International Advisory Committee – Report of Fourth Meeting

VISCED

A Transnational Appraisal of
Virtual School and College Provision

Deliverable: D5.5

Project Agreement Number:

511578–LLP–1–2010–1–GR-KA3-KA3MP

Project funded by the European Commission

Document Title	VISCED – Report of 4th Meeting of IAC
Deliverable no.	D.5.5
Date of issue	18/12/2012
Author[s]	Barry Phillips
Contact name	Barry Phillips
Organisation	Sero Consulting Ltd
Address	Sheffield Technology Parks, Arundel Street, Sheffield S1 2NS United Kingdom
Telephone	+44 8451114122
Email	Barry.phillips@sero.co.uk
Contributors to document	Barry Phillips; Paul Bacsich
Quality Reviewers	Giles Pepler
Contractual date of delivery	31/12/2012
Actual date of delivery	18/12/2012
Approval status	Reviewed internally and approved
Abstract	Topics addressed: overview of outputs, comments on VISCED handbook; key and critical success factors; policy recommendations to EU and national governments; teacher training
Keyword list	Virtual schools; OER; typology; taxonomy; policy; public/private; tags; community; audience.
Distribution list	IAC members; European Commission [DG3]; partners; VISCED website
Method of distribution	Email
Electronic copy filed	"VISCED files" in VISCED Dropbox
Confidentiality status	PU

History			
Version number	Date	Revised by	Revision date
0.5	16/12/2012	Barry Phillips	16/12/2012
1.0	18/12/2012	Giles Pepler	18/12/2012

Table of Contents

International Advisory Committee - Minutes of Fourth meeting

Date: 28 November 2012   Location: Hotel Palace, Berlin

Members of the International Advisory Committee - Berlin, 28 November 2012

1   Attendance

1.1   IAC members attending:

Name	Organisation	Country
Deborah Arnold	Université de Bourgogne	France
Alistair Clark	Stirring Learning	UK
Fernando Albuquerque Costa	University of Lisbon	Portugal
Jacqueline Daniell	Interhigh	UK
Robert Dempster	Desire2Learn	UK
Edward Lawless	Pamoja Education	UK
Jeanine Nieuwenhuis	Wereldschool	Netherlands
Denise Perrault	International Baccalaureate	Netherlands

1.2   Project partners attending:

Name	Organisation	Country
Paul Bacsich	Sero Consulting Ltd	UK
Anthony Camilleri	EFQUEL	Belgium
Claudio Dondi	MENON	Belgium
Nikitas Kastis	MENON	Greece
Maggie McPherson	Leeds University	UK
Ilse Op de Beeck	EFQUEL / KU Leuven	Belgium
Barry Phillips	Sero Consulting Ltd	UK
Sally Reynolds	ATiT	Belgium
Nikos Zygouritsas	Lambrakis Research Foundation	Greece

2   Introduction to meeting objectives and minutes of preceding IAC meeting

2.1   Introduction

Paul Bacsich gave a brief explanation of the role of the IAC and the specific objectives of this meeting: To review The VISCED Handbook (Vols 1 and 2) and to review, refine and finalise content for three key final VISCED Deliverables – Success Factors, Policy Recommendations, Teacher Training.

2.2   Minutes of the previous IAC

Paul Bacsich reviewed the minutes of the third IAC meeting (Sheffield, 23 May 2012) and asked for any comments from the plenary.

3.   Overview of the outputs of the VISCED project

Paul Bacsich gave a summary of the current state of the research as the project reaches its completion – this included a description of the outputs and synopsis of some of the key findings and themes.

4.   Success Factors

Ilse Op de Beeck, **Anthony Camilleri** and **Paul Bacsich** led a discussion on both the Key and the Critical Success Factors for virtual schools and colleges – using the two Deliverables as the basis. The plenary was asked to review the appropriateness and comprehensiveness of the draft Deliverables.

Action Point: It was agreed that there is a need to "tighten up" the form and language of the text in the Success Factors to ensure that these are all consistent and read as complete sentences.

5.   Policy challenges, opportunities and recommendations

Barry Phillips described the challenges facing the project when making Policy Recommendations across 27 heterogeneous countries in the context of political instability and economic turbulence. He led a discussion of the key Policy Recommendations and asked the plenary to review these and to suggest if there had been any notable omissions or recommendations which were no longer relevant.

6.   Teacher Training

Paul Bacsich led a discussion on approaches to Teacher Training for Online Teaching and Learning. It was generally agreed that in Europe this is not *yet* a pressing issue since recruitment is not *yet* a problem. High-quality candidates - in both full and part-time roles - are attracted to the 'virtual school' model. There was also discussion of Common Standards for Online Teaching, developments in the USA and appropriateness to Europe and individual member states.

7.   Rethinking Education

Paul Bacsich gave a summary of the European Commission's Rethinking Education strategy and stressed its relevance and importance to virtual schools and colleges, policymakers and industry with particular reference to the statements regarding the *"...potential of ICT and OER to open up learning "* and the *"...need to scale-up use of ICT in teaching and learning"*. Other areas discussed were the need to support teacher professional development and the renewed focus on Vocational Educational Training. The paper was well received by the plenary.

Action Point: Paul Bacsich to circulate the Rethinking Education strategy paper with a covering note.

Fernando Albuquerque Costa reported consistencies with policy developments in Portugal and, in particular, how the Ministry Of Education have supported his pilot-programme which is investigating how to integrate ICT into education from a pedagogical perspective.

Action Point: The Portugal Country Report should be updated in line with Fernando Albuquerque Costa's feedback.

Action Point: Fernando Albuquerque Costa to circulate an English language version of his report into the transversal integration of ICT.

8   Conclusion and thanks

Paul Bacsich summarised the key points from the day's discussions, thanked the IAC members present for their valuable contributions and noted the equally valuable contributions of the various IAC members throughout the duration of the VISCED Project.