MINUTES
and
MAIN RESULTS
of the
WP5 WORK MEETING
held on 25 February 2011 in Dublin, Ireland

Sixteen persons (one participating on-line), representatives of 12 partner institutions, took part in the WP5 work meeting.

Dublin City University	Markus Helfert
Dublin City University	Ray Walshe
Dublin City University	Howard Duncan
University of Ruse	Stoyanka Smrikarova
University of Ruse	Tzvetomir Vassilev
University of Ruse	Vladimir Dochev
University of La Laguna	Candelaria Hernández Goya
University of Ioannina	Nikolopoulos Stavros
University of Veliko Turnovo	Georgi Todorov
Comhard, Berlin	Robert Fischer
Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, BG	Stefan Dodunekov
GFaI Berlin	Alfred Iwainsky
Tallinn University of Technology	Alexander Sudnitson
Vilnus Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, LT	Audrone Jakaitiene
Liverpool John Moores University	Karl Johns

The work meeting was conducted with the following agenda:

1. Welcome address of the host organisation
   Professor Mike Scott   - Head of School of Computing, Dublin City University
   Dr. Markus Helfert – Head of Business Informatics Group – School of Computing.

2. Main tasks, workplan and list of deliverables in WP5 – Mrs. Stoyanka Smrikarova.

3. Presentations of WP5 deliverables:

   - **Review of TN ECET and ETN DEC.**
     Ray Walshe, Howard Duncan, Markus Helfert. Discussion.

   - **Framework for Development and Implementation of Research-oriented Training Elements.**
     Ray Walshe, Howard Duncan, Markus Helfert. Discussion.

   - **INFO-SYS Online Databases of Research Projects.**
     Ray Walshe, Howard Duncan, Markus Helfert. Discussion.

   - **Structure for an Integrated Programme developed.**
     Ray Walshe, Howard Duncan, Markus Helfert. Discussion.

   - **International conference in the field of Computing - CompSysTech'11.**
     Assoc Prof. Tzvetomir Vassilev. Discussion.

   - **Open Discussion**
     Markus Helfert. Discussion

   4. Any other business.

The meeting was opened by Professor Mike Scott, who welcomed the delegates to Dublin and DCU. The chair was then taken by Dr. Markus Helfert, leader of WP5. Dr. Markus Helfert welcomed the delegates and gave a brief overview of the Business Informatics Research Group at Dublin City University (http://www.computing.dcu.ie/big/)

Unfortunately the delegation from Ruse was delayed, due to a missed airline connection, so the exposition of the main tasks, workplan and deliverables of WP5 by Mrs. Stoyanka Smrikarova was passed over. The points were picked up the in the following presentations on progress.

Mr. Ray Walshe presented a review of the work done on the work package:

1. ***Review of ECET and DEC*** – This activity was completed and the results circulated on 28.4.09.

2. ***Develop a Common Framework*** – The Framework for proposing and agreeing projects was developed with the help of the WP5 partners and presented at the project meeting in Sofia on 17.6.10.

3. ***Develop INFO-SYS*** – The information system, based on a database of projects has been developed, and is being reviewed by the partners. A guide to registration has been circulated. 34 partner institutions are registered so far, with 52 registered users. 18 test projects have been proposed and approved. In the course of discussion the following points emerged:
   a. Some aspects of the system are similar to the system developed and experience from FHTW under WP7. Professor Bodrow estimates the overlap to be 80 – 85% and outlined the system/experience at FHTW.
   b. We also discussed aspects of the target audience of the system (student, consortium, everyone in the EU).
   c. For purposes of testing the system, the role of reviewer is undertaken by DCU. In the live system the reviewer for an institutions' projects will be determined by that institution.
   d. Issues of data protection may arise, if users are expected to submit aspects of their CVs to the system. However, since the system will be used by a closed consortium of users, this may not be a problem.
   e. There is no project management function in the system. The life cycle of a project ends when the project is allocated to a student, so the final outcome of the projects not recorded.
   f. The issue of integrating the databases for WP4, WP5 and WP7 was raised and some options mentioned. The issue was then deferred for further discussion

and maybe an aspect for a subsequent project. The feeling was that this would be beneficial but is not an activity to be undertaken within TRICE, as it is not part of the agreed project proposal. Robert Fischer mentioned aspects on how to integrate three aspects of project proposal, monitoring and execution. Based from the system at FHTW, it was suggested that different institutions should collaborate and integration of the systems is important (e.g. different exchange protocol between the different databases).

g. While we can populate the database with proposed projects, the take-up of these projects is outside the control of the consortium.

Ray Walsh pointed out that although 31 projects have been created in the database by the partners (not all of which have been approved), only 5 student profiles have been created. To test the system adequately we need more student profiles.

4. **Framework for Integrated Programme** – Ray Walsh presented a model developed within WP5 which would provide a basis for considering integrated programmes that could be shared across institutions. The intention was to suggest a possible framework which would allow the integration of the research projects which are developed in INFO-SYS and the academic programme structures that exist in the institutions

Existing taught components remain the same but project work is linked through INFO-SYS
Partners interested in utilising such a framework will enter a three stage process
Stage 1:   Identify Learning Outcomes and Objectives
Stage 2:   Identify Research Project Content
Stage 3:   Agree Timelines

The process could be integrated into a course development software such as Course Builder. However aspects on how the process can be integrated / adopted into Course Builder would need to be further evaluated, but are out of scope of this project. It was also emphasised that the developed framework is different than traditional approaches for joint programmes. The framework offers a process rather than a structure for a joint programme. In regard to the INFO-SYS, it was recognized that different levels of details would be required along the process; however, this is not within the scope of this project. (suggestion for further research work within a subsequent project)

Markus Helfert described the experience at DCU with the European MSc in Business Informatics (EMBIN; http://www.computing.dcu.ie/europeanmbi) and a curriculum development project BIN:Net. Within the EMBIN programme valuable and positive experiences have been made in exchanging students for research projects. In regard to BIN:Net experiences and challenges in developing a joint programme were outlined.

The discussion on the framework continued by describing how the framework can be used for collaborating between different institutions. The framework and its benefits were agreed. The framework would facilitate:
- Inter-Institutional Agreements for Integrated Programme
- Alignment of undergraduate and postgraduate structures
- Alignment of academic credits
- Mobility and Timing
- Flexible project levels and duration.

The framework will be circulated to WP5 partners, and feedback is requested by 25th March 2011. An updated framework will be published by 23rd April 2011.

In discussion on the Framework, it was suggested that in addition to the two components of Taught Material and Research, there should be a Mobility component.

A further point of clarification was that the framework is an academic framework, not an administrative one. Agreement on collaboration within the framework will still require the administrative aspects to be worked out. The administrative aspects are outside the remit of WP5.

International conference in the field of Computing - CompSysTech'11.
The Call for papers and detailines for ComsysTech'11 were mentioned.

Open Discussion

Markus Helfert presented the curriculum for the European MSc in Business Informatics and described how project/student exchanges are possible within this programme. Also, an International Student Competition: International Business Informatics Challenges was mentioned, as an option to show student project results. http://www.businessinformatics-challenge.org/

It was also mentioned that virtual participation to the meeting from Prof. Bodrow (FHTW) worked very well. The chair thanked all delegates for their participation and contributions and the meeting concluded at 15:45.