

THEMATIC NETWORK PROJECT IN THE AREA OF LANGUAGES 2 (TNP2)

Minutes of the meeting of the Scientific Committee on New Learning Environments on Saturday 11 November 2001 in Valencia¹

1. Welcome and formalities

Valere Meus (VM) opened the meeting and informed the participants of some changes to the composition of the SC: Bernard Kettemann has left the SC. He will be replaced by Isabel Landsiedler. Work is being done to try to include a colleague from a university in the Netherlands in the SC. Members of the SC that have been absent in meetings or have otherwise not participated as expected will be asked whether they want to stay on the project.

2. Minutes of the second meeting of the SC

The minutes of the second meeting of the SC were approved without comments.

VM drew attention to the SC's website (www.taalnet.rug.ac.be/tnp) at Gent and reminded participants to send copies of new versions of national reports to him as well as to the regional synthesis scribe. VM also pointed out that it is important to mark versions clearly with number of version and date. The website also mentions the last update date.

3. Progress reports by VM and Wolfgang Mackiewicz (WM)

It was pointed out that the national reports are 'a rolling agenda item', meaning that it is possible to make additions to and alterations of national reports on a continual basis in year 2 and in year 3. Final versions of the national reports must be available in March 2002.

WM thanked the group for its work so far and mentioned that Sietze Looijenga has resigned his job as TNP-coordinator to take up a new position at Gent University. The SC expressed its thanks to Sietze (in absentia) for all his work for

¹ Attended by: Ana Gimeno (Spain), Anne Rasanen (Finland), Bill Richardson (Dublin), Birute Klaas (Estonia), Boguslaw Marek (Poland), Doris Flischikowski (Germany) Fatima Ferreira (Portugal) Jurate Zdanyte (Latvia), Ilse Kangro (Lithuania), Marina Mozzon-Mcpherson (UK), Panos Panagiotidis (Greece), Teodor Petric (Slovenia) Valere Meus (Belgium) Vania Simeonova (Bulgaria), Ole Helmersen (Denmark) and Wolfgang Mackiewicz (Berlin)

the TNP. WM is in the process of hiring a new coordinator (to start work on 15 November at the earliest) and underlined that he is looking to strengthen central coordination of the TNP in year 2 and 3.

WM further said that the renewal application for Year 2 (1.10.01-30.9.02) has been approved and a sum of 214,000 euros has been allocated.

He gave more details on the relationship of the TNP to the Prague declaration and the Tuning pilot study (see excerpts sent out with agenda). He also asked members to comment on the Berlin declaration approved during the ELC conference in June (see website).

4. General discussion of the national reports and the draft synthesis report

There was a brief discussion of the process and methodologies used to gather information for the national reports followed by a 'tour de table'. Some of the general problems experienced by most participants are: difficulties with regard to obtaining quality-information from institutions (on e.g. pedagogy, methodologies, training and re-training of teachers), lack of response to questionnaires, capturing the 'right' examples of good practise.

Poland (Boguslaw Marek) and Denmark (Ole Helmersen) apologised for not having supplied national reports yet and promised to do so soon.

The meeting went on to discuss the draft synthesis report. The meeting was of the opinion that it was a good draft which captured the main contents of the national reports as well as the state-of-the-art in the area. A new, amended version will be put on the subgroup website immediately after the meeting.

It was asked how realistic the recommendations in the synthesis report are in view of the recipients and the likely priority of resources for such actions.

WM advised that the recommendations should be 'repackaged' with a view to 3 different target groups: Universities; the national level; the EU-level.

It was **decided** that members of the SC can send in written feed-back (with special emphasis on the recommendations) on the synthesis report to VM and Anne Rasanen (AS) **by 1 December** and that a revised version of the synthesis report will be prepared **by 15 December**. Members are asked to comment on the recommendations and to rate them as experienced by the members themselves on a scale of 1 to 5 (5= very important 4= important 3= no opinion 2= of limited importance 1= not important). This in itself will already give us a lot of feedback. Members should also identify the 3 most important recommendations from their own point of view and can give additional suggestions if they feel the recommendations do not interlock with what they are doing.

The same kinds of questions will be asked of the project partners as a group.

5. Activities to be undertaken in year 2 – including item 6: Identification of target group representatives..

The following activities are planned for year 2:

- The finished synthesis report will be sent to project partners for their comments together with a question to rate the recommendations
- A needs analysis questionnaire will be sent from Berlin to the list of stakeholders mentioned in the renewal application.
- National needs analysis questionnaires will be sent to relevant stakeholders in the various participants' countries. Recipients of the questionnaires to be identified **by the end of November 2001**, questionnaires sent out early January with a reply date **in early February**.
- A **workshop will be held on 8 June** in Copenhagen preceded by a **meeting of the SC on 7 June (in the afternoon)**. The Copenhagen Business School will host the meeting.

There was agreement that the workshop must focus on discussing the results of the needs analyses within a framework of the main 4-5 strands of the TNP application and that all the SC's work must be seen against the backdrop of multilingualism, European citizenship and lifelong learning. It was also agreed that it is important to bear in mind that NLE comprises two equally important elements: real NLEs and virtual NLEs.

The results of the workshop will be used as input for the application of a number of European co-operation projects.

In this respect VM would like to work towards a proposal for a project aiming at designing a common framework (virtual learning environment) for the development of webbased learning materials and at developing learning materials within this framework, in particular for the less widely used and less taught languages.

The meeting ended without dealing specifically with Item 7. Items 8, 9 and 10 were dealt with in connection with other items, cf. above.

There were no comments under item 10 AOB.

The meeting concluded by expressing its gratitude to Ana Gimeno for her hosting the meeting.

Ole Helmersen