



**EU Project: visuaLearning**

**Reference-No: 225773-CP-1-2005-1-DE-GRUNDTVIG-G1**

## **Monitoring Report 4**

**Reporting partner: Stichting Reflexion, The Netherlands**

**Reporting period: 1. December 2006 – 30. April 2007**

### ***Introduction:***

*As described in the project proposal it is planned to write regularly monitoring reports.*

*The reports should include information on:*

- *information about the progress*
- *establishment of local network*
- *development of group discussions with learners*
- *preparation of qualification workshops*
- *development of qualification concept*
- *difficulties and weak points*
- *strategies of problem solving.*

**Remark:** The frames are adaptable to the length of your answers.

## **Aspects for Monitoring Report**

### **Progress of project**

- **activities undertaken during the reporting period**

As a first task we engaged in research on the state of the art concerning visual learning in Education in the Netherlands. In an extensive survey the whole subject area is covered and the report is to be completed soon.

We worked on the establishment of a local network of valuable contacts, including the Arcus College (providing vocational training to 10000 students) and the High School of South Limburg, an academy for higher professional education. We would like to set up and carry out the qualification course with them.

- **successful experiences and / or events**

The survey on activities and developments related to visual learning, carried out mainly by Mrs. Pascale Veenings, provided many new insights and relevant on various aspects of visual learning in The Netherlands.

- **Difficulties and weak points**

A minor difficulty was related to joining a running project at a later stage, having little time to adjust to the tasks at hand and facing the need to catch up with completed and ongoing tasks as soon as possible.

Another difficulty that is not yet solved is to organize the workshop on visual learning. We were counting on Arcus College to be our partner (after trying the University of Amsterdam first), but they experience difficulties in handling this task, especially to provide a course or workshop programme that would be meaningful and useful for the group of teachers they had in mind.

We are however still in contact about the issue, while in the meantime looking for alternatives. The fact that the operational period for the project is prolonged is extremely helpful in our case.

- **feedback from others regarding the project**

From the project partners and even more from the project coordination we received support and encouragements during the start of our work (from 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2007 on). External contacts showed a more mixed response. The interest in the work field that we encountered at Arcus College was indeed promising, but the practical implications of our cooperation were more difficult to solve. In general we feel that the subject area has a lot to offer to the educational field, precisely because it is fairly new and unknown.

## Group discussions with learners

- **Description of target group(s)**

We are preparing the group discussions; they are foreseen for a period right after the summer holiday. Arcus College is cooperating closely with Reflexion to make this a successful activity.

- **Results and findings**

- **Consequences for the workshops and the qualification concept**

## Involvement of experts and establishment of local network

- **With whom did you work together?**

After contacting the University of Amsterdam we placed the emphasis of cooperation efforts to contacts in our neighbouring area: Hogeschool Zuyd in Heerlen/Maastricht (the High School of Professional Education of South Limburg) and Arcus College in Heerlen. We are in the process of extending our contacts further: one good candidate for cooperation on the qualification workshops is the Brabant Institute for Schools and Art Education, with which we have an ongoing partnership for various projects already: Visualearning would probably fit well into such a framework.

- **What have you done so far? What are your experiences?**

Our experience is that Visual Learning needs much more focus and attention in The Netherlands as only few people are really familiar with the subject; with some exaggeration we could say that it feels sometimes like we are addressing an underdeveloped country when we promote the project activities.

## Dissemination

- **What are your dissemination tools? (e.g. networks, magazines, newsletters...)**

Please refer also to the dissemination activity overview. In general we emphasize dissemination in the European context. At this level we benefit from the large number of European projects in which Atrium and Reflexion participate.

- **What have you done? - Overview of activities in general (in addition: please fill in the specific "dissemination form")**

- a) Desk and field research on visual learning in The Netherlands
- b) Writing and compiling a survey report on visual learning in The Netherlands (draft version available)
- c) Contacting educational institutions (University of Amsterdam, CESO Maastricht, Hogeschool Zuyd and Arcus College) to establish a regional network for project activities
- d) Contacting centres for educational expertise (Brabant Institute for Schools and Art Education) to establish a regional network for project activities
- e) Preparation of workshop programme
- f) Preparation of group discussions.

## Development of qualification concept

- **First steps**

The development of the qualification concept is in progress

- **Country specific aspects or interests**

In The Netherlands it is a subject area that does not yet attract massive attention, the project can and should be used to change this situation.

- **Open questions**

## Preparation and testing of qualification workshop

- **First steps**

The preparation of the qualification workshop is in progress

- **Country specific aspects or interests**

See above

- **Open questions**

- **Further steps**

## Remarks, questions and / or recommendations

- **Regarding the reporting period**

Obviously it takes time to get things going; we feel that there is some ground to cover before we have actually caught up with the other partners, but we will surely manage to do so.

- **Regarding the further steps**

- **Regarding the cooperation between the partnership**

Without hesitation we may say that the partnership operates and cooperates in a smooth and pleasant way.

**City / Date:** Geleen, The Netherlands / 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2007

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