



Leading and Managing Change in Higher Education (La MANCHE)

6th ONLINE STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

MINUTES

Date: 8th October 2015

Time: 12 pm CET

Venue: online session at oovoo.com

Attendees: Christina Armutlieva, VUM Bulgaria

Vadim Sirkeli, CSU, Moldova

Tetyana Shtanko, LAC, Ukraine

Ekaterine Basilaia, TSU, Georgia

Pantelis Skayannis, UTH, Greece

Filipp Kokosha, GSTU, Belarus

1. Recent project developments and events: final partner meeting, La MANCHE VTT and La MANCHE Strategy publication

Christina Armutlieva welcomed the participants at the final SC online meeting. In the beginning she shortly summarized the recent project events and developments which will lead to the end of the project on 14th October 2015. The La MANCHE Strategy draft was presented at the final partner meeting in Gori and during the Final Dissemination Event which took place on 16th September 2015. The Strategy summarizes the project experience and knowledge generated over the last 36 months. It reflects the results achieved by the consortium and the lessons learnt acquired in the process of joint collaboration and engagement with external stakeholders. The La MANCHE Strategy placed on the project website shall be circulated to as many internal and external stakeholders as possible. In addition, project partners will receive via post hard copies too.

During the final partner meeting the partners discussed also the progress in WP6 and WP7 and in particular, the ongoing online discussions via La MANCHE VTT. Vadim Sirkeli, WP7 leader reported that up to 8th October 2015 more than 900 comments and contributions were made to the online consultations. In total 27 online topics for discussion were published on the VTT platform. Up to 8th October almost all partners have already submitted summaries of the discussions facilitated by them. Vadim mentioned that so far only the

discussion initiated by Gori Teaching University has not been finalized yet. The numerous comments were made mostly in English and by members of the academic communities in La MANCHE as well as by members of the transnational themed working groups established in La MANCHE. In early October 2015, the La MANCHE VTT had more than 950 registered users and many of them being external stakeholders in La MANCHE.

To streamline and summarize the information on the stakeholders involved in La MANCHE, each Partner Country institution was asked to prepare a contact data with their stakeholders in La MANCHE. According to the application form each stakeholder group consists of min. 150 members who are both experts from the La MANCHE institutions and representatives of a specific stakeholder group in higher education. Based on the information provided by the project partners until 8th October 2015, it could be concluded that the number of stakeholders involved in the course of La MANCHE in most of the groups exceeds 150.

Christina took the opportunity to once again thank Vadim for his work as WP7 leader. Given the extra challenge of involving a large number of external stakeholders in WP7, the coordination of WP7 required a lot of more work, streamlined coordination and commitment than any other development or exploitation WP in the project.

2. Final dissemination activities

After the Final Dissemination Event in mid-September 2015, the project consortium published the 5th and final Information Bulletin which contains information on project developments and events which took place between January and September 2015. The bulletin shall be circulated online to as many internal and external stakeholders as possible. It also includes information on the project sustainability plan and activities. The consortium has also published on the website a leaflet summarizing the project results and outcomes. Hard copies of the leaflet will be shortly posted to all partners so they promote the project results and the Tempus IV programme beyond the project life.

3. Final project report

The submission of the final project report is due no later than two months after the end of the project. Christina briefed the partners on the preparation work and submission process. The project is also a subject to compulsory external financial audit. So far most of the project financial documentation supporting costs incurred in the headings of travel and subsistence, equipment, printing and publishing and other costs is already in place at VUM. In terms of staff costs documentation, the majority of the partners has already submitted project supporting documentation concerning most of the actual staff costs payments incurred. The project coordinating institution expects the partners to submit all missing project evidence no later than 30th October 2015.

Vadim asked how the partners could help in the elaboration of the project final report. Christina assured the partners that she will not hesitate to contact them in case any additional information or data is necessary for the purposes of the project report. The project website already includes a large amount of information and files and will serve as a key source for information when preparing the technical report. Project partners are expected to continue using the website beyond the project end as part of the project sustainability plan.

In the end of the online meeting participants were invited to share their questions and remarks concerning the discussed topics. Christina thanked everyone for the devoted work and continuous support in the process of project management and administration.