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ASPECT

First Report on ASPECT Workshops, Plugfests and Conferences

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[1] OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.

Introduction

The role of conferences, public workshops and plugfests is to disseminate the outcomes of the ASPECT project, to collect feedback from the different stakeholders and help them to implement the best practices related to the application of the content standards and specifications being explored in the project.

1.1   Conferences

The first international public event of ASPECT was organised under the name of SE@AM (Search and exchange of e-le@rning materials) in Budapest on 4-5 November 2009. The workshop was attended by 30 participants and included 14 speakers representing 11 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Spain, U.K., U.S.A.). The aim of the event was to present the initial outcomes and services of the ASPECT project, in particular its contribution to the ongoing development of the Learning Resource Exchange (LRE), the conformance testing tools for learning resources developed in the project and controlled vocabularies. The event was also the first time ADL presented its new strategy for SCORM.

This was the third annual SE@M international workshop, and was entirely organised by the ASPECT partnership as an independent event. The initial plan was to make SE@M 2009 part of EC-TEL2009, but the project had to change plans in mid-July 2009 as we could not have a firm confirmation from the EC-TEL organisers. A possible measure of success is that attendance was larger than that at SE@M 2008 and the event was judged very useful by the participants.

Lessons learned

Organisation: while there can be a number of advantages resulting from the organisation of ASPECT events as part of /in coordination with existing events, the dependency on an external partner can have a negative impact on the timely publication of the call for contributions and the advertising of the programme to potential delegates. SE@M 2010 will be advertised at least 8 months in advance.

Participation: While we were not able to mobilise a large number of publishers (the BETT briefing in January 2009 was more successful in that regard), we had very interesting presentations that were of interest to a more diverse audience. This is probably due to the nature and format of the event, which is already known to academics, and to the time and location: in future WP4 will look to running the event in tandem with conferences and trade shows that publishers already attend – BETT, Frankfurt Book fair etc. We might also expand attendance by establishing a programme advisory board that includes a number of publishers, starting with the ASPECT Associate Partners and, in particular, the European Educational Publishers Group.

1.2   Public workshops

ASPECT briefing at the BETT Show, London, 14 January 2009. 30 delegates attended a briefing on learning content standards and specifications organised by ASPECT and Cambridge University Press (CUP). This included a significant number of publishers and educational content developers (Aschehoug, Cornelsen, Didaktis, Fraus Publishing, Pearson, Vivid Interactive). The aim was to outline how ASPECT is developing best practice approaches to implementing Digital Rights Management, open licensing schemes such as Creative Commons and content standards such as SCORM and the new Common Cartridge specification. It was also explained how publishers, content developers and tools/platform providers can benefit from ASPECT support services that will include: a LOR registry; Vocabulary Bank for Education; Application Profile registry; automatic translation service for

LOM and content packaging formats; compliance testing; transformer services; and access to known interoperability issues.

Lessons learned

Organisation: the organisation of an event in tandem with the BETT Show was very favourable and enabled ASPECT to engage with senior representatives from what are the key target audiences for the project, including educational publishers/developers and tools/platform developers. Opportunities are also available during BETT to present ASPECT in one-to-one meetings with a wide range of companies (both European and international) exhibiting at the show.

Participation: the ASPECT presentation attracted the right audience but this still represented a small percentage of the total number of publishers, content developers, tools providers etc. attending BETT. For the 2010 ASPECT briefing at BETT, we are exploring with the ASPECT partners how to organise an event that can be integrated directly in the BETT programme.

In 2010, the project will also begin to organise the first public webinars around new dissemination materials that can now be developed as ASPECT best practices start to emerge. For example, in January 2010, a first ASPECT webinar will be organised around the short videos on SCORM and Common Cartridge that are now available.

A Technical Course on the "Federation of Learning Repositories for Agriculture, Food & Environment (AgLRs)" was organised in Budapest November 2nd-5th, 2009. The Course was delivered as a result of cooperation between ASPECT, Organic.Edunet, and the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The course was targeted at technical personnel of existing/operating AgLRs or of organizations/initiatives producing learning resources of rural interest (interested in setting up an AgLR).

A series of national workshops for teachers have also been organised:

03 October 2009: Flemish teachers national workshop

10 0ctober 2009: Portugal teachers national workshop

24 October: Lithuanian teachers national workshop

30 October: Romanian teachers national workshop

1.3 Plugfests

No public plugfest has yet been organised. The focus in the first year of the project has been on organising internal events where the partners have had a chance to test the ASPECT and LRE tools. Plugfests will be organised in 2010 in cooperation with existing events.

1.4 External events

The ASPECT partners have attended a number of key events where presentations on ASPECT were made and outcomes of ASPECT presented.

Event/ Meeting Title	Location	Date(s)
IMS Meeting	Bimingham, UK	14-19/09/08
CEN workshop	Leuven, BE	13-14/10/2008
8th National Pedagogical Conference - Hungary	Budapest, HU	13-15/11/2008
ICOPER Symposium	Berlin, DE	2/-3/12/2008
CEN workshop	Athens, GR	08-09/01/2009

D4.5.1 ASPECT workshops, plugfests and conferences

Nordlet Kickoff	Sweden, SE	14-15/01/2009
iLearning Forum 2009	Paris-FR	19-20/01/2009
Global Information Systems Dissemination Workshop	Jyväskylä, FI	24/02/2009
EdReNe Workshop	Leiden, NL	25-27/02/2009
SQI-OAI Workshop	Leuven-BE	10-11/03/2009
Annual Estonian e-University conference	Tartu, EE	02-03/04/09
Naace Sponsors' Meeting	Nottingham, UK	21/4/2009
CEN workshop	Berlin, DE	26-28/04/2009
ITK Päivät	Hämeenlinna, FI	23-24/4/2009
IMS Learning Impact conference	Barcelona, ES	12/5/09

1.5   Future events

A number of events will be organised in 2010, most in relation to existing events. This is an initial planning that will be updated as the project moves forward.

Event name	Nature	ASPECT target audience	ASPECT event	Location	Date(s)
ASPECT Workshop	-	Researchers	Workshop	Vigo, ES	14/12/2009
BETT	Trade show	Publishers/ tools providers	Workshop, plugfest	London, UK	13-16/01/2010
Naace Annual Strategic Conference	Conference	ICT advisors	Workshop	Blackpool, UK	16-18-03/2010
elSE —eLearning Software for Education	Conference	Publishers	Workshop	Bucharest, R0	15-16/04/2010
EDEN	Conference	Authors, educators	Workshop	Sevilla, ES	9-12/06/2010
IMS Quaterly meeting	Meeting	Standard experts	Workshop	Koblenz, DE	Jul. 2010
SE@M 2010	Conference	Publishers	Conference	Barcelona, ES	Sep. 2010
EDUCATEC Educ@TICE	Trade show	Publishers	Workshop	Paris, FR	17-20/11/2010
EMINENT	Conference	Ministries of Education	Workshop	Lisboa, PT	Nov. 2010
Online Educa Berlin	Conference	Publishers	Workshop	Berlin, DE	01-03/12/2010