



NEWSLETTER 1

DECEMBER 2011

Balancing the needs between training for future scientists and broader societal need: SECURE compares the MST curricula of the 5,8,11 and 13 years old and researches teachers' and learners' perceptions of MST education

The SECURE project has been **running for one year**. It is time for a first round up and for informing you on the status of the project.

The timing of the project shows three periods: one for developing research tools, one period in which these tools are used and applied, and the last period is dedicated to analysis of the data and reporting of the results. We are at the **end of period one** now.

Work package "management"

According to the EU evaluators one of the strengths of the SECURE project proposal was its **management strategy**. After one year of implementation it shows that this plan is indeed very effective and above all, very clear and self evident.

It is based on a quality management system (QMS) that is developed for their own organisation and on QMS that is developed for secondary schools. Reports of the external evaluator confirm this statement. The Katholieke Hogeschool van de Kempen is responsible. Job De Meyere is in charge.

The **balanced score card** is a large excel file that describes in a detailed way all tasks that are linked to the goals set by the project proposal. It is a dynamic instrument that guides all partners and work packages through the project's task list

The work package “design and analysis”

After kick-off meeting in Vorselaar (Belgium), design and analysis tools development were discussed during meetings in Enschede (The Netherlands) and Ljubljana (Slovenia). This work resulted in the following **tools to carry out the research** (see www.secure-project.eu and the factsheet that comes with this newsletter):

- ✓ *A curriculum screening instrument.* A design and analysis work package has developed this tool under the leadership of SLO (The Netherlands). All partners have filled out the instrument for all the topics required by the research plan: technology, mathematics and natural sciences (biology, chemistry and physics, or the integrated courses). Soon SLO will start analysing these documents and carry out a comparative study throughout the 10 countries involved.
- ✓ *Questionnaires for the 8, 11 and 13 years old learners.* These differ slightly according to the age. The one for the 8 years old counts 24 questions on 4 pages, divided in 7 rubrics. For the 11 and 13 years old we have 57 questions, on 10 pages within the same 7 rubrics.
- ✓ *Questionnaire for the teachers* who teach MST subjects in the same classes as the learners mentioned above.
- ✓ *Interview guidelines for the teachers.*
- ✓ *Interview guidelines* for the 8, 11 and 13 years old learners
- ✓ *Special interview guidelines for the 5 years old:* here, given the age, a different approach is opportune. The interview covers in short the same topics as the other interviews for learners, but adapted to the age. Questions from the questionnaires are implemented in order to gather basic information on those topics.

SECURE has its own meaning for “CSI” 😊

The combination of questionnaires and interviews enhances the validity of the information gathered



*Participants to the first of two meetings specially dedicated to **design and analysis of research tools**, in front of the SLO building (February 2011) in Enschede (NL). The second took place in Ljubljana in May 2011.*



Meanwhile partners have contacted the 15 school units required for the research, and at this very moment, the **first research** in the schools is starting up. In the **near future** the SECURE project researchers will visit schools and learners. Given the large numbers, this will take about 7 months

*10 countries,
150 school units,
600 classes,
900-1000 teachers,
12000 learners
...are involved*

Outreach at this moment focuses on finding people interested in the project as well as specialists willing to participate in an expert group meeting towards the end of the project. During this meeting experts bring in their expertise to evaluate and review the results. This meeting in June 2013 is also intended to provoke discussions about recommendations SECURE needs to formulate. Candidates are always welcome and can simply send an e-mail to express their interest to wim.peeters.int@telenet.be

The SECURE project was present at EPF conference in Kharkiv, ESERA in Lyon and GIREP in Jyväskylä.

During a **blue meeting** all SECURE partners gather to evaluate the progress of the project.

The second **blue meeting** is planned for the end of February: this means that at that moment all partners will (self)evaluate the project progress. To discuss first analysis of the curriculum screening instrument the project partners involved will meet in Vorselaar (Belgium) in May and again in Krakow (Poland) in September.

Antwerp, with its 600 years old cathedral hosted the *first blue meeting*. The participants stayed in a hotel next to it. From hotel to DKO venue was a 15-20 minute ride by bike. Taking different ways many participants **got to know the city** quite well. Sustainability and environment are part of the QMS.



*"You should stop earlier:
you work too hard and too
long"*

*Quote from the external
evaluator, Aug 29, 2011.*

www.secure-project.eu

Contacting the people from SECURE is easy: go to the website where you can find information of all countries, as well as all contact information within the 10 participating countries. Other issues on the website are still under construction.

If you have direct questions on the content of the project, please contact the coordinator via job.demeyere@khk.be

Any question on outreach, valorisation, meetings or expert group will be answered by wim.peeters.int@telenet.be

**You can expect the next newsletter
on SECURE before JULY 2012**

The SECURE team thanks you for being interested in our project!