



Tempus



English as the Cornerstone of Sustainable Technology and Research



February 2015

Issue 5

Well done to all for the first year of ECOSTAR



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3rd Tempus ECOSTAR Consortium Meeting February 24- 26th 2015 Hosted by the University of Nicosia UNic

Dear Partners,

It is hard to believe, but almost one year ago we had our kickoff meeting on the 28th of February with all of the European and Israeli partners at Braude College of Engineering.

So much has happened over the past year and very good team work has produced impressive results.

I look forward to meeting you all in UNic and the value that these face to face meetings have.

A reminder concerning materials that we asked to please prepare for the meetings:

PPT on Work Plan for next 6 months: On the second day of the consortium meeting we are scheduling a 45 minute session to present the work plans for the next 6 months in each work package. Each Work Package leader has been asked to prepare ONE simple and unadorned PowerPoint slide so we can put together one single presentation for this session, to be sent to Linda by Sunday the 22nd. (5 minute presentations)

Review of EFL framework: (WP 1.1) Please be sure to review the items and add your comments and return, as per instructions on the document, to Elana, and bring the document with your comments with you to Cyprus, as it will be needed for effective discussion during the WP1 workshop.

Safe trip to all and looking forward to meeting in Nicosia,

Judy



Maastricht University



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF ISRAEL

University of Leicester



ECOSTAR 3rd Consortium Meeting Agenda

Day 1 - Tuesday 24th February

18.00 - 18:30	Assemble in the Altius Boutique Hotel lounge
18.30 -20:45	Welcoming remarks: Victoria Kalogerou, (UNic) Project administration and quality assurance: Judith Pressman, Ecostar Project Manager (OBC), Dr. Linda Weinberg, Project Coordinator (OBC) Hotel conference room
20:45	Buffet supper in the hotel

Day 2 - Wednesday February 25th

08.45 - 09.00	Registration at UNic Welcome Note: Prof. Constandinos N. Phellas, Vice-Rector for Faculty & Research (UNic)
09.00 - 09.20	Welcome and opening remarks: <i>EU partnerships and its importance in Academia</i> - Dr. Emilios Solomou, Executive Vice President for Administration, (UNic)
09.20 - 09.30	Opening remarks: Dr. Linda Weinberg, Ecostar Coordinator (OBC)
09.30 - 10.45	Draft National EFL framework: WP1 presentation and workshop, Elana Spector-Cohen, Dr. Lisa Amdur (TAU)
10.45 - 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 12.30	EFL Learning Packages and the CEFR: WP2 presentations/workshop Dr. Miriam Symon, Monica Broido, (IDC)
12.30 - 13.00	Initial Results from the NITE score - CEFR scale comparison: Dr. Ruth Fortus (NITE)
13.00 - 14.15	Lunch & Group Photo
14.15 - 15.15	Introduction to Learning Objects and Alignment with CEFR: WP3 presentation: Dr. Ingrid Barth, Claire Gordon, (OUI), Eli Shmueli (IUCC)
15.15 - 16.00	Implementing Learning Material in the Learning Environment (MOODLE) Communications & Dissemination : WP5 Eli Shmueli (IUCC), WP 7 Yshai Gabai (SCE)
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 - 18.15	Open discussion session following on from issues arising during the day (integration of WPs 1, 2, 3)
20.00	Dinner

Day 3 - Thursday February 26th

09.00 - 10.15	English Medium Instruction: WP4 session (Victoria Robinson (ULeic) Dr. Linda Weinberg (OBC))
10.15 - 11.00	Work plan for next 6 months (WP leaders)
11.00 - 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 - 12.15	General Assembly: discussion on project management, quality indicators, and general issues relating to the project
12.15 - 12.30	Quality survey (Victoria Kalogerou)
12.30 - 12.45	Closing remarks (Dr. Linda Weinberg)
12.45 - 13.30	Lunch at UNic and farewell

The Venue

The consortium meetings will be held at UNic's UNESCO Amphitheater, located on the ground floor in the EUROPA building

Victoria is arranging taxis to take us there on Wednesday morning leaving at 8:30 from the hotel. It is a 7 minute ride and a twenty minute walk.

Some Useful Information towards Arriving in Nicosia, kindly provided by Victoria

Transportation

There are a few options for transport from Larnaca airport to reach Altius hotel in Nicosia.

Travel & Express. If you arrive between 6:00 am until 6:00 PM you can take the Travel & Express service – information can be found at this link: <http://www.travelexpress.com.cy/>. You can also send them email to taxi@travelexpress.com.cy. You will need to prebook a seat 48 hours ahead of time, but this service will take you to the hotel. The price is 11 € per person, or 60€ if you order for 6-8 people.

The shuttle bus service. Timetables can be found at this link: <http://www.kapnosairportshuttle.com/timetable?locale=en>. The shuttle bus takes you just outside Nicosia and from there you can take a taxi to the hotel which costs about 10 euro.

Private taxi: If you choose to take a private taxi from the airport to the hotel it will cost 50 euro. Victoria offered to book a taxi in your name, or you can take one just outside the airport, which may be more expensive.

The Altius Boutique Hotel is located at Acheon 1, Nicosia. Tel: + 357 22 25540

Weather and Contact Information:



During the time we will be in Nicosia, we can expect anywhere from clear to cloudy, and possible rainy days, temperatures predicted between 8 – 17°C (you are welcome to check the forecast as we get closer to the time!)

For any urgent issues you might face once you are in Cyprus, you can call our hosts' cell phones: Victoria Kalogerou +357 99588163, Anna-Maria Andreou +357 99682821, or UNic's number +35722841500, and the European number in case of emergencies is 112.

Cyprus at a glance

Cyprus is a highly developed country with a rapidly growing economy, while it is also, since 2004, a member of the European Union. Geographically located in the Eastern Mediterranean, at the boundary between the European Union, North Africa and Asia, is rich history and cultural heritage and bears the marks of its position at the crossroads of civilizations. Since the dawn of history, Cyprus has been one of the most interesting areas of the region and has a rich and visible cultural history.

Ancient Greeks, Egyptians and Romans along with Crusaders, Byzantines, Franks and Ottomans have all left a powerful legacy for the modern visitor to see and admire. More information on what to visit while in Cyprus can be found here: <http://www.visitcyprus.com/wps/portal>

Nicosia: the last divided city of Europe

Nicosia has been the capital of Cyprus for over one thousand years. It is the administrative, commercial, financial, religious and cultural centre of our island. Beyond its rich historical and cultural heritage, Nicosia is an important centre of knowledge, research and technology.

With a rich and visible history of over 6,000 years, bearing witness to the turbulent past of Cyprus, Nicosia remains the last divided capital of Europe and claims a deserved place at the pinnacle of European culture. Its geographical place and multicultural orientation urge it to act as a bridge between the countries of the region and the European Union.

The reunification of our city will bring progress and prosperity to the island and will allow Nicosia to reach its strategic destination as a capital to become a top European regional urban centre of culture, education and entrepreneurship in the southeastern Mediterranean. Take advantage of your time here to discover the city.



FANEROMENI SQUARE - AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL SQUARE LOCATED WITHIN THE VENETIAN WALLS OF NICOSIA.

For more information and maps visit <http://www.nicosia.org.cy/en-GB/home/>

Israeli Partners' Meeting at Braude College of Engineering

A very worthwhile and fruitful meeting of the Israeli partners took place on Wednesday February 11, at Braude, in which many issues to do with the WP's were discussed. The meeting dealt with inclusions and clarifications, and the partners contributed to finalizing the content construction of the agenda for the consortium meeting next week.

WP 4 – English Medium Instruction

Victoria Robinson and Dr. Linda Weinberg had three intensive days of meeting at Braude from Tuesday - Thursday, Feb 17-20th, to finalize some of the details regarding the EMI course. They were joined part of the time by Dr. Lauren Berman and Julie Arbel, lecturers from OBC's English Unit.

This will then be followed by a meeting at TAU to discuss the Train- the-Trainer aspects of WP 4, together with Dr. Ofra Inbar and Elana Spector-Cohen (TAU) and Dr. Miriam Symon (IDC).

We are looking forward to presenting our WP in Nicosia.



JULIE ARBEL, VICTORIA ROBINSON, DR. LINDA WEINBERG, DR. LAUREN BERMAN

Focus on a Partner – The University of Nicosia (UNic)

University Profile



The University of Nicosia) is the largest private university in Cyprus with over 5500 students. It is an independent, co-educational, equal opportunity institution of higher education, which offers a wide range of programmes. The University offers undergraduate as well as graduate studies in business, science, medicine, education and the liberal arts. International in philosophy, the University accepts students from all over the world, in a multicultural learning environment that promotes friendship, cooperation and understanding. The University's motto is *Excellence in Education*. This commitment is reflected in its internationally recruited faculty, in its growing research production and in its rich programme of activities, contributing to the society and economy of the country. (UNic www.unic.ac.cy)

Research at UNIC

The University of Nicosia believes that research is vital to the provision of a stimulating learning environment in which faculty and students flourish and fulfill their potential. The University also believes that involvement in research ensures the design and delivery of the University's curriculum is both up-to-date and relevant. This is reflected in its vision as it clearly highlights that the University

aspires to be a leading contributor to excellence in education and research. To this extent also, the University, through the Research & Innovation Office (RIO), is promoting a research culture and is creating a space that will assist in stimulating research.



UNIC CENTRAL BUILDINGS & AMPHITHEATER (THE UNESCO AMPHITHEATER IS INDOORS!)

It is the belief of the University that research encourages the development of open and critical minds – a vital part of the University’s education philosophy through which students interact with faculty and researchers who are working at the forefront of subject knowledge and professional practice and are also involved in research through student projects and case studies. Research at UNic focuses on global and local issues including health, complex networks, social organization, education, ICT, engineering, and environmental sustainability. Researchers at the University are interested in examining challenges in modern life from a wide range of perspectives, including technological and scientific advances, modern culture and thought, and apply their expertise derived from addressing local, regional and national issues to global challenges and develop teams to bring disciplinary strengths together to approach key issues with global impact. The University, through its participation either as partner or coordinator, has developed a wide base of knowledge and expertise both from the academic and research point of view but also from the project management aspect.



UNic's ECOSTAR TEAM;

The ECOSTAR team includes (from left to right) Maya Tapeh, Assistant to the Research & Innovation Office, Constandinos Garibaldinos, Finance Officer Research & Innovation Office, Anna-Maria Andreou, Lecturer, Department of Languages and Linguistics, Victoria Kalogerou, Associate Lecturer, Department of Languages and Linguistics, Anthos Shekeris, Acting Director (seated).



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Dear ECOSTAR partners,

Thank you to all who contributed to the newsletter. This is a reminder to please document your meetings with photos, send in summaries, articles, researches, news, references of interest, etc.

In best support,

Judy