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EdReNe

**Second expert workshop on Engagement of Users:
Program, list of participants and proceedings**

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eContentplus

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¹ OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.

Contents

CONTENTS	2
1 INTRODUCTION.....	3
2 WORKSHOP SUMMARY	4
3 AGENDA	5
SESSION SUMMARIES.....	7
3.1 PLENUM PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS.....	7
3.1.1 <i>EducaSources, Rosa Maria Gómez, CNDP</i>	7
3.1.2 <i>Scoilnet, Mike O’Byrne, NCTE</i>	7
3.1.3 <i>www.schule.at and www.eduhi.at, Astrid Leeb, education highway</i>	7
3.1.4 <i>Vetamix, Christian Komonen</i>	8
3.1.5 <i>Materialeplatformen and Fagenes Infoguide, Tommy Byskov Lund, UNI-C</i>	8
3.1.6 <i>Repository of the Portuguese Ministry of Education, José Moura Carvalho</i>	8
3.1.7 <i>Next big thing: support flexible curriculum building, Henk Nijstad, Kennisnet</i>	8
3.1.8 <i>Teachers developing digital content accross institutional boundaries: why and how, Henk Nijstad, Kennisnet</i>	9
3.1.9 <i>JClic, Building a repository on the success of an authoring tool, Francesc Busquets</i>	9
3.1.10 <i>Managing quality of user generated content, Leonie Verhoeff, Kennisnet</i>	9
3.1.11 <i>Administrative issues and evaluation</i>	9
3.2 GROUP SESSIONS	10
3.2.1 <i>Input for thematic synthesis report</i>	10
3.2.2 <i>Updated version of the State of the Art report on educational repositories</i>	10
3.2.3 <i>Current State of Health of European Educational Repositories - As Diagnosed by the EdReNe Thematic Network</i>	10
3.2.4 <i>Templates for agreements between repositories and content owners/providers</i>	11
4 PARTICIPANTS.....	12

Please note that the [web based version of this document](#) will be updated when relevant.

1 Introduction

This workshop took place at Hotel Husseren-les-Chateaux, Alsace, France, October 20th–22nd 2008. The agenda for all expert workshops is settled on the basis of input from network members. During the second strategic seminar in Lisbon participants were asked to prioritize issues for this workshop. This list of issues will also serve as guidelines for producing the upcoming thematic synthesis report on *Engagement of Producers and Users*. The issues with highest priority for the second workshop addressing this theme were:

- My repository - the need for personalization (profiles; reviews; collections; automatic recommendations...)
- Building your own content from repository resources (allowing teachers to combine content from various producers)
- Analyzing repository use (statistics; identifying popular functions; interpreting search strings and results; user surveys; characterization of user types)
- Implementation of user generated metadata (evaluations; reviews; tagging; collaborative filtering; information on actual usage...)
- Ensuring ease of use (identifying/developing design patterns; usability; wizards...)

2 Workshop summary

This second workshop on the *Engagement of Users* focused on presenting cases of how repositories currently approach the issues identified by network members as the most important to share experiences about (see agenda).

The five issues given the highest priorities during the second strategic seminar were thus taken as the basis for presenting different member repositories. These cases were subsequently part of the input for generating ideas and headings to structure the *Thematic Synthesis Report on the Engagement of Users*.

Plenum discussions followed presentations on: flexible curriculum sharing; teachers developing digital content across institutional boundaries; and managing quality control of user generated content.

Other group sessions focused on improvements and suggestions relating to the State of the Art report and the deliverable dealing with agreement templates relevant to repository owners.

Part of the workshop was devoted to addressing the current state of health of educational repositories – describing the most profound ailments (by examining specific repository examples) and suggesting cures.

3 Agenda

Monday October 20 th 2008		
15.30	Arrival and Welcome	Leo Højsholt-Poulsen, UNI•C
16.00	Reporting WS 3.2 on repository strategies, Tallinn, September 2009 Reporting WS 5.1 on engaging users, Aarhus, October 2008	Tommy Byskov Lund, UNI•C
17.00	<p><i>Plenum presentations: Examples of best practice</i></p> <p>A number of EdReNe members present how <i>their repository</i> addresses the top prioritised themes (see below).</p> <p>Top priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ My repository - the need for personalization - profiles; reviews; collections; automatic recommendations... ▪ Building your own content from repository resources - allowing teachers to combine content from different producers ▪ Analyzing repository use - statistics; identifying popular functions; interpreting search strings and results; user surveys; characterization of user types ▪ Implementation of user generated metadata - evaluations; reviews; tagging; collaborative filtering; information on actual usage... ▪ Ensuring ease of use - identifying/developing design patterns; usability; wizards... <p>See recommendations from the 2nd strategic seminar.</p> <p>Discussions in connection to presentations at WS 5.1 gave input for issues to be further explored in upcoming workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (Central) services for curriculum mapping / vocabulary management - a mapping of status and strategies ▪ Community building in connection with educational repositories as a strong incentive for educators to share materials (more examples needed) 	<p>EdReNe members</p> <p>Educasource, Rosa Maria Gómez de Regil</p> <p>Scoilnet, Mike O'Byrne</p> <p>Austrian repositories, Astrid Leeb/Reinhold Hawle</p> <p>Vetamix, Christian Komonen</p> <p>Materialeplattformen/ Fagenes Infoguide, Tommy Byskov Lund</p> <p>Other repositories, members...</p>
20.00	Dinner	

Tuesday, October 21 st 2008		
09.00	Project stuff - administration	Leo Højsholt-Poulsen, UNI•C
09.30	<p><i>Presentations of new member</i></p> <p>DGIDC – Ministry of education, Portugal</p>	José Moura Carvalho, DGIDC
10.00	<p><i>Group sessions</i></p> <p>The members discuss yesterday's presented examples of good practice and elaborate on recommendations and solutions to the issues raised.</p>	Tommy Byskov Lund, UNI•C
12.30	Lunch	
13.30	<p>Community power by building blended curriculums – a key to increased use of digital resources?</p> <p>Teachers developing digital content across institutional boundaries – why</p>	Henk Nijstad, Kennisset

	and how? JClic, Building a repository on the success of an authoring tool Managing quality of resources in repositories - User Created/Generated Content	Francesc Busquets, EAPC Leonie Verhoeff, Kennisset
15.00	<i>Plenum/Group session:</i> Updated version of the State of the Art report on educational repositories (deliverable of WS 3, due October 2008). Based on submitted amendments of national contribution members discuss the current version, suggesting improvements to the final version	Leo Højsholt-Poulsen, UNI•C
17.00	Social break	
20.00	Dinner	

Wednesday, October 22nd 2008		
9.00	<i>Current State of Health of European Educational Repositories - As Diagnosed by the EdReNe Thematic Network</i> .. is the title of a presentation at Online Educa 2008... Based on an abstract by Leo Højsholt-Poulsen and the members' state of the art contributions, members discuss and formulate indicators of state of health, diagnose samples and general trends, contamination and possible cures and medicine.	EdReNe members
11.00	<i>Plenum introduction and group sessions:</i> Templates for agreements between repositories and content owners/providers (deliverable of WS 5, due December 2008). The session will build upon the initial discussion at WS 3.2 and the samples of agreements submitted by the members	Tommy Byskov Lund and Leo Højsholt-Poulsen, UNI•C
12.00	Looking and planning ahead Workshop evaluation	Tommy Byskov Lund, UNI•C
12.30	Lunch	
14.00	Workshop finishes	

Session summaries

The workshop dealt with the prioritised themes in plenum presentations with subsequent discussions as well as in group sessions/discussions.

3.1 Plenum presentations and discussions

Repository case presentations

The first part of the workshop was a presentation from five members on how their repositories currently deal with the issues prioritised for this workshop.

3.1.1 EducaSources, Rosa Maria Gómez, CNDP

The presentation showed that the current implementation does not include many personalization possibilities, but this is a major part of a planned upgrade. As EducaSources is a referatory the combination of content depends on the possibilities offered by the referenced websites. An important part of the added value of EducaSources is the current high quality of metadata, and even though plans are to allow users to have more “web 2.0 like” interaction with records in the next release, there is no intention of including user tagging as the basis for e.g. navigation.

[Download presentation](#)

3.1.2 Scoilnet, Mike O’Byrne, NCTE

The presentation included concrete examples on current activities from Scoilnet that link to the prioritised issues. On the personalization issues, users can have a favourite collection, add items to a personal clipboard and set preferences corresponding to their subject areas. A new service – Scoilnet Maps – allows addition of user specific content. For building your own content Scoilnet offers different possibilities primarily consisting of an authoring tool (new service) and CC licensed assets.

The presentation also included examples on how statistics can be useful for knowing what content is requested and when to publish it, and also presented data from an Inspectorate report including evaluation of the use of Scoilnet.

[Download presentation](#)

3.1.3 www.schule.at and www.eduhi.at, Astrid Leeb, education highway

A presentation of the by far largest and most successful repository in Austria (part of portal). There are plans of implementing personalization in the form of profiles and personal collections. The statistics show what the most popular types of content are – and give a focus on the content to search for /have developed.

The most important keys to the success were presented as: Old but good - a portal that stays; from teachers for teachers; always try to adapt to *different* needs from subjects

[Download presentation](#)

3.1.4 Vetamix, Christian Komonen

In Vetamix the focus to a large extent is on actually producing content. The presentation included a demonstration of the simple authoring tool (“lesson mixer”) allowing users to build and share personal collections, and showed other examples of user involvement such as possibilities for tagging, adding favourites to user profiles and discussion forums connected to repository resources.

The experiences gathered and statistics are still relatively limited as Vetamix was launched August 2008.

[Download presentation](#)

3.1.5 Materialeplatformen and Fagenes Infoguide, Tommy Byskov Lund, UNI-C

This was a parallel presentation on how the issues were tackled in two different repositories launched almost ten years apart in time. A major difference is on the personalization side where the newest initiative (Materialeplatformen) allows for user to contribute and edit own materials and also offer services for exposing repository content via RSS or easily customized integration of search results in other web sites through JavaScript.

Content deposited by teachers is shared under CC licenses in an attempt to increase the possibilities for reuse – but it is still early in the process and different CC licenses are allowed. There is no present use of tagging or integrated community features.

The statistics presented showed examples of how knowledge of user behaviour can lead to “quick wins” when developing new functionality.

[Download presentation](#)

Presentation of new member

3.1.6 Repository of the Portuguese Ministry of Education, José Moura Carvalho

The development of a content repository was presented as an important aspect of the ambitious *Technological Plan for Education*. The actual implementation will begin November 2008. The repository will hold metadata about both commercial and non-commercial content and include the possibility of depositing non-commercial content. As quality content is a priority a model for review of both commercial and user generated content has been generated. One aspect of this is allowing users to tag and review user contributed content.

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Plenum presentation on Engagement of Users

3.1.7 Next big thing: support flexible curriculum building, Henk Nijstad, Kennisnet

As input for the discussion on why the use of digital resources is so relatively limited, Henk Nijstad presented the idea of sharing not only digital content but also focus more on sharing the experiences of actually using it. The suggestion is that the most important blocking issue for increased use of digital learning materials is the fact that it is much easier to use traditional text books as compared to “visualising” how the same coverage of all curriculum aspects could be done by including digital materials. But as some teachers actually build up “flexible

curriculums” combining different resources in interesting ways how can we help share these good examples in ways that will allow others to easily get started doing this on their own?

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3.1.8 Teachers developing digital content across institutional boundaries: why and how, Henk Nijstad, Kennisnet

In the Netherlands the national association of secondary schools have initiated a project on developing their own digital content. They have set aside around 10% of the budget normally used for buying text books to producing content. The main motivation for this is the cost, quality and lack of flexibility of existing publisher produced materials. Around 100 schools participate in the project. All content will be produced using an online SCORM authoring tool and stored in a repository for tagging and remixing by other users.

[Download presentation](#)

3.1.9 JClic, Building a repository on the success of an authoring tool, Francesc Busquets

The free software JClic allows for easy production of interactive platform-independent learning resources. As the community around the tool started to produce content the need for sharing and adapting was met by initiating a repository. This repository ClicZone today hosts more than 1.000 projects and 120.000 activities in a number of different languages, all shared under a Creative Commons BY-NC-SA license.

The presentation also included a new project – Virtual Notebooks – which allows teachers to create online “notebooks”. The intention is to help teachers from any area and level to create – and share - didactic multimedia resources which will allow them to evaluate their students’ progress. Both of these authoring tools were shown to integrate with Moodle.

[Download presentation](#)

3.1.10 Managing quality of user generated content, Leonie Verhoeff, Kennisnet

Focusing on user generated content leaves you with the problem of either a heavy burden on central quality control or the risk of disappointing users when they find low quality content. Based on a concrete example from a repository which suffered from quite a lot of published materials produced just for the purpose of testing the system, Leonie Verhoeff initiated a discussion on how to best attack this problem.

No absolute consensus was reached but ideas (and examples) on automated checks and allowing for easy removal/alerting by end users were discussed.

EdReNe project sessions

3.1.11 Administrative issues and evaluation

The coordinator gave the traditional update on project administrative issues (finances, web site updates, and progress). He scheduled the work of the next year and initiated the organisation of the forthcoming three events in the first half year of 2009.

He also noticed that EdReNe must prepare an accumulated financial statement covering years 1+2, May 2007 - April 2009. In order to prepare this, by the end of the 2008 fiscal year UNI-C will produce a financial overview corresponding to UNI-C's accounting system. It is important that members fill the financial forms provided by the Commission, when they request reimbursement of costs.

A brief informal evaluation session concluded the workshop – and pointed out tasks and expected contributions from members in the near future.

3.2 Group sessions

3.2.1 Input for thematic synthesis report

The first group session focused on the preparation of the thematic synthesis report on *Engaging users*. Participants selected which of the prioritised themes they would prefer to elaborate on, and were placed in groups according to this. Groups were then asked to further describe the issues they would want information on when initiating or further developing a repository in order to make the report as valuable as possible. This was done by expanding the existing brief description and qualifying the type of data needed/preferred (for example quantitative data; case descriptions; screen shots; list of current implementations etc.). Groups were also asked to suggest which good practice already had been presented / existed within the network as suggestions for case descriptions. Each group uploaded their notes and suggestions to the Members Zone to have them available for contacting individual members and producing a draft of the thematic synthesis report prior to the next workshop in this series.

3.2.2 Updated version of the State of the Art report on educational repositories

A group session was set aside for reading and commenting on the updated country sections of the State of the Art report on educational repositories. The goal of this session was twofold: to make sure all present members had the opportunity to comment on other country contributions, and to suggest improvements for which general trends we should focus on and whether additional questions should be included in the repository profile survey that was circulated prior to the workshop. The intention is to keep this survey updated and expand it with profiles of repositories outside the network as well when feasible.

A concrete suggestion from the subsequent discussion was to have “My ideal repository” as a theme for the concluding workshop in this series.

3.2.3 Current State of Health of European Educational Repositories - As Diagnosed by the EdReNe Thematic Network

Participants were grouped and asked to identify indicators of the health state of repositories, examine patients in the form of a repository represented by a group member, and suggest cures for any ailments identified.

The discussions were subsequently presented by the groups and taken as input for a presentation to be done at Online Educa 2008 (by Leo Højsholt-Poulsen, UNI-C) under the same heading as the group session.

[Download resulting summary presentation](#)

3.2.4 Templates for agreements between repositories and content owners/providers

The final group session was intended to further build upon the discussion initiated at WS 3.2 on the form of the deliverable concerning agreement templates for use by repository owners (D5.5). Due to time constraints (previous group presentations exceeded the time slot originally expected) this session primarily consisted of a confirmation of the suggested form and content, as the agreement examples provided by members prior to this workshop did not mandate any changes:

- Produce materials that the network *need* (refer to priorities from surveys)
- Produce information that does not exist already (refer to it, including collected examples)
- Make a general section with summaries, advice and useful extracts and samples, and collect concrete examples to be in an annex

4 Participants

16 of 23 founding members were represented. In addition four associated members participated – giving a total of 28 participants.

Name	Organisation	Country
Christian Komonen	Vetamix	Finland
Henk Nijstad	Kennisnet	Netherlands
Peter Vinnervik	IML	Sweden
Svetlana Kubilinskiene	ITC	Lithuania
Stian Berger	utdanning.no	Norway
Leo Højsholt-Poulsen	UNI-C	Denmark
Tommy Byskov Lund	UNI-C	Denmark
Mike O'Byrne	NCTE	Ireland
Reinhold Hawle	BMUKK	Austria
Alma Taawo	MSU	Sweden
Martin Sillaots	TLF	Estonia
Kristel Mäekask	TLF	Estonia
Alison Hudson	IML	Sweden
Adam Bates	Encyclopaedia Britannica Education	UK
Christine Jack	Becta/NEN	UK
Orland Cardona Perez	EAPC	Spain
Paul Sire	sDae	Spain
Francesc Busquets		Spain
Leonie Verhoeff	Kennisnet	Netherlands
José Moura Carvalho	DGIDC	Portugal
Astrid Leeb	Education Highway	Austria
Rosa Maria Gómez de Regil	CNDP	France
Maria Loi	AIE	Italy
Giulia Marangoni	AIE	Italy
Eva Suba	Eden	European network
Jens Viggo Moesmand	BFU	Denmark
Iztok Kavkler	UNI-LJ-FMF	Slovenia
Matija Lokar	UNI-LJ-FMF	Slovenia