D.5.1
Annual Seminar

Project information

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Executive Summary

The eQNet project description included an "Annual seminar for Lifelong Learning programme and other projects". In the first half of the project, the project partners decided to extend the project's outreach by organising three events instead of just one.

In this deliverable we report on these three events, **two** of which took place within the European Schoolnet's annual, international conference, EMINENT, that regularly attracts over 200 delegates. In the framework of EMINENT conferences, an eQNet workshop was organised in 2009 for policy-makers and in 2010 for teachers. In general, participants in EMINENT include all relevant stakeholders (teachers, policy makers, experts and industry stakeholders) with an interest in applying quality criteria to educational resources that can be shared and reused at European level. Furthermore, a **third exploitation workshop** was held to reach out to eTwinning teachers, thus including stakeholders in other Comenius projects, too. This workshop took place with eTwinning Professional Development workshop in Helsinki in November 2010.

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1   Introduction and objectives

This report will present the dissemination events organised by the eQNet project consortium. Events (seminars, workshops) are considered an important dissemination opportunity for European projects. The original idea of organising only one seminar at the EMINENT conferences during the first half of the project was adapted,and instead of one event, the project consortium considered it more effective to organise three separate events. All together, 140 participants have attended the eQNet workshops during the first half of the project.

Two of the events took place with the European Schoolnet's international conference, EMINENT, which is an annual meeting point for policy makers, ICT and content providers, teachers and researchers. It is essential that eQNet results are disseminated to, and discussed and adopted by, senior policy makers in Ministries of Education, particularly those responsible for national ICT strategies and content repositories. The EMINENT conferences offer a perfect opportunity for this.

The third workshop was held in the framework of an eTwinning Professional Development workshop to reach out to the community of teachers taking part in the Commission's eTwinning initiative. Delivering information and eQNet "good practices" to teachers, is essential in order to improve the quality and enhance the use of the digital learning resources. The teachers taking part in the eTwinning workshop can be considered as "early adapters" of technology enhanced learning and, therefore, they are also a receptive target audience for eQNet the 'travel well' concept and guidelines.

The three main exploitation events in the first term are summarised in the table below.

Table 1. Examples of eQNet workshops and events which all are enlisted in the Mid-Term report

Date	Name of the workshop City, country	Type of audience Nº of audience
November 27, 2009	**Session 2: Using learning resources across contexts** EMINENT 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania http://blog.eun.org/eminent2009/2009/12/strand_b_session_2_using_learn_1.html	Policy-makers, industry members More than 160 participants, 40 in the workshop
November 9, 2010	**Can digital learning resources be used across borders?** EMINENT 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark Agenda: http://eqnet.eun.org/web/guest/community/-	Teachers and content providers 300 participants, 20 in the workshop

	/blogs/eqnet-teachers-workshop-in-eminent Report: http://blog.eun.org/eminent/2010/11/can_digital_learning_resources.html#more	
November 13, 2010	**Can digital learning resources be used across borders? (X2)** eTwinning Professional Development Workshop, Helsinki, Finland http://eqnet.eun.org/web/guest/community/-/blogs/digital-resources-that-travel-well-workshop-for-etwinning-teachers	Teachers More than 130 participants, 80 in the workshops

2   eQNet at EMINENT 2009

2.1 Basic details

Date: 27 November 2009
Place: Vilnius, Lithuania
Context event: EMINENT 2009
Title: Using learning resources across contexts
Target audience: policy-makers, industry members
Participants:
- EMINENT: 165 participants
- eQNet workshop: 40 participants, including the following partners: **EUN**, **INDIRE**, ICT, MS SR, DZS, Skolverket, NCIE, **KC**

2.2 About EMINENT

EMINENT, European Schoolnet's annual conference was successfully organised in Vilnius, Lithuania from 26-27 November 2009. Participants from 30 countries, including teachers, policy makers, experts and industry stakeholders attended the two-day event comprising a series of debates, plenaries and workshops. The conference was opened by Gintaras Steponavicius, Minister of Education and Science of Lithuania. The EMINENT conference is one of the European Schoolnet's flagship initiatives taking place annually with participation of hundreds of teachers, experts and policy-makers.

2.3 Workshop programme

Chair: Riina Vuorikari, European Schoolnet

Introduction to European Schoolnet's work on "travel well" content (Melt, Hewlett & eQNet)
>   *Riina Vuorikari, European Schoolnet*
>   Download presentation:
>   http://blog.eun.org/eminent2009/upload/RiinaVuorikariEMINENT09WorkshopB2.ppt

Quality aspects regarding "travel well" in eQNet
>   *Silvia Panzavolta, ANSAS (ex INDIRE), Italy*
>   Download presentation:
>   http://blog.eun.org/eminent2009/upload/SilviaPanzavoltaEMINENT09WorkshopB2.ppt

Engaging users to share resources, a case of "travel well" content on the Flemish school portal

Hans De Four, KlasCement, Belgium
Download presentation:
http://blog.eun.org/eminent2009/upload/HansdeFourEMINENT09WorkshopB2.ppt

Presentation of the ACER - European Schoolnet project
Riina Vuorikari, European Schoolnet and Bertrand Mellah, ACER
Download presentation:
http://blog.eun.org/eminent2009/upload/RiinaBertrandMallahEMINENT09WorkshopB2.ppt

2.4 Workshop report

The eQNet workshop "Using learning resources across-contexts" formed part of one of the main themes of the conference: "Supporting new pedagogies through digital learning resources".

Riina Vuorikari, from European Schoolnet, presented the work done on 'travel well' content in projects such as MELT, Hewlett and eQNet. Some content can be used by teachers across context and in different countries. But what makes this content travel well? And how can we find and share this content effectively? Projects such as ETB, and CELEBRATE identified that the sharing and reuse of digital learning resources constituted the drivers of a 'learning resource economy'. With the CALIBRATE project European Schoolnet and its partners gained understanding that some content is more useful than other (science, cross-curriculum topics, language learning for instance). Learning resources were not easy to find for teachers and Google cannot be produce satisfactory search results as learning resources from different countries and in different language do not cross-reference via hyperlinks. With its work on the Learning Resource Exchange, European schools focuses on the social tagging of learning resources as a novel way of finding 'travel well' content.

Silvia Panzavolta, from ANSAS (ex INDIRE), highlighted the quality aspects regarding "travel well" in eQNet, a project which aims at studying issues linked to teachers using LRE resources in real contexts. eQNet has identified some parameters for travel well resources: these resources have a low language dependence (or are multilingual); they have a strong visual structure; and have no large semantic density (they are easy to include in any curriculum). Other parameters include cultural appropriateness, usability, technical features (easy to access) and openness (such as open licences).

Hans de Four, from KlasCement (Belgium), presented KlasCement, a learning resource repository for Flemish schools which has existed since 1998. KlasCement is very successful with some 52,000 active members and provides content such as digital lessons, Hot Potatoes files, ThinkQuest Web Environments etc. KlasCement also offers user generated content (members can contribute). For Hans, a learning object is universal if it is independent from any languages (such as an image), is

translated (or at least in English), is open and can be adapted, and if it does not relate to a specific national curriculum.

The last presentation of the track featured **Riina Vuorikari** and **Bertrand Mellah** from ACER to present the European Schoolnet/ACER Netbook pilot for European schools project. The Netbook project aims to study the effect of 1:1 pedagogy (1 computer per pupil) in six European countries (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Turkey, UK) in selected pilot schools. In 2010 360 schools are due to participate in the pilot. Each participating school receives 25 netbooks for pupils and five netbooks for teachers. A community of practice and discussion forum will be made available for teachers to share their ideas and discuss with other pilot schools.

2.5 Pictures

Figure 1. The workshop took place in the premises of the Lithuanian Parliament

Figure 2. KlasCement giving a presentation

Figure 3. The eQNet workshop participants

3   eQNet at EMINENT 2010

3.1 Basic details

Date: 9 November 2010
Place: Copenhagen, Denmark
Context event: EMINENT 2010
Title: Can digital learning resources be used across borders?
Target audience: policy-makers, teachers, industry members
Participants:
- EMINENT: 300 participants
- eQNet workshop: 20 participants. Additional eQNet partners: EUN, INDIRE, ICT, DGIDC, BM:UKK, MS SR, DZS, Skolverket, NCIE, KC

3.2 About EMINENT

EMINENT, European Schoolnet's annual conference took place at the Bella Centre, Copenhagen, in November 2010. The event was organised to coincide with the Uddannelsesforum 2010. Teachers, policy makers, experts and industry stakeholders from 30 countries convened to attend three days of plenary sessions, debates, workshops and networking.

3.3 Workshop programme

Chair: Daniel Tochacek, Centre for International Services of the Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports, Czech Republic

Introduction to travel well" and the eQNet project
> *Silvia Panzavolta, Agenzia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo dell'Autonomia Scolastica (former INDIRE), Italy*

Presentation of the Portal for learning resources: http://www.unilearning.eu
> *Peter Brimioul, Klascement, Belgium*
> Download presentation:
> http://blog.eun.org/eminent/upload/can%20digital%20resources/Peter.ppt

Presentation of the Portal for learning resources: http://lreforschools.eun.org
> *Daniel Tochacek, Centre for International Services of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Republic*
> Download presentation:
> http://blog.eun.org/eminent/upload/can%20digital%20resources/Daniel.pptx

Example of a "travel well learning resources" collection
> *Alma Taawo, Skolverket*

Value of "travel well" resources for a learning resource portal by the Ministry
Lisbeth Knutsdatter Gregersen, Senter for IKT i utdanningen
Download presentation:
http://blog.eun.org/eminent/upload/can%20digital%20resources/Lisbeth.ppt

Teachers' activity with learning resources
Open discussion

3.4 Workshop report

Daniel Tochacek, Centre for International Services of the Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports, Czech Republic, opened the workshop by welcoming all participants as Chair of the workshop on travel well digital resources, as the issue addressed by the eQnet project.

Silvia Panzavolta from ANSAS, Italy, introduced the eQNet project and the concept of 'travel well resources'. By the end of the project, 3,500 travel well resources will have been collected. Developing travel well criteria is central to the project together with a validation by teachers. There is an active eQNet teacher community. The travel well resources are available from the Learning Resource Exchange (LRE) portal. All resources are tagged to help the user identify key words of interest.

In order to build such a collection, the project considered technical, semantic and content interoperability. Travel well criteria includes: low/no language independence or multilingual; strong visual structure; no large semantic density. Other criteria relate to the overall quality of the resource, including: cultural appropriateness; usability; easy to access technical features; open license.

The project intends to conduct thorough testing with users to evaluate how well the resources identified can be used in different countries. As well as the content, the description (metadata such as tags or rating) of the resource also needs to travel well. Social tags create links between users in different countries.

Peter Brimioul from Klascement, Belgium, gave a live demonstration of the portal for learning resources: http://www.unilearning.eu. The original target group of this portal was Flemish teachers, but now thanks to linking up with the eQNet project, all resources are available in English and Flemish, and is therefore open to any teacher to use. Teachers of whatever nationality can contribute to the portal in any language, thanks to the help of Google Translate.

The Learning Resource Exchange was demonstrated live by the Chair of the workshop, Daniel Tochacek, Centre for International Services of the Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports, Czech Republic.

Alma Taawo from Skolverket, the Swedish School Agency, presented an example of a 'travel well' learning resources' collection. Many of the resources she demonstrated

can be successfully used across borders. However, Alma stressed the importance for contributors to ensure that their resource is open to other potential users so that they can translate and edit what is necessary for their specific needs. If you click on the tag "eQNet" on the LRE portal, you can see some examples of suggested 'travel well' resources that Alma pointed out to participants: http://lreforschools.eun.org/LRE-Portal/Index.iface

Lisbeth Knutsdatter Gregersen, Norwegian Centre for ICT in Education, presented the value of 'travel well' resources for a learning resource portal developed by the Norwegian Ministry of Education. Priority has been given to the following three goals at the Norwegian Ministry of Education: access to digital learning resources; development of some quality criteria for digital learning resources; standardization and technical issues in workgroups. The speaker underlined the need for small resources with little text that can be easily translated. For future development in this area, common criteria for digital resources should be developed to ensure they travel well across borders.

The session ended with some comments from participants in the audience, informing us of the existence of interesting and useful resources which often (although not always) travel well across borders.
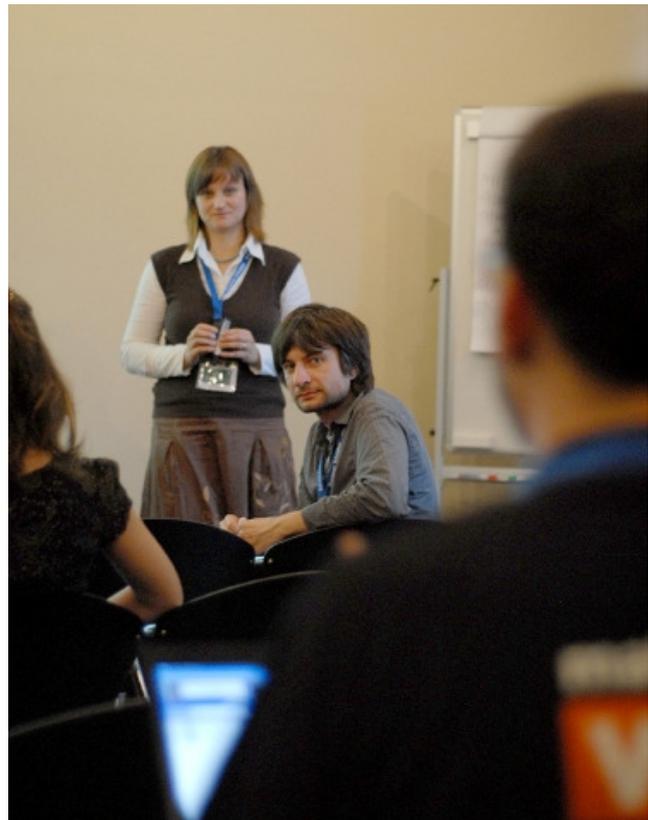
3.5 Pictures

Figure 4. The DZS partners in the eQNet teachers' workshop in Eminent 2010.

4   eQNet at eTwinning workshop

4.1 Basic details

Date: 13 November 2010
Place: Helsinki, Finland
Context event: eTwinning Professional Development Workshop
Title: Can digital learning resources be used across borders?
Target audience: Teachers
Participants:
- eTwinning workshop: 180 participants
- eQNet workshop: 80 participants (in two workshops). Involved eQNet partners: EUN, NCIE, ICT

4.2 About eTwinnning

The eTwinning project, financed by the European Commission and run by European Schoolnet, aims to encourage European schools to collaborate using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The workshop held in Helsinki was one of the eTwinning Professional Development Workshops, where eTwinning teachers can apply to participate through their respective National Support Services.

4.3 Programme

Can digital learning resources be used across borders?

See the programme and slides here: http://eqnet.eun.org/web/guest/community/-/blogs/digital-resources-that-travel-well-workshop-for-etwinning-teachers

Moderator: Riina Vuorikari, European Schoolnet

1. Introduction to digital resources

- *Introduction*
  Riina Vuorikari, European Schoolnet, Belgium
  See presentation:
  http://www.slideshare.net/europeanschoolnet/digital-resources-eqnet

- *Examples of classroom use*
  Teija Jormanainen, Pielisjoki school, Joensuu, Finland
  See presentation:
  http://www.slideshare.net/europeanschoolnet/how-i-use-learning-resources-in-my-classroom

2. Can learning resources be used across borders?

- *Hands-on examples 1*
  Gunstein Egeberg, Senter for IKT i Utdanning, Norway
  http://ennullen.blogspot.com/2010/11/digital-learning-resources-that-travels.html
- *Hands-on examples 2*
  Lithuanian teachers' team
  English:
  http://lom.emokykla.lt/public/objects_by_subjects.php?subject=5&order_by=modified&page=5l
  Physics http://mkp.emokykla.lt/gamta5-6/lt/mo/1315/#grotuvas
  http://mkp.emokykla.lt/gamta5-6/lt/mo/demonstracijos/1746/#grotuvas
  http://mkp.emokykla.lt/fizika9-10/fobjects/view/20/#up
  http://mkp.emokykla.lt/fizika9-10/fobjects/view/30/#up
  http://lom.emokykla.lt/public/objects_by_subjects.php?subject=5&order_by=modified&page=6

3. Building eTwinning projects around digital resources

Brain storming, ideas exchange, presentation
Main websites for open learning resources that everyone is welcome to use:
http://lreforschools.eun.org
http://www.unilearning.eu
http://oertn.eun.org

4.4 Evaluation

The eQNet sessions were evaluated as part of the overall eTwinning Professional Development Workshop.

Overall, the sessions were evaluated very positively by the eTwinning teachers. Over 58% out of 41 respondents rated the session as "excellent" or "very good". Only 5% (2 people) rated the session as "poor" (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Overall feedback on the eQNet workshop in eTwinning professional development workshop

The participants were also asked if the workshop was relevant to their work (Figure 6). Again, the response very positive: 67% of the respondents thought the session had been "very relevant", 27% rated it as "relevant" and rest of them, 6%, considered it "quite relevant".

Figure 6. Relevancy of the eQNet workshop for teachers

As a sign of usefulness, the respondents said they would recommend the workshop to their colleagues (Figure 7). All 33 respondents who replied (note the first question received 44 responses) said they would recommend that workshop to a colleague.

| | Digital resources Riina Vuorikari, Project Manager, EUN Gunstein Egeberg, Prosjektleder, Senter for IKT i Utdanningen (Norway)Teija Jormanainen, Teacher, Pielisjoki School, Joensuu (Finland) | | | |
4. Would you recommend this workshop to a colleague?	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Response Totals
Yes	100.0% (11)	100.0% (13)	100.0% (9)	100.0% (33)
No	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Maybe	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Other commetn	2 replies	0 replies	0 replies	2
answered question	11	13	9	33
			skipped question	0

Figure 7. The "ultimate" customer satisfaction question « would you recommend… ? »