

**4th EM-iDEA Conference,
Novi Sad, Serbia, 3rd October 2012**

Plenary Session 3: Results and outcomes of the EM-iDEA ‘Survey of Available Tools and Services’ Activity

Abstract: This session was led by Mr. Francesco Girotti of the University of Bologna, a member of the EM-iDEA project and of the project’s Steering Committee. Along with the Needs Analysis activity, this activity is central to the project. The goal is to bring together a list of Services and Tools already available for helping coordinators manage joint programmes and partnerships, in the form of an online library available to Concilium members on the association’s website. At the University of Bologna, thanks are given to Ms. Valentina Manzato in particular, as well as to Ms. Giovanna Filippini and Ms. Francesca Maltauro. At Ghent University, thanks go to Mr. Andries Verspeeten and Mrs. Delfien Cloet for their work on the activity. The original presentation of the activity’s results and outcomes used during the presentation, which this report is intended to complement, is available at <http://www.em-concilium.eu/conferences.html>.

General summary: The main inputs for the activity were twofold: a desk-based web search of European-funded projects and private sector actors providing tools and services, and an online survey sent to Erasmus Mundus Action 1 and 2 coordinators, which comprised of both multiple choice and open questions. In fact the surveys were sent to Action 1 and 2 coordinators separately, with each survey containing specific questions tailored to each Action, although there were some general questions which were the same for both surveys. To give an example of the differences among the questionnaires, in the Legislation and Regulation section of the surveys, Action 1 participants were asked about curriculum development, whereas Action 2 participants were asked more about mobility.

In terms of statistics a total of 136 surveys were completed: 49 for Action 1, and 87 for Action 2. 51 countries were represented; 19 European countries and 32 third countries. The majority of Action 2 coordinators and partners surveyed (55 out of a total of 87) were from third countries. The answers given to the survey questions were cross-checked with the results of the web search. Although the respondents generally indicated that they would be willing to share their sources in the survey, the next step is to formally ask them for examples which would be uploaded onto the future online library.

The presentation gives examples of tools and services from the findings of the surveys and the web search in five main areas: Partnership; Legislation and Regulation; Marketing and Promotion; Managing Students; and Training.

Observations: It should be pointed out that the online library of services and tools to be created will not be an exhaustive list of all of the activity’s findings. Indeed an examination of the findings is underway and only the most relevant outputs will be included. The organisation of the library is still under discussion, with the categories still to be defined. The sites will not be ranked, instead there

will be a short description explaining the conditions of use for the sites, e.g. whether they are freeware or must be paid for. The target date for publishing the library is March 2013

In general, the quality of the information discovered via the web search and the surveys was high, although there were some variations according to the topic. For example, with regard to Managing Students, the answers given by survey respondents were more productive and of more interest than the results of the web search, whereas for Legislation and Regulation the opposite is true. Concerning respondent's answers, they often went beyond simply listing sites, which they used. They also added descriptions and gave feedback too. However, in spite of this, their answers cannot be taken as representative of the EM community at large.

Finally, as mentioned in the presentation, when the results of Activity 4 and 5 are taken together, a general feeling of a need for stronger support and facilities is perceivable from the EM Community at large.