Science Education Curriculum REsearch

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SCIENCE EDUCATION CURRICULUM RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER 2   July 2012

The SECURE project is half way now (June 12), the interim report is in its final stage.

This newsletter will give you some basic information on important results up to now. The design and test stage of research instruments is finshed. They are being applied in 10 countries in 150 schools and 600 classes at the moment.

The work package "Design and Analysis" cooperates with the work packages on "Curriculum data" and "School data"

Newsletter 1 has given an overview of all instruments SECURE uses for its research. These instruments have been fine tuned and translated and are now used in the schools.

The "Curriculum Spider Web" *(Van den Akker, 2003)*, depicts 10 fields that built up curricula: the rationale (vision, mission), aims & objectives of curricula, content, how learning activities take place, the role of the teacher, materials and resources used, grouping (with whom learning takes place), location, time and assessment.

There are three fields of interest in the research of SECURE: curricula, teachers and learners. CSI is the SECURE instrument for comparative study of curricula.

SECURE uses questionnaires and interviews to research perceptions of teachers and learners.

To collect **CSI data** from all partner countries in ONE overview, SECURE uses a special analysis instrument. Its structure is based on the Curriculum Spider Wed. Each step has a build-in check phase to avoid all possible errors.

The **data coming from questionnaires** are gathered in an Excel file that is transformed to SPSS format for further analysis. Debugging is an important phase here. Deadline: July 31 2012.

Data coming from interviews are visible in summary reports per country according to a format based again on the curriculum spider web. These reports are the intermediate analysis of the interviews and will be further elaborated by SLO. This will NOT be a comparative analysis. Prviewed date: October 2012.

Questionnaires have 180 questions for the teachers, 234 questions for the 13 year old learners, slightly less for the 11 year old, and still 111 questions for the 8 year old learners.

In all countries together SECURE needs more than 110000 pages of auestionnaires.

Work package "management"

The external evaluator monitors the work and the progress in the process of this project. His reports are taken into account to improve the collaboration and everything that results from a good working team: the "project intermediate outcomes", the deliverables, the reports, the meetings. He has been of great value and describes the management as "an example for all other projects, to be recommended to the EC"

QSI, the Quality Sreening Istrument is a method for self evaluation of certain sub processes within a project. Example: the actions of the work package leader are considered as a "critical success factor". After motivated scoring, steps for improvement towards the next phase (more to the right) are formulated by groups of participants of SECURE. The management of SECURE will do this step by step for a series of about 20 critical success factors in 9 fields.

SECURE participates in PROCONET, the network of European project coordinators. It links closely to other EU projects like Fibonacci, Establish and SAILS

NUMERICAL SCORE	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Indicator 1.2. Management system	The work package leader uses ad hoc feedback for ad hoc improvement of the project.		The work package leader focusses on different aspects of the project. The work package leader uses feedback to improve the project			The work package leader is focussed on the entire project. The work package leader ensures systematicaly feedback on possible improvement based on perception and evidence-		The leadership of the work package leader is improved by comparing with other work packages		The work package leader serves as a model for other work packages	
REMARKS - SUGGESTIONS - IMPROVEMENTS: WHY THIS SCORE? WHAT TO DO FOR A HIGHER SCORE?											

"Blue meetings" bring together representatives of all partners. The last one took place in Udine in February (see pictures on p.4). The next one will be held November in Enschede. The meeting in Krakow (Poland) in September will deal with first analysis of SECURE data.

The work package "Scientific coordination"

This work package deals with the overall coordination of the scientific part of SECURE. Apart from follow up and reporting on the progress within each work package, it is also in charge of "ethical issues". SECURE respects national laws and regulations, but nevertheless ensures that all research is approved by the school (represented by its responsible) and/or the teachers and/or the parents of the children that participate. Procedures with written evidences are installed.

Ethics is an important issue for projects that deal directly with children

The work package "Valorisation and dissemination"

There are two main tasks for this work package. Firstly **to inform "Europe"** on the outcomes of the SECURE project. Apart from scientific papers that will communicate the results in detail to the scientific world, in all countries also other stakeholders need to get informed: parents, learners, teachers and heads of schools (via "school events"), the national experts (via a national conference in each country) and the international community. The second task is valorisation: one of the main actions within SECURE **is organising an "expert group"** meeting.

The SECURE project will be presented on a poster during the WCPE in Istanbul in July.

The **"expert group meeting"** takes place in Antwerp from **June 3 to June 6 2013**. Experts will be invited to add value to the project by
- giving feedback to the results
- commenting on the recommendations of SECURE
- validating the results in view of their applicability for their own, country.

SECURE's FINAL CONFERENCE will take place in LEUVEN, Belgium, on 23rd and 24th of SEPTEMBER 2013.

Contact all participants from SECURE via the website www.secure-project.eu where you can find all information. Any question on outreach, valorisation, meetings or expert group will be answered by wim.peeters.int@telenet.be.

Picture 1: B. Rovšek (Ljubljana) explaining the progress in work package 3Curriculum data" during the meeting in Udine.
In the SECURE project "laptop" is not an idle word.

Picture 2: work in progress. Feedback and discussions on first experiences concerning interviews (work package "School data").

Picture 3: work in progress. Feedback and discussions on Curriculum Screening Analysis instrument (work package 'Design and analysis").

www.secure-project.eu

The SECURE team thanks you for reading about our project!