

★ MUSICC - Multi-Sensory Information On Climate Change European project LEONARDO

Roumanie

Romanian Society for Lifelong Learning (SREP), RO

Starting date : 01/10/2008

Context

According to the 4th Report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007, as compiled by 600 climatologists drawn from 40 countries around the world, using 14 super computer models over a 3 years period, there is greater certainty than ever, that the current global warming is not a natural phenomenon. The report stated that there is a 90% chance that global warming is caused by human activity.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett when UK Secretary of State for the Environment, speaking at the Green Alliance in 2004 indicated the enormity of the issue of climate change in Europe when she said, "...climate change is the predominant global environmental issue where European leadership is vital...".

We support the notion that Europe should take a leadership role in this most urgent scientific, social and cultural maelstrom. We also agree that from an educational viewpoint much needs to be done to enhance knowledge of all EU citizens, across all age ranges, of this important scientific fact

Description

According to Sir David King – UK government’s chief scientific adviser in 2004: “The most recent science bore out the worst predictions...I am sure that climate change is the biggest problem that civilisation has had to face in 5,000 years...The most severe problem that we are facing today – more serious even than the threat of terrorism”

All scientific data regarding this domain contains substantial amounts of complex graphical data. This format is acceptable for people whose vision and hearing are unimpaired but for those people who are visually impaired there is exclusion from this important source of information, the hearing impaired to a lesser degree. This project, therefore, seeks to create and develop innovative learning materials in a range of formats that will be adaptable to the needs of people with sensory impairments; specifically visual and hearing impairments.

This project will target:

- Sensory impaired people in secondary education;
- Sensory impaired people in continuing education;
- Sensory impaired people in life long education.

It will provide both teacher support and lesson content materials for supporting people who have sensory impairments.

As this is a methodology and content project there is a relevance to several objectives across the spectrum of sub programs; they are itemized in this submission to show the trans-program compatibility of how this project will answer these objectives and priorities.

Partners

Royal National College for the Blind, UK (Applicant)
Sdrujenie Otvoreno Obstuvane, BG
Romanian Society for Lifelong Learning (SREP), RO
Multimedia Campus – University of Pavia, IT
Reherberlik ve Arastirma Merkezi, TR

Means

Budget: 370,966 Euro

Human Resources involved:
Managers, Trainers, Researchers, Technical, Administrative

Target group

Sensory impaired people in secondary education;
Sensory impaired people in continuing education;
Sensory impaired people in life long education.

Evaluation

Internal evaluation

Assessment

The repercussions of climate change reverberate for a very long time. The need to educate and inform succeeding generations about global warming and climate change is one of the more important lessons to learn in the education of all EU individuals.

The need to make this information accessible to learners with a sensory impairment who cannot access mainstream materials is a fundamental right supported by important EU policies and legislation. These reasons indicate why the project should have a legacy. After the project, the opportunity for the approaches laid out in this proposal regarding accessibility issues for this most important subject, has transferability potential to all EU states. All partners are committed to realizing this ambition. The materials developed will be a marketable product and it is planned that all partners will have the opportunity to carry on with commercial exploitation of the products in the post project period. One Workpackage specifically addresses the issue of a sustainable business plan. Subject to the outcome of the business plan it is anticipated that all partners will continue with the ongoing distribution of the project's products. The RNC is committed to the long term commercial exploitation of our EU projects and sees the results of this project as a sustainable commercially viable product. The RNC will make essential updates to the teaching materials for up to 3 years post-project.

It is foreseeable that interested parties will join the group in the post project period to exploit the results in their own countries. It is also foreseeable that the project's result would be commercially marketable in countries outside the EU – exporting EU pedagogical skills and innovations, thus meeting EU objectives to set global standards in education and technology. This potential would therefore bring in a net cash inflow into the EU in the long term.

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