Despite the fact that the program was very dense and exhausting, nevertheless I think I was able to profit from each lecturer's experience and learned a lot. Last but not least many thanks to COST and the ETH for their generous funding, it was a real pleasure to join the TUTOREM-community!"



## Arman Arakelyan

Tallinn University, Estonia

"TUTOREM was a balanced introduction to research practice in HCI. Covering a wide range of topics including research philosophies, methodologies and trends. It included numerous practical exercises in statistics, decision making, ethics and qualitative data analysis, to name a few. These

intensive lectures, led by experienced faculty and practitioners, covered more than methods, expanding our horizon to the range of interaction design topics, approaches and opportunities that lie ahead. One of the insights I gained was that HCI, a traditionally multidisciplinary area, has grown to encompass an even more diverse quorum of research agendas with the (re)discovery of experiences people have while interacting with computing artifacts, including affective and distributed aspects of cognition. Importantly, TUTOREM challenged me to think about my research project as to how it fits into the HCI body of knowledge. I came to realize that the field of appropriative interaction (the topic of my focus at Tallinn University) would need rethinking against the current trends in interaction design. Last and foremost, I got to know and became friends with many talented PhD students that impressed me with their skill and passion for their work and inspired me to explore new avenues within my research project."



## Ana Coric Samardzija

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Organization and Informatics, Zagreb, Croatia

"To participate in TUTOREM program was great opportunity for PhD student and young researcher like me. I'm currently in process of writing literature review for my doctoral thesis which is also related to HCI field. I wasn't quite sure which statistical method approach is best for my hypothesis testing and which type of data collection is more suitable form my research. But, participating in TUTOREM

program I gained broaden picture of range of qualitative and quantitative methods that I could use. The knowledge and experience of researchers and professors at this program helped me to focus more my current studies. Hope that in future there will be more TUTOREM program and hopefully with more data analysis accent. Opportunity to work in multicultural mini group project was both challenging and useful experience. Furthermore, it was great opportunity to study in the inspiring, creative, and cosmopolite environment of the leading professors, researchers and students from around the world in HCI field. TUTOREM program I would recommend to everyone who has interest in HCI field :) Pozdrav! (Salute!)."



## Jan Derboven

Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium

"Doctoral training schools that offer lectures by an impressive line-up of leading HCI researchers in HCI are scarce. You have to grab the opportunity once it arrives. It's a matter of broadening your horizon – learning about approaches in HCI you're not familiar with. And, of course, talking to other doctoral students, complaining to them about the ordeal of working on a PhD. TUTOREM was a really

terrific experience in terms of broadening your horizon. The lectures – a mix of talks and hands-on exercises – were great for learning about new approaches. In the short time span of the Autumn School, the lecturers succeeded in offering us a bird's eye view of various approaches in HCI. However, apart from very interesting lectures and informal chats, the collaboration with other PhD students was arguably the most interesting part of the School. Divided into small teams of four or five students, we were asked to work on one of the 'mini projects' suggested by the lecturers. As team 9, the last and smallest team, we decided to work on 'technology tempo'. Our work on this topic proved to fit the concept of TUTOREM perfectly. Coming from different backgrounds, we managed to fit in each member's expertise nicely into a presentation on how to analyze or measure technology tempo. Starting from literary theory, media studies and qualitative user research, we ended up presenting our own framework, on measuring the hedonic qualities of technology pace. At the end of the week, a jury consisting of Gilbert Cockton and Jettie Hoonhout finally elected our team's presentation as the best mini-project outcome. While this is an honor in itself, we hope the best is yet to come. The framework on technology pace will be presented at the CHI2013 workshop on "Changing Perspectives of Time in HCI". After the workshop, we plan to extend this work further, and discuss future opportunities for publication and collaboration."

## Ilya Shmorgun

*PhD student, Institute of Informatics, Tallinn University, Estonia*

"I have a BSc degree in Computer Science and a MSc degree in Interactive Media and Knowledge Environments. I am currently enrolled in the Information Society Technologies doctoral program by Tallinn University. My research topic is Ubiquitous Mobile Interactions. My main motivation to attend TUTOREM was to learn about the established and new research methods from the field of HCI that could be suitable for my own research. Participating in TUTOREM has foremost influenced my understanding of what research is all about. For me it is about the willingness to explore and make sense of things, to ask questions and make use of methodologies to find answers to those questions. It is about being open-minded and willing to learn. I would definitely recommend participating in TUTOREM to my colleagues, because I see it is a great opportunity to learn from established researchers from the field of HCI and to meet fellow doctoral students from all over Europe. TUTOREM provides a snapshot of the variety of research topics and directions people are currently working on."



## Lisa Créno

*PhD Student in Psychology Ergonomics, Télécom ParisTech, Paris, France*

"When I arrived in Bled for the TUTOREM adventure, I just started my second month as a PhD student in psychology ergonomics with Beatrice Cahour as supervisor. It was an incredible opportunity for me to attend this Twintide autumn training school because research methods for HCI interest me quite particularly. Lectures on how to design and lead good questionnaires and interviews really helped me to realize the power and sophistication of these qualitative methods. Workshops organized after each lecture were important to validate the concepts previously learned and were also very useful to debate with team colleagues about our different points of view. The two forums offered by *Gilbert Cockton* and *Jan Gulliksen* gave me many keys to understand and anticipate better the organization of my thesis. Their speeches were reassuring and I really enjoyed all their advices. I realized that I must be able to adapt my plans and my methodologies for example but always keeping in mind my objectives and research questions! Thanks to the very enthusiastic speakers and other PhD students, TUTOREM offers me good conditions to start my thesis and many interesting bibliographic sources to explore!"



## Mati Mottus, Tallinn University, Estonia

"TUTOREM was my first international experience since I started my PhD study in September. Then HCI was mostly unexplored field for me and I just felt eager to meet people of the same interest. Exactly, what TUTOREM did: spend a tough week with best teachers and fellow students from Europe. May I say "from world" as well? Humble small town, Bled in Slovenia happened to be very positive place for creative thinking. Therefore, perhaps we did not have enough time to present all the ideas that crossed our minds in work with mini-projects. Not because of little time, of course... My area of research is Aesthetics of Interaction Design, which seems to be simultaneously the most frightening and most desirable topic. Many colleagues expressed interest and some of them are studying the secrets of beauty themselves, but Aesthetics remains still on shadowy side. During my initial work on literature review, things got more complicated, than I first expected. TUTOREM freed my mind and gave extra confidence to continue. Not only the lessons of research philosophy and technics were important, but also new colleagues, who I can ask the second opinion. If possible, I would like to participate again next year. The same suggestion for all other HCI doctoral students, who begin their study."



*Group-photo of the lecturers and PhD-students participating at the TUTOREM 2012, Bled, Slovenia*



## Effie Law

University of Leicester, UK/ ETH Zürich, Switzerland  
TUTOREM'2012 organizer

### FAQ for TUTOREM 2012

For TUTOREM 2012, I have often been asked several questions, which, together with the answers, I'd like to share with you here.

#### Q1: Why was Bled chosen for TUTOREM?

**A1:** A self-explanatory answer can be found by simply looking out of the windows in the lecture hall (though the students could easily be distracted!). The view is awe-inspiring and breathtaking. Walking around (or jogging if you want to test your fitness) the Bled Lake is quite a romantic experience.

#### Q2: Was organizing TUTOREM challenging?

**A2:** Yes, definitely. It involved 44 PhD students and 7 lecturers; the communication load was inevitably heavy. Conservatively estimated there were hundreds of TUTOREM-related emails in my account. Luckily, Matic, the local organizer, was very experienced in coordinating the local travel and catering services. This relieved me of quite some workload. The most challenging thing was to identify speakers with relevant expertise and to get them involved in the event. With the help of Gilbert and the generosity of the invited colleagues, we got an excellent team who filled the three days with very stimulating talks and practical exercises. I also learned a lot.

#### Q3: What did you like the most about TUTOREM?

**A3:** Many things. I liked interacting with inquisitive, vibrant and creative PhD students; their energy and enthusiasm were really contagious. Above all, what I most appreciated was the quality of the nine mini-projects. The students were given very limited time to work on them. They worked so hard and were so conscientious to accomplish their project at its best possible: Staying up late (or getting up early), debating and sketching, scratching their heads, almost pulling out their hair ... And they made it, with very impressive results. Brilliant!

#### Q4: What did you like the least about TUTOREM?

**A4:** It was too short. If the budget would have allowed, it could have been extended to five days. On the other hand, everybody is so busy with different obligations; it may not be that easy to get away for an extended period of time.

#### Q5: Will there be another TUTOREM?

**A5:** In Nov 2012 I was not that sure as I did not know about the budget. So, at the time my answer was "It depends..." Now, I can definitely say "YES!" It will be in Bled again and in end-October/early Nov 2013. Keep an eye open! ■

### TUTOREM Mini-Project (with Maxi Effort)

Here are the snapshots of the 9 mini-projects accomplished. They are cool!



Team 1



Team 2



Team 3



Team 4



Team 5



Team 6



Team 7



Team 8



Team 9

### TwinTide Upcoming Events

#### 9th Management Committee and WG meeting

Date: 8-9 July 2013

Venue: Tallinn, Estonia

Local Organizer: David Lamas, Tallinn University

#### TwinTide Final Conference

Date: October 10-12, 2013

Venue: Bari, Italy

Local Organizer: M. Francesca Costabile, University of Bari

#### TwinTide Training School (TUTOREM 2013)

Date: 4-8 Nov 2013 (to be confirmed)

Venue: Bled, Slovenia

Local Organizer: Matic Pipan, Jožef Stefan Institute

### Contact us

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