



AQUA-TNET - Krakow (Poland) 19th September 2008

Minutes of WP6 core group meeting

Attendance: Margaret Eleftheriou
Anastasius Eleftheriou
Elisabeth Grahl-Madsen
Prof. S.Papoutsoglou

Time being very short at this one-day final event, the WP6 meeting limited itself to confirm the core group acceptance of the description of the amended deliverables (past achievements), and of the group's aims for the future as set out in its previous submission to the Steering Group, drafted after the core group meeting in Dublin (December 08). The group also approved the WP6 presentation with its overview of the major contribution made by the PESCALEX modules, in particular the PESCALEX language game.

- **Overview of WP6 and where we currently stand on our amended objectives**

The creation of the new Directorate for Multilingualism (February 2007) has meant that the language provision review (D 6.1.3) which had been completed, will have to be modified to include new data and new language provision across Europe. The survey on the knowledge and use of EUROPASS (D 6.1.2) has been completed. The report on the use of the CEF (D.6.9) has still not been completed.

- **A review of the progress of the PESCALEX language learning modules.**

All the deliverables deriving from this project have been completed (D.6.4.1, D.6.4.2, D.6.4.3, D.6.5) and are online (D.6.7, D.6.11, D. 6.14, D, 6.15). In addition to the complete beginner language learning modules, the PESCALEX project also created and trialed a language learning game (Bourcefranc le Chapus, Sept.07) in which AQUATNET WP6 core group members participated (D.14). This will be further developed in AQUATNET 2.

- Crete decision (June 07) to restructure the EUROPASS report in the light of the results of the questionnaire.

A new questionnaire for students was designed, looking to a more detailed enquiry into student perception of their needs, as well as a detailed examination of the PESCALEX language learning modules. The results of the combined surveys proved very interesting, as students did not always share the academic views on language provision.

A poster presentation of the results of the AQUATNET/PESCALEX Language provision survey was made at the EAS international conference in Istanbul Turkey (October 07) along with a presentation at the EAS Student Group Workshop at that event.



- **Future aims of WP6 core group**

The core group continued to press for the continuation of the suggestions previously made. These should be followed up, as far as possible, in the new horizontal WP in AQUATNET 2. These are as follows:

- a stronger focus on lifelong learning
- involvement of graduate alumni (two-way learning process often used in Norway)
- need to upgrade courses and materials (online courses to be designed with the practicalities of online upgrading embedded in the construction)
- new tools should be incorporated into courses that are already available (i.e, video streaming using webcams, etc)._
- PESCALEX language game could be developed as follows:
 - i) as part of the induction process for students about to go on work placements or exchanges – to organize pre-mobility workshops in which learning at least some of the required language could take place, along with a group meeting with other students involved in the exchange(s). For this the game would have to be further developed in accordance with a future AQUATNET WP on mobility/exchanges
 - ii) there is very little involvement of companies with the language side of work placements and this should be addressed in a future proposal. We need to find out what are industry's language requirements, and see how they can be brought into the picture. We also need to look at how these specific requirements fit in with normal language courses. The PESCALEX language modules could be very useful at specific points, for specific needs, i.e., the complete beginners' units right at the start, followed by conventional language classes for one month, followed by the rest of the PESCALEX units used on open/distance/flexible learning mode.
 - iii) The language modules could also be used to retrain older workers, which would chime with the lifelong learning programme. Many workers wish to travel for work purposes, but one major obstacle is their lack of language knowledge.
 - iv) The PESCALEX language and fish health modules should be as functional as possible (including the possibility of updating and upgrading materials, as well as including a more sophisticated audio component) as part of a future proposal.
 - v) Other possible subject areas for the PESCALEX treatment could be: recirculation techniques; quality control; automation technology.