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Minutes of First International Advisory Committee Workshop

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FIRST INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP - MINUTES

Wednesday 27th March 2013 at the University of Nottingham, UK

Attendance - IAC members

Manal Almarwani	Taibah University, Saudi Arabia
Gema Bueno-de-la-Fuente	UC3M, Spain
Sue Burnett	University of Glamorgan, Wales
Lorna Campbell	CETIS, UK
Beatriz Carramolino-Arranz	Universidad de Valladolid, Spain
Alastair Clark	Stirring Learning, UK
Jonathan Darby	Oxford Insight Ltd, UK
Cristiana Gonzalez	Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil
Terrence Karran	University of Lincoln, UK
Margaret Korosec	University of Hull, UK
David Kernohan	Jisc, UK
Sandra R.H. Mariano	Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil
Jan Neumann	Nord-Rhein Westphalia Library Service, Germany
Ebba Ossiannilsson	Lund University, Sweden
Lis Parcell	Jisc RSC, Wales
Pete Richardson	Coleg Llandrillo, Wales
Gema Santos-Hermosa	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain
Joe Wilson	Scottish Qualifications Authority, Scotland

Attendance - Project Partners

Paul Bacsich	Sero Consulting Ltd, UK
Nick Jeans	Sero Consulting Ltd, UK
Ming Nie	University of Leicester, UK
Giles Pepler	Sero Consulting Ltd, UK
Gabi Witthaus	University of Leicester, UK

1. Welcome and introductions

Paul Bacsich welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves briefly to the group.

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2. POERUP Public Progress Report

As some members had not had the opportunity to read this in advance of the meeting, it was not appropriate to invite detailed comments on this. However, Paul made 4 key observations:

- The report should be referenced against the country reports and members were urged to read these if they had not done so.
- Note the Case Study proposals (for discussion see below).
- Although policy advice had been scheduled for the second year of the project, developments flowing from the UNESCO Paris Declaration and Commission expert working groups had meant that a significant amount of policy advice had already been requested.
- Please send any comments on the report to Paul Bacsich or Giles Pepler.

3. Country reports

Paul summarised these rapidly, using the Elevator presentation from the earlier POERUP conference session. The following comments were made:

- There were issues of licensing, both in the UK and in other countries (e.g. Brazil).
- Lou McGill's UK OER report was a useful source of information.
- Spanish and Catalonian members of the Committee commented that there was additional material for Spain and offered to provide appropriate links;
- South Africa needs more nuancing, particularly in the area of draft policy.
- Sue Burnett offered to provide additional names and information on New Zealand.
- although not part of the original workplan, it could be illuminating to consider developing some Influence Maps (c.f. VISCED) if time and resources allowed. IAC members could assist with this.

4. Case Studies

The rationale for the choice of case studies and the methodology for undertaking them was briefly explained. Whilst there was no compelling case made for amending the main list of case studies, a number of points were made:

- Future Learn had to be included in the list, but it might prove difficult to undertake this - the UK OU might not be amenable.
- As had happened with VISCED, it might be possible to undertake a number of mini-case studies and whilst there was no resource in the project budget for this, it might be possible for IAC members to undertake these. Suggestions included: (1) RESOURCE from Scotland, an FE initiative, powered by JORUM; (2) the Nordic OER Alliance; (3) a Spanish exemplar, through the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

- Giles would send the finalised case study template to appropriate members of the IAC; if it was practicable to proceed with this suggestion, then mini-case studies could be provided in narrative form, provided the main headings from the template were covered.
- It would be useful to provide a bluffer's guide to social network analysis!

5. Policy and the Paris OER Declaration

Whilst some members felt that this was a fairly bland document, which countries could readily sign up to without making many implementation commitments, it was a useful starting point and it was noted that several of the VISCED policy recommendations had drawn on the Paris wording. Points made included:

- The Declaration has influenced government policy in Brazil, but publishers are still trying to block developments through lobbying Governors at state level.
- Joe Wilson commented that we should be careful in developing Paris: "a resource is a tangible thing".
- Open Education (Practice) is not necessarily the same thing as OER.

6. Conclusion and next IAC workshop

All IAC members are offered access to the POERUP Dropbox. It will be assumed that the email address for each member will be the same as the one to which Minutes are sent, but if any IAC member wishes to use a different email address, they should contact Paul Bacsich at paul.bacsich@sero.co.uk.

Paul thanked all members for their attendance and very helpful contributions and invited them to the next IAC workshop, which would be held in Oslo, immediately before the EDEN conference in June. Further details would be circulated as soon as these were available.