

Minutes from the kick-off meeting of the project “Education & Technology” in Dresden

Date:

Friday January 12, 2007, 9h-13h.

Participants:

Prof. Thomas Koehler (Technical University Dresden)
Cecilie Hansen (University of Bergen)
Kathrin Helling (Institute for Future Studies, Innsbruck)
Maciej Piotrowski (University of Rzeszów)
Prof. Pascal Marquet (University Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg)
Dr. Jacques Audran (University of High-Alsace, Mulhouse)

Apologies for absence:

Dr. Sabina Misoch (Technical University Dresden)

Further participants:

Claudia Börner (Technical University Dresden)
Hartmut Simmert (Technical University Dresden)
Christiane Köhlmann (Technical University Dresden)

Schedule:

09.00 – 09.30: Introduction of the partners
09.30 – 10.30: Brief discussion of the project and its core elements
10.30 – 10.45: Coffee break
10.45 – 12.00: Discussion of e-modules and profile of each participating institution
12.00 – 12.30: Other issues (next meeting, reporting, etc.)
12.30 – 13.00: Legal procedures: consortial agreement, financial issues
13.00 Transfer to lunch
13.30 – 15.30: Lunch & discussion

1 Presentation of the participants

Thomas Koehler started the meeting by briefly summarizing the core elements of the project as described in the project application (ref. MOD_Education Technology_deutsch.pdf). The principal goal of the project is to give an experience to the Ph.D-candidates which they could not obtain at only one of the universities partners, and also to give an international dimension to their research and their doctoral work. Thomas Koehler specified that he is professor at the Technical University Dresden for Educational Technology as a member of the department of education and director of the Media Design Center (also partner of the project). He proposed to begin with an introduction, so that each one can present himself.

Pascal Marquet said that he is a professor of e-learning, with his work centering on the psychological aspects of on-line training. He is a member of the department of sciences of education at the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg. The department

itself belongs to a research laboratory which also includes approximately 40 teacher-researchers of the universities of Nancy and Mulhouse. The number of doctoral candidates of the laboratory is 20 (4 work on the topic education and technology). The departments of education of Mulhouse and Strasbourg thus belong to the same research laboratory (LISEC), but Pascal Marquet stressed that the two universities are two completely distinct institutions.

Jacques Audran is lecturer in sciences of education. He teaches technologies of education in Mulhouse. There are approximately 350 students in sciences of education in Mulhouse (CUFEF), including 50 in the MA course, but no doctoral candidates work at this moment on any topics of education and technology. This project interests him nevertheless because it focuses in principal interests related to the aspects of collaborative training on-line and on the forums and the constitution of communities of practices.

Maciej Piotrowski belongs to the University of Rzeszów located 50km east of Krakow. The university prepares with courses of economy and management of education, as well as with quality in education. Courses of E-business also exist as well as projects of e-learning on this topic, mainly in the form of blended learning. The University of Rzeszów has integrated systems (i.e. WBTC) which allow distance teaching. Ph.D. training is done always in cooperation with other universities (e.g. Krakow) as the University of Rzeszów has the status of a college without the right to give a Ph.D.

Cecilie Hansen specified that her situation is particular within her institution in Bergen at the Intermedia Research Lab, she deals mainly with research. Research and teaching are thus financially separate at the University of Bergen, which is a too complex structure to describe in detail. However the structure of the Intermedia Research Lab and the University of Bergen is principally comparable to the structure in Dresden with the Media Design Center and the Technical University Dresden. *Cecilie Hansen* is working under Prof. Konrad Morgan (head of the Lab) and she is a researcher in the field of e-learning and the competences of her institution are centred mainly on the linguistic applications of technology and the technology of the text.

Kathrin Helling belongs to Institute for Future Studies and is mainly in charge of the evaluation of the project. Her institution works on the topic of the use of technologies by older people and on the field life-long learning.

2. The project, phases

Thomas Koehler pointed out that the project officially started in October 2006 and that it will thus finish on 30 September 2008. Two great phases are to be envisaged:

- A first year will be devoted to the development of the 4 modules according to methods defined in the documents distributed by Sabina Misoch. The seminars and the forum Web will have to be operational before the end of this phase.
- The second year will end in the final conference which could be coupled with the classes of summer of 2008.

The IFS will have to propose the criteria of evaluation of the effectiveness of the device whilst resting on the advances already made in this field. Pascal Marquet

asked if the preliminary draft written in German (MOD_Education Technology_deutsch.pdf) could be translated into English so that each one can appreciate the nuances of them.

3. Development of the modules, operation

Thomas Koehler presented the principles of the course: four modules will be developed, for each institution according to table (p.28 of the project MOD_Education Technology_deutsch.pdf) except for Strasbourg and Mulhouse which will work together on module III. The participants declared themselves satisfied with this distribution which covers their respective competences well.

The students following one of the modules will obtain 20 ECTS. The presentation of work will count another 10 ECTS. Consequently, the PhD candidates will be able to follow only 2 or 3 modules, the quota is sufficient to obtain the maximum of ECTS. Pascal Marquet proposed to inform the partners about criteria of the Doctoral School of Humanities of Alsace in order to draw up a table of correspondence. Indeed, it seems that the system of attribution of credits is different to some extent, although it should always be possible to make it compatible.

It would be desirable that in a module two students belonging to two different universities are brought to work together. The participants express agreement to implement a teaching plan/scheme functioning on the principle of pedagogy by project and the production of contents.

The participants committed themselves to provide a list by e-mail of the items to be developed in the module for which they are responsible within 2 weeks (deadline 31st January 2007). A table with to collect this information will be distributed after the meeting by Sabina Misoch.

4. Administrative and financial aspects

Within the budget it seems that the first payment of the funds will be made soon. There was only a cut of appr. 5% of the budget by the EC in comparison to the application. The distribution of payments will be carried out according to the rule of 40%, 40% and 20%). A precise table with the new figures will be distributed after the meeting by Sabina Misoch.

Thomas Koehler distributed a prototype of the inter-University convention which will be sent by e-mail with the precise budget, and which will have to be signed by the presidents/chancellors/directors of each institution.

Pascal Marquet underlined the problem of the weak subsidy for the travelling expenses of the students to the summer classes. It was decided that the next meeting will be held in Rzeszów/Krakow before the summer (11th June 2007). The following meeting shall take place in France but the place and the date are still to be established.