Reporting meeting

Reykjavik, June 12 – June 16, 2013

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Arrival all teams.

Present: Andreas Ulovec (University of Vienna, taking the minutes), Soňa Čeretková (University of Nitra), Jenny Sendova (Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia), Vladimir Georgiev (University of Pisa), Henning Westphael (VIA College, Arhus), Freyja Hreinsdóttir (University of Iceland)

Thursday, June 13, 2013, 09:20 – 10:45

Freyja: Welcome to everybody. [Creating internet access].

Vladimir: We shall start, for the moment without Jenny. Essential thing of this meeting is **reporting about the courses, the feedback, and possible improvements**. As well we **have to finish the course descriptions**.

Andreas: [Presentation of AT course feedback. See separate file]

Freyja: How about the materials? **Is this for secondary schools?**

Andreas: **Yes, but secondary starts with age 10.**

Henning: I have a guess about the Dynamic Simulations with Excel: Maybe the statistical way of tackling this is new to the kids, they are used to have the mathematical, i.e. formal model for probability. But for them we start out with the experimental way, and then to make it fit the "right" way, i.e. combinatorics.

Vladimir: Concerning this evaluation of this "external" materials. In general, the materials have been evaluated high. Also, when you prepare the project, you know how to implement etc., but the end user (teacher/student) gets the materials and might have different ideas.

Henning: About the outdoor issue, that might be a cultural thing.

Sona: Agree, also when we go out with kids in mathematics, everybody asks "but what kind of mathematics can you do outdoors?"

Freyja: If the materials are difficult, they ask "what is it good for"; if it is easy, they just go with it.

Vladimir: Very important; we shall try somewhat in this directions, but not too much.

Vladimir: How about **the videos, can they be accessed?**

Andreas: Yes, but **only in Moodle, it is only internal for University of Vienna**.

Vladimir: From everything you presented, you plan to give some small part tomorrow afternoon?

Andreas: I will probably use the GeoCaching materials.

Vladimir: I liked that you chose a **good mix of materials**, **taking into account local school situation**.

Thursday, June 13, 2013, 11:00 – 12:00

Henning: [Presentation of DK course feedback. See separate file]

Henning: One discussion point would be **about E-Learning course. What makes it E-Learning?** Is it **enough to put the materials on Moodle?**

Andreas: I just can say that we **used it to put the materials, collect the feedback, have the video analysis, and for students to hand in the materials.**

Freyja: Sometimes my students have to hand in videos of them explaining stuff in GeoGebra.

Vladimir: We were very general in the application, so **we should stay general**.

Freyja: Other question: How much ECTS is this?

Henning: This was 5 ECTS, about 30 units.

Freyja: Because it is a lot of stuff. How much do they know?

Henning: They know some, but not all too much.

Freyja: Because, some teachers are vary about CAS, about it doing everything by itself.

Vladimir: One question: You think a lot in terms of ECTS. This does mainly concern the students' work effort, not so much the actual presence teaching units?

Henning: Yes, this includes students work inside and outside of class, so not only teaching units.

Freyja: **As to the discussion forum, fairly often it does not work out well. It usually dies out very soon**.

Henning: Yes, this is a phenomenon known in a lot of subjects.

Andreas: **We are not used to have content discussions in writing**.

Thursday, June 13, 2013, 13:00 – 14:55

Freyja: We only **have the course I intend to use the materials every other year**. So **nothing to report by now**.

Vladimir: Please **put the course reports, as per Word file, into the Dropbox**.

Vladimir: [Presentation of IT course feedback. See separate file]

Vladimir: The **first course that I present is both for pre- and in-service teachers at the same time**.

Andreas: **How do you manage this?**

Vladimir: First we tried to avoid this, but we had to find solution. The idea then was **to use problems from real life, that is useful for both**. A problem was the math standards, particularly when we spoke about the more complicated problem. So this part could not be solved.

Sona: What was the "toxic games?"

Vladimir: That was the chemistry thing.

Sona: This was the material that was not accepted for the E-book.

Vladimir: Yes, but this was for course material. It was still a good basis for a course.

Sona: It was created by my PhD student, so I can encourage him to continue working on that.

Andreas: Critical remarks do come forward even before the exam. We **try to teach our students fairly early to give open and frank comments about other peoples' work, including us as their teachers**, also as **giving role model that just because the teacher says one thing does not mean that others' opinions have no value**.

Vladimir: In Italy it is often difficult.

Henning: I like the idea to make the students coming up with their own evaluation form.

Vladimir: Quantitatively it is difficult, yet it is still valuable.

Sona: Future teachers should have this skill.

Freyja: I think they feel they don't know enough.

Sona: I had a group assessing their peers, it was hard to give objective feedback, but based on personality.

Andreas: I usually start with telling them "not all the materials that I have chosen for this course are good, but I won't tell you which ones", just to increase their willingness to criticize.

Freyja: Good idea, but this might lead to students' guessing.

Andreas: Agreed, but mostly it works ok.

Sona: I **had a** sort of **three-stage-going-around peer evaluation**, which worked out very well.

Sona: [Presentation of SK course feedback. See separate file]

Sona: I also want **to show you the E-Learning course** [demonstrating E-Learning course on UKF homepage]

Henning: About the Slovak language, Newtons' "principia" uses moving a point, so if it is available in Slovak that might be helpful to look it up.

Sona: Also it is issue that there is no Slovak word for "trace", I have to use one whole sentence to describe one English word. So it would be useful to make this sort of "dictionary" for math terms SK ←→ EN.

Freyja: Also in Icelandic has this issue, I discovered this while translating GeoGebra IS version.

Thursday, June 13, 2013, 15:25 – 16:55

Vladimir: Let's go to the **financial issues**. [Presenting the financial distribution of budget]. **As to travel costs, receipts for E-Tickets and boarding passes are necessary. If you do accommodation and food costs per real costs, you also have to hand in receipts for those**. **If you choose** (or have) to do it with **per diem funding, you do not need to keep receipts for food, but still keep receipts for hotels**. As to **subcontracts, this is** (with the exception of AT team, which also has evaluation contract) **for translations**.

Henning: What **if I did it myself?**

Vladimir: Then it is **not possible to claim these costs.**

Freyja: **What documents do I need? Do I have to upload the contract?**

Vladimir: **Yes**.

Freyja: But the contract does not state where the money comes from.

Vladimir: Together with this contract your university should make additional statement "this and that part of money comes from DynaMAT funds, and has been used for translations".

Freyja: **When does this have to be ready?**

Vladimir: Formally this has to be **finished by the end of the contract, i.e. October 31**.

Freyja: **Can we pay conference fees from "other costs"?**

Andreas: Is she a member of your institution?

Freyja: For this matter, yes.

Vladimir: **Then it is no problem**.

Henning: Can I buy a GPS unit from other costs?

Vladimir: That would go to equipment costs.

Andreas: Is this used within the project lifetime?

Henning: Yes it is, because the course I intend to use it is in August and September.

Vladimir: Continuing with the balance, **I will show – particularly for Henning – how to fill the database**. [demonstrating database use via projectsman homepage].

Sona: When I use the university car to get me to the airport, is this travel costs? And what documentation is necessary?

Vladimir: **Yes**, and upload the receipt or certificate of your universities. Maybe add a sentence to the report to explain the situation.

Sona: And I will ask the economist to write the details.

Sona: I used the project money for a 1-day trip to Bratislava and can spend 4 Euro for food, but have no receipts.

Andreas: This is like per diem.

Sona: So I can put it to "lunch"?

Vladimir: Yes, because it goes to "subsistence costs" at the end, and the final report does not distinguish between "hotel" and "lunch".

Vladimir: And this concludes the discussions for today. We shall meet tomorrow at 09:30 at the same place.

Friday, June 14, 2013, 09:30 – 10:55

Jenny: As to **course feedback, nothing new to report from what Nelly reported last time**, **except one course with professionals from other jobs retraining to become math and ICT teachers**.

Vladimir: Maybe we can put an **excerpt of feedback to the homepage**. Also I **have written a summary/introduction for the E-book which is on the Dropbox**.

Henning: It sounds like a good idea, but we should be clear with the message that we send. There are some smaller things that we might want to correct. But also there were several issues that were broader (like how to deal with taking kids outdoors), and they might be raised on the homepage.

Vladimir: I think the same, so it is important to choose wisely the feedback that we put there. E.g. it was very interesting that when teachers take the units as they are some had problems, e.g. lack of introductory material.

Henning: I wonder how specific we should be. We could be very specific and give the feedback summary to each course. But then this would also be talking about how people buy into this kind of thinking.

Jenny: Luckily most people start having this kind of thinking.

Vladimir: Good exchange of opinions, it seems to be the same direction as I would like to go. That would allow us to put the presented feedback from yesterday on the homepage, but still with reasonable selection, i.e. select the useful feedback. And put this into the Dropbox, course description, feedback folder.

Vladimir: Can we put the feedback next to flags of the materials?

Andreas: We have to be careful, if it is feedback for course or materials.

Henning: It should be feedback useful for the user, i.e. practical tips or tips of how to improve the materials.

Vladimir: Shall we put the **E-course descriptions on the homepage?**

Sona: No problem, we might also want to put on screenshots from E-course main page.

Sona: Also, **where to put the feedback?** And what kind of feedback?

Vladimir: **Put it into Outcomes, and only a summary of feedback**. Finish it soon and **put it on Dropbox**. Is this all for the homepage?

Andreas: As to the materials list, we need to correct the titles, currently they are the names of the files.

Sona: Please send me email with the new titles.

Freyja: Until when shall we do the very last modifications?

Vladimir: Last deadline already was in the past.

Friday, June 14, 2013, 11:10 – 12:10

Vladimir: **Is it possible to put the software onto the webpage?**

Freyja: Yes, but we **shall put it together in one zip file per material**.

Vladimir: We might need some time to talk about dissemination, so maybe we shall add a timeslot after the mini workshop. Let's continue with dissemination reports.

Freyja: Henning and I have a **dissemination activity at the Nordic GeoGebra conference, September 20-22, 2013**.

Vladimir: What shall be presented from DynaMAT?

Freyja: We shall have a talk and a workshop, using the Euclidean Eggs and the BG Loci materials.

Henning: I shall do the Dynamical Simulations using Excel, presenting the idea of screencasts in the E-learning course.

Vladimir: And what would be the interaction?

Henning: From my point of view, the idea of the screencasts is coming from DynaMAT towards GeoGebra.

Freyja: At this conference, first it was teachers to teachers. Now it is more people who are already doing courses in GeoGebra, and some other people. So the idea is to show them a wider variety of materials.

Vladimir: About **reporting of dissemination activities, this should be more structured**, so as to **not having to get this out of the minutes**. It would be **good to have link to homepage of conference, and poster/article, photos etc.** We should have a folder in the Dropbox to have the stuff in there.

Andreas: Shall we have a form like for the course description, or what?

Vladimir: Or **everybody should put a dissemination report into the Dropbox**.

Sona: **It is already there, in "management" folder, since April 2012**.

Vladimir: Great, so everybody fill this.

Sona: Please use one file per activity, and then upload it into the Drobpox folder "dissemination". I shall write annual summary and we shall put it on the webpage. Use the format yyyymmdd_Name, where yyyymmdd refers to the date of the event.

Friday, June 14, 2013, 13:00 – 15:30

[**Workshop with DynaMAT materials**. See separate files for presentations]

13:00 – 13:20: GeoCaching, Hiking (AT)
13:20 – 13:40: Art and Mathematics (BG)
13:40 – 14:00: Dynamic Simulations (DK)
14:00 – 14:30: Coffee break
14:30 – 14:50: Euclidean Eggs (IS)
14:50 – 15:10: Inscribing rectangles (IT)
15:10 – 15:30: Webpage, other dynamic projects (SK)

Friday, June 14, 2013, 15:50 – 17:00

Vladimir: Continuing with the dissemination presentations.

Andreas: [Presenting dissemination activities, see separate file]

Jenny: **Nelly has presented quite an extensive report in the last meeting**. **One course to add, several weekends for a total sum of 30 hours, for in-service and re-training teachers**, so very diverse audience. Most of them have not used GeoGebra before. I will continue to the US and to the RSI, working with students there. And quite a few of our materials will be useful as examples of collaboration between mathematicians and educators. Also **there will be a conference in Maine I shall try to attend and present the project there**. **At the end of August we have a teacher training course in the HSSI**, part of the training will include DynaMAT materials. **In September we have "Night of the Scientists", where the idea is to make maths attractive for the general public. And part of the**

materials will be used there. And of course Toni, Neli, and me will attend in Nitra conference.

Vladimir: [Presenting dissemination activities, see separate file]

Freyja: **I tried to send a poster to CERME which was rejected**. I went there anyways and found the group rather boring, "What can be researched", and no teaching practice.

Sona: [Presenting dissemination activities, see separate file]

Vladimir: Particularly very **good to publish the translated version of partners' materials in national journals of other partners**.

Vladimir: Tomorrow Jenny and others will continue with dissemination activities here in Iceland.

Vladimir: And this concludes the meeting for today. Thank you to Freyja for the organisation, particularly for the mini-workshop.

Summary of decisions:
- **Partners to finalize course reports and put them on Dropbox, if possible in Word format**
- **Partners who have not done so are to register for the final conferences' parent conference**
- **Partners to put updated version of dissemination file onto Dropbox, and keep it updated**
- **SK partner to put summary and introduction files for E-book and courses from Dropbox on website**
- **Check titles of materials for courses, and E-Book chapter titles, if they correspond with names on website**
- **Keep administrative homepage updated by uploading mission reports and receipts etc.**
- **Final conference and final meeting in Nitra, Slovakia, September 22 – 26 (for DynaMAT)/27 (for MeetMe)**