

ICT-INOV: Modernizing ICT Education for Harvesting Innovation

3rd Consortium Meeting

Kathmandu, November 2 – 4, 2022

Location

Pulchowk Campus, Institute of Engineering (IoE)

Tribhuvan University

Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal

(Zero Energy House, Centre for Energy Studies)

The 3rd consortium meeting of project ICT-INOV took place on November 2-4, 2022 at Kathmandu and Tribhuvan Universities in Nepal.

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

The meeting took place at the Pulchowk Campus, Institute of Engineering (IoE), Tribhuvan University at Kathmandu. The meeting was opened by Prof. Dr. Shashidhar Ram Joshi - Dean, Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University.

Current status of project implementation

Subsequently, Hariklia Tsalapatas, the project coordinator, provided an overview of the current status of implementation of the project.

Work package 1: Preparation is now complete. The output of this work package is D1.1 State of the Art report, which is available on the project portal.

Work package 2: Methodological Learning Design is complete. The work package has 2 deliverables. The first of those is D2.1 Methodological Learning Framework, which is organized on 2 tangents: the first part of the report focuses on the analysis of student input generated through questionnaires in relation to their understanding of innovation skills, processes, and methodologies. The second part focuses on the gamified design thinking approach introduced by the project, which constitutes the basis for the implementation of the digital learning services (see work package 3).

Work package 3: Implementation will be completed on month 36. It focuses on the design of digital learning services for innovation, learning activities to be integrated into the digital learning services, lab development at partner universities located in Asia, and instructor training for facilitating the adoption of the ICT-INOV learning intervention for innovation skill building.

The purchasing of the equipment for the physical labs is for the most part complete. Some partners may wish to purchase some small final pieces of equipment. The labs are under construction and will be completed before the interim report. This is deliverable D3.1 Physical Labs.

The digital learning services for collaboration are complete. They provide a digital space that supports students and educators in innovation building activities. For educators, the platform provides services for structuring learning activities using gamified design thinking and on associating these activities with courses, in which they create team workspaces for their students and can monitor student work. For students, the platform allows team collaboration and idea sharing throughout the design thinking steps of problem discovery, empathy, problem statement definition, ideation, prototyping, and evaluation. This is deliverable D4.2 Digital Learning Services.

The creation of digital learning activities is well underway. Approximately 40 activities have been created so far. This is very good progress, as the proposal foresees 50 activities by project completion. More are expected in the coming months. This is deliverable D4.3 Educational Activities.

Instructor training is underway at all partner sites. Each partner will organize 4 - 5 events by project completion, engaging at least 30 educators. This is deliverable D4.5 Instructor Training.

Piloting of the labs and digital learning services is also underway at all partner sites. By the end of the project, the goal is to use the services and/or labs in at least 5 courses. All partners have initiated this process, with results being reported and published on the project portal. This is deliverable D4.5 Piloting.

Work package 4: Community building started on month 19 will be completed on month 36. It focuses on three main activities.

The first is 2 week-long instructor training events with the engagement of educators from all partners. These events took place in Porto and Hanoi. The consortium may pursue a 3rd event in the future if this is in agreement with the project officer to address needs of educators that were not able to attend, mainly in the first of the 2 events that took place in Porto, due to COVID-19 restrictions. These are deliverables D4.4 and D4.5 Training Events in Porto and Hanoi.

The second activity involves the organization of webinars for building a community of good practice as well as a national event at each partner site, which will take place at the end of the implementation period. Webinars are already under already underway, with 2 having been organized. This is deliverable D4.1 Webinars.

The third activity involves the development of good practices that will promote the wider uptake of project outcomes. This activity is now being initiated according to the project proposal. This is deliverable D4.6 Good Practice Guidelines.

Finally, a final project conference is planned at the end of the project implementation period. This is deliverable D4.3 Final Conference. National level events are foreseen at each partner site. This is deliverable D4.2 National Events. These activities will take place towards the end of the project implementation period.

Work package 5: Dissemination is well underway. The consortium has been very active in this area, and all activities are published on the project portal.

The project portal is functional and is continuously updated. This is deliverable D5.1.

The project newsletter is under way. Two out of 4 foreseen issues have been developed. This is deliverable D5.2.

Three scientific articles have been published, exceeding the proposal target of 2. This is deliverable D5.3.

Several internet articles have already been produced as a result of press releases and other activities. This is deliverable D5.4.

Media articles, 2 press releases have been achieved. This is deliverable D5.5.

Social media: The project has a very active Facebook® page. Also, partners publish regularly on their organizational social media. This is deliverable D5.6.

The project leaflet is complete and translated to the national languages of project partners. This is deliverable D5.7.

Links to project on partner portals: Partners have published articles on the project on their organizational portals. The links are available on the project portal.

Work package 6: Quality Assurance is underway. Two activities are foreseen: internal and external evaluation.

In relation to internal evaluation, the partners have been filling in questionnaires every 6 months. The results are compiled into an internal evaluation report, due with the interim report. This is deliverable D6.1 Internal Evaluation Report.

In relation to external evaluation, the consortium is in the process of hiring an external evaluator through an open tender process. This is deliverable D6.2 External Evaluation Report.

Work package 7: Project Management continues as planned. This activity refers to financial and administrative management on a periodic basis as well as the organization of consortium meetings.

Methodological learning framework, review of institutional strategies

Partners engaged in a workshop on reviewing the institutional strategies, which have already been developed. The project has a consortium level institutional strategy, which foresees a vertical approach for promoting innovation skill development, consisting of the development of physical infrastructures, digital infrastructures, open educational content, instructor training, and community building. This high-level approach is then adapted to the needs of each participating organization. Each organization analyses needs, identifies courses in which the proposed gamified design thinking approach will be used, designs a physical lab based on needs, describes an example of the use of this lab in an actual course, and provides a discussion on the adoption of the ICT-INOV learning methodology.

In this workshop, partners reviewed the description of the labs and updated the examples of use of the labs in a real course. The activity ensured that the institutional strategies are up to date with the purchasing of the equipment, which has been recently completed, in-line with organizational needs.

Workshop on the ICT-INOV digital learning platform

Partners are already familiar with the ICT-INOV gamified design thinking platform, as they are already using it in piloting activities. The purpose of this workshop was to ensure that all course spaces currently in use in the platform can also be accessible through sharing by an account

specifically created specifically for EACEA to allow the evaluators to take a look at the platform functionality and its actual use in courses. Evaluators will be able to review the courses as well as student projects, getting a clear perception of platform use.

Good practice guidelines

Good practice guidelines aim to help educators beyond the consortium implementation team to deploy the proposed gamified design thinking approach.

Activities include webinars, which are already underway. Two webinars have taken place and are described on the project portal. More will take place in the coming months. The target until the end of the project is to organize at least 6 webinars.

Activities further involve the development of good practice guidelines for the preparation of educational activities and their deployment. These guidelines are organized as page-long descriptions organized in fields that include a title, a description of the issue, a solution, and the authors' names.

Consortium members engaged in a workshop in which they developed an initial set of good practice recommendations, which will be published on the project portal. The recommendations will be documented into a report at the end of the project implementation period.

Thursday, November 3, 2022

The meeting took place at Kathmandu University. Partners were transported to Kathmandu University on a bus early on in the working day. The meeting was opened by Prof. Dr. Bhola Thapa, Vice Chancellor, Kathmandu University.

Project management

Partners engaged in a rigorous project management and administration session. First, the coordinator presented the information that all coordinators received by EACEA during a webinar on the preparation of the interim report, which took place in early October 2022. The information is also available on the project on-line sharing area for all partners to access.

Partners reviewed the text of the interim report, which has been shared by the coordinator, to ensure that all agree with the information provided. This text must demonstrate the work implemented in the project so far. The description must be clear to the achievements at the country and partner level.

In addition, the table of achieved results is available to all partners on the on-line sharing area of the project for review.

In relation to grant management, the rules were repeated for the benefit of participants.

For staff costs, partners must provide timesheets, joint declaration forms, proof of contractual relationship, and a summary of activities performed by each individual that has timesheets. Timesheets must focus on project deliverables. They must be signed by the person that is responsible for the project, which is typically a person with authority.

For travel costs, partners must provide the travel report forms, boarding passes, and invoices, in particular for air travel and hotel stay, but any other invoices incurred, such as for meals, are also of value.

For equipment costs, partners must provide 3 offers, invoice, and proof of payment in the form of a bank transfer slip.

The consortium has hired an auditor, an external company that will review all financial documents at the interim report and at the final report. The documents submitted by partners are available in the on-line sharing area of the project, which will be made available to the auditor immediately after the meeting. The auditor will review the information and provide recommendations and observations for the interim report. At the final report, the auditor will generate an audit certificate according to the EACEA rules. The hiring of the auditor is foreseen in the project proposal.

Quality assurance

Carlos Vaz the Carvalho, leader of work package 6 on quality assurance, presented the quality assurance plan. The plan involves both internal and external evaluation. In addition, it includes indicators of success, based on which project progress will be measured.

Internal evaluation is conducted every 6 months. The work package leader presented results from previous evaluation rounds. The results demonstrated that partners are for the most part satisfied with the progress of the project implementation, understand the project objectives and activities, as well as the management rules. Some room for improvement was evident after the 1st and 2nd consortium meetings, which is expected as these meetings are early in the implementation period. To ensure that all partners understand the objectives and management rules, the consortium has been organizing virtual conference calls on a monthly basis. In each of these calls, the objectives and management rules have been repeated for the benefit of the partners.

A committee of 3 – 4 individuals from partner organizations will be created to review the internal evaluation activities before the interim report.

External evaluation will be conducted by an external evaluator, a company that will be hired by EUTrack following an international tender process. The process is underway. The project proposal foresaw that the external evaluator would be hired by Porto Polytechnic. However, this has not been possible due to extensive internal administrative reorganization that Porto Polytechnic is undergoing. After receiving approval by the project officer, the consortium decided that EUTrack will hire the external evaluator. The external evaluator will produce 2 assessments on project progress, including deliverables and processes, one for the interim report and the other for the final report. The external evaluation assessment for the interim report will be made available on the project portal.

Presentations on piloting, use in courses, instructor training, and lab development

Partners presented the activities related to the use of the ICT-INOV digital learning platform in courses. Presentations included descriptions of the courses in which gamified design thinking has been or is being applied as well as photos. The information is available also on the project portal. This information is being documented into a report on piloting, which will be completed at the end of the project implementation period. A mid-project progress report on piloting is under development and will be available on the project portal. Also, the same information will be available in the Piloting page of the project portal.

In addition, partners presented the labs under development at each university located in Asia. The labs are mostly complete. Each partner presented the configuration of the lab and showed photos of the lab spaces. All equipment has stickers with the logo of the project and Erasmus+ for project

visibility purposes. In addition, each lab will soon have a plaque at the entrance with the same logos for visibility purposes.

Finally, partners presented information on instructor training activities, which are underway at each university in the consortium. Each partner is organizing activities. Information on the activities, including the program and content, the participants, and photos, are available on the project portal. Instructor training is an on-going process. This means that each partner will organize a series of 4-5 events throughout the project implementation period.

Friday, November 4, 2022

The meeting took place at the Pulchowk Campus, Institute of Engineering (IoE), Tribhuvan University.

Workshop on learning activity development

Partners engaged in a workshop led by Triinu Jesmin and Jaanus Terasmaa from Tallinn University on the design of learning activities in the ICT-INOV digital learning platform.

Partners worked on groups, introducing new activities into the platform. The activities will be further reviewed and will be made public for the benefit of all educators using the platform.

The workshop allowed the consortium to enrich the collection of learning activities already available for the benefit of participating organizations and other interested parties.

Impact

The consortium reviewed the impact indicators and had a discussion on how the project outcomes will benefit the target higher education community. Indicators of success include:

Preparing 1 institutional strategy per partner.

Preparing 1 state of the art analysis per partner.

Development of at least 45 learning activities, available through the ICT-INOV digital learning platform.

Organization of at least 4-5 instructor training events at each partner site, reaching at least 30 educators, for a total of 360 educators consortium wide.

Organization of at least 6 webinars for community building purposes.

Reaching at least 1.200 students through piloting activities.

Reaching at least 50.000 individuals through dissemination.

Deploying the proposed gamified design thinking approach in at least 5 courses at each partner site.

Authoring at least 2 scientific articles.

Preparing 4 issues of the project newsletter.

Preparing a leaflet, translated into all partner national languages.

Building 1 lab at each partner organization located in Asia.

These indicators will be used for internal evaluation purposes to allow the quantification of project achievement.

Next consortium meeting

The next consortium meeting will be held in Ho Chi Minh City on April 3-5, 2023.

Next instructor training event

The consortium will ask for permission by the project officer to organize a 3rd weeklong instructor training event on February 20-24, 2023 in Greece. Should it be allowed, the event will be additional to the ones organized in Porto and Hanoi. It will help reaching the target number of 66 instructors foreseen in the proposal, which has not been reached because several partners were not able to attend the event in Porto due to COVID-19 restrictions, despite best efforts.