

*Sara Zondergeld  
RayCom B.V.*

## **Notes from the SIGOSSEE meeting in Barcelona November 1-2 2004**

***November 1 2004***

### **1. Attendance**

Graham Attwell (the Knownet); Alexandra Tödt (University of Köln, partner JOIN); Marta Capdevila (University of Vigo, partner JOIN); Fiona Concannon, Mark Campbell (University of Limerick); Sara Zondergeld, Raymond Elferink (RayCom B.V.); Dirk Stieglitz (ITB); George Bekiaridis (ERGON K.E.K.); Søren Johansen (NewMediaLab); Dai Griffiths, Josep Blat (Universitat Pompeu Fabra); Ferran Cabrer (MUFICATA CONSEN); Mikhel Pilv (LeFo); Stuart Yeates (OSS Watch); Fred de Vries (Open University); Rosabel Roig Villa, Vincent Martinez (Université de Alicante); Frans .... (OSS platform in Barcelona).

### **2. Welcome to the Workshop in Barcelona and review of the Agenda**

A welcome to the workshop in Barcelona is expressed by Graham Attwell and some changes and insertions are made in the draft agenda.

### **3. Reports on Project activities**

Since the meeting in Limerick in June a lot of things happened. There were several conferences where the SIGOSSEE project was represented. At the **EU Concertation Meeting** on October 5-6 2004 and the **eLearning Consultation Workshops on eLearning Content** on October 27-28 2004 in Brussels, where the SIGOSSEE project got ample coverage. Raymond Elferink spoke about the effective dissemination of the SIGOSSEE project on the Concertation meeting. He presented the project in the section 'Effective Dissemination', chaired by Eugenio Riviere, for a full audience. He got an enthusiastic response. Alexandra Tödt, who was also present at the EU Concertation meeting, added that the European Commission representatives were saying that this large scale dissemination, communication and collaboration with other EU projects is not usual for a EU project and that they liked what we were doing so far.

### **4. Short Presentation of OSS platform in Barcelona**

Frans ... presented himself (in Catalan) shortly and said that he was at the meeting for a minute to let us know that he is happy with the SIGOSSEE project and to invite us to be in contact, which would be interesting for him since he is representing a, recently started, OSS platform in Barcelona. Dai Griffiths replied that they can maybe share their experiences with the working group 'Organisation and management issues' and work on it. Sara Zondergeld handed him a bundle of the newly printed flyers of the SIGOSSEE project to take with him, since he left the meeting after his statement.

### **5. The Position Papers of the EU Consultation Workshop**

Graham Attwell spoke about the Position Paper he and Raymond Elferink wrote for the eLearning Consultation Workshops. The paper is called: Creating, Sharing and Reusing e-Learning Content Access Rights for e-learning Content. Graham Attwell was present on Day 1 (theme 'Access Rights for e-Learning Content') and Raymond Elferink on Day 2 (theme 'Creating, Sharing and reusing e-Learning Content'). Day 1: the BBC was represented there too. There were large discussions, -with 'publishers' on the one side and the 'rest' on the other- about how to protect property on the Internet and what kind of rights would be best. In the recommendations which were formulated at the conclusion of these workshop days the six recommendation points to the e-learning community and to the European Commission from the Position Paper were mentioned and one of the conclusions was that the EU should embrace the Creative Commons Licence and move away from subsidising central databases for content, which was an idea of the 'publishers'. The EU will go for open content and probably don't want to compromise to the idea of the 'publishers'. Recommendations of Day 2 were that content which was made with public money should be open and public content (e.g. library of musea) too. In stead of making money on making new content, they should spent money on activating the content which has been created. A central european repository of content would be useless. Recommendations: look at a combination of a repository and peer to peer solutions. Simple easy-to-use-tools have to be free to everybody to (re)create content. The 'publishers' on Day 2 agreed on that if you have IPR material there has to be a structure to use parts of content (under different licenses) to put together and use again. The 'publishers' were thinking about re-use in general, not about content being changed and distributed.

A discussion started about the issues at hand wherein Stuart Yeates mentioned a model for dual licenses and Dai Griffiths the eContent Programm. Fred de Vries said the debate about content is also going to happen on institutional level. Graham Attwell concluded that as SIGOSSEE we need to push these issues and we might want to provide info on these debates.

A report of the eLearning Consultation Workshops on eLearning Content is available on:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/elearning/workshops/index\\_en.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/elearning/workshops/index_en.html)

*Coffee Break*

## **6. Report on JOIN conference**

Alexandra Tödt gave a report about the **JOIN conference**, held in Köln on September 13-14 2004. Although she started too late to get it properly organised -as a result of which less people showed up and some of the planned sessions had to be changed- still some interesting presentations were given and discussions were held. Graham Attwell, Dai Griffith and Raymond Elferink presented there too. Alexandra announced that there will be another JOIN conference though, probably in **april 2005**.

## **7. Report on other Conferences**

SIGOSSEE was represented on several conferences after the Limerick meeting with considerable success.

On the last day of the [IMAC conference](#) in Duisburg, Germany (September 13-15 2004), Alexandra Tödt, Dai Griffiths, Joachim Dittrich and Raymond Elferink gave presentations. The plan is that the papers written for this conference are going to be published. The papers of the SIGOSSEE partners are available on the OSSite and are products from the working groups 'Social, cultural and legal issues in OSS' and 'Organisation and management issues, sustainability and support infrastructural needs for OSS'.

Graham Attwell was the keynote speaker on the [K2 Summit: Researching Technologies for Tomorrow's Learning](#) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 20-21 2004.

On the [ICL conference](#) in Villach, Austria, September/ October 29-1 2004, were presentations in an invited session about Open Source Software and Education of Graham Attwell, R. Garcia (Universitat Pompeu Fabre) and Georg Pleger (Eduplone).

Raymond Elferink and Graham Attwell presented on the [ECER conference](#) in Crete, Greece, held September 22-25 2004, under NETWORK 2: VETNET in a session about 'Changing Models of Organisation, Technology and Learning: Open Source Software and Content in Education and Training'. Some talk emerged about the coverage and that everybody liked it very much. There were people there saying that that particular session was one of the most interesting ones of the whole ECER. The turnout was quite high for a slot on the last day of the conference, a saturday morning. This was partly due to the promotion of the session by frequently handing out SIGOSSEE flyers stamped with the session room number and time slot during the conference.

On the [Echallenges – E2004](#), Vienna, Austria, October 27-29 2004, were presentations of ...

Raymond Eflerink mentioned that [NESTA Futurelab](#), Bristol, UK, invited SIGOSSEE for an internal workshop of them about OSS, which will be held in december 2004.

Considering the list of conferences which were attended the idea arised to make material like 'a resource-package' available on the OSSite for more people to give presentations on conferences to come, because we can't do everything ourselves. We have to think how to move on. Søren Johansen volunteered to produce video material for that.

There is some talk about the newly printed flyers and why they are important. If needed we could ask people to contribute or localise them?

## 8. Report on SIG membership and development of membership service

Raymond Elferink made a simple web interface tool to create groups of users and a possibility to send e-mails out to them. If someone wants to contact people in a certain region or country we can now identify them and send them a separate e-mail. E.g. People signed up in the UK can also get a combination mailing list with OSS Watch who are already doing this in that way.

## 9. Meeting of SIGOSSEE Working Groups

*Task: each working group will report on how far they got and how they want to take it forward.*

The working groups meet up separately:

- a) Standards and Architecture for OSS – Graham Attwell, Søren Johansen, Alexandra Tödt
- b) User requirements and usability issues in the development of OSS - George Bekiaridis, Mark Campbell, Fiona Concannon, Ferran Cabrer
- c) Social, cultural and legal issues in OSS - Dirk Stieglitz, Stuart Yeates, Mikhel Pilv
- d) Organisation and management issues, sustainability and support infrastructural needs for OSS – Raymond Elferink, Sara Zondergeld, Dai Griffiths, Josep Blat, Fred de Vries

## 11. Report on JOIN product directory

Alexandra Tödt started with saying that the purpose of the JOIN directory is to investigate LMS's, but Ferran Cabrer asked if he could say something first. This was off-topic and was about planning a new project which should be large in itself according to Ferran. Graham Attwell said he could present that later when we would talk about future things. Alexandra continued after that and circulated her USB key, so everybody present was able to upload the template made for investigating the LMS's on their laptop. It is noted that Alexandra sended this in .pdf format already to Mike Malloch of the Kownet who was supposed to put it up on the OSSite, which has not been done so far.

Raymond Elferink pointed then out the other EU project under the elearning programme at Köln University, called TELEPEERS, website: <http://tv-imi.ub.es/telepeers/> . This project has a similar but different approach with almost an identical goal as JOIN. It was represented at the ECER conference where Raymond Elferink pointed out to the JOIN project to their representatives too. Alexandra Tödt said she tried to contact them and will try to get their questionnaires compared.

Graham Attwell asked Alexandra if she could write something, like a Key Issue, with the theme: *What VLE do I use?*

## 12. Report on work on Best Practices

It is summarised what was discussed and planned at the Limerick meeting in June. There were then two directions laid out: Ferran Cabrer would develop ideas how to use Best Practices and meanwhile produce **snapshots** with the template of JOIN. Each partner attempts to get one. The form should be available on the OSSite for others. Graham Attwell proposed that every partner funded should make one snapshot. Raymond Elferink expressed his concern about this, because if the Best Practices are going to be spread over every partner it will probably be too much work which wasn't accounted for in the assigned hours of every partner in the contract. Some others agreed with him.

Proposed was: circulate the template. Every partner should do one snapshot. Alexandra will coordinate with Ferran on the new or right version of it. Raymond Elferink said that if you look at these Best Practices Cases, we should look at it with an open mind. Are we going to grade that? Or research that? Concluded is that we look and see what we can learn from them. When we have initial cases in, we can have discussions and benchmarking but we have to have basic level of information first. We will drive this forward the next months and the steering committee will work with Ferran on that.

### 13. Developing information services

The steering group committee encountered the problem that people asked frequently for basic information. In the steering group meeting in August on Mallorca it was decided to provide for **Key Issues**. (see Notes on the OSSite: <http://www.ossite.org/activities/steeringmeeting/attach/Notes%20on%20the%20SIGOSSEE%20Steer.rtf>). Graham Attwell summed up the list which was made then of simple questions on which we like to give easy-to-read answers like, *What is an LMS?* or *What are the OSS security options?* We want to make a template for these Key Issues. We decided on one sheet first and initially in English in CCL, but it can be localised if necessary.

Graham Attwell said that OSS Watch (funded by JISC) seemed to have a similar idea like the Key Issues called: Briefing Notes. Stuart Yeats of OSS Watch handed out then one of these Briefing Notes (written in XML and PPF), called *Who contributes to Open Source software? And why do they give it away?* He explained that you can easily print any Briefing Note you like which is available on their website: <http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk> He also handed out a cd-rom with demonstrations with a range of OSS roadshow: presentations of education, talks, community they build ... He said he welcomes any suggestions and corrections.

Graham Attwell said that we could use these in our series and maybe help OSS Watch to translate them too, because now they are only available in English.

It was mentioned that it would be interesting to put several LMS's, which were tested by Alexandra Tödt, JOIN, on a cd-rom too. But it was argued that it would also be a lot of effort to get them printed.

Søren Johansen volunteered to make a video movie presentation to use.

#### 14. Presentation of Université de Alicante

Rosabel Roig Villa presented how they at the Université de Alicante, Catalunya, are using **webquest**, website: <http://webquest.org/>. Webquest is an elearning tool for teachers and learners. Teacher don't use it for didactical purposes but rather for information. She described the model of the webquests' (written in different languages, catalan too) which contains always the same parts: description, introduction, task, process, evaluation, conclusion, orientation and archives. They created an architecture based on OSS to make it easy to generate webquests where you can go in as an user to make one. She showed some webquests she created. Parts of the webquests can be modified with an online editor. It is not needed for teachers to know something of HTML or anything, because there are templates which are open to anybody to use, print and which are easy to modify. There is also a gallery of virtual images free available to anybody to use in their webquests. Each user can store their own images. When you make an webquest there is a revision moment (by her, since she is the administrator). It is used in 300 school now and about a 100 teachers created webquests yet. Rosabel Roig Villa handed out a souvenir on cd-rom to us of the conference they had last summer about webquest which was attended by 500 teachers.

It becomes apparent that rich pedagogy experiments in OSS have been done. We have to think about standards and implications and how it can be done in the future. Dai Griffith said he would be interested to see how to make it standardised in a good Learning Design. Alexandra Tödt mentioned that it looked well structured. It would be a good testcase, an example of a 'used case' study.

*Lunch Break*

#### 15. Report on working groups

It is noted by group a) that a lot of VLE's are out there and that the focus should be on tools, architecture and standards. They discussed presenting on a second strand in Köln on the second JOIN conference. Graham Attwell said he is preparing a short report and that the group will be online sometimes. They want to move away from re-inventing VLE's towards the collaborative developers. They want to revise and review work on that as an open and shared framework: contributing recommendations and start to organise. Group b) want to look at the profile of the developer and put in place a sort of strategy. A mediator approach between user and developer. With the three groups in mind ( learners, teachers, facilitators) how do you communicate between user groups and the 'techs' who make the different models? The OSS lifecycle is more organic (with the discussionboards e.g.) than the traditional software platforms. The problem at the moment is that usability is seen as outside the process, whereas it should be seen as a part of the process all the way. Developers make the decisions of priorities most of the time instead of the users. A good example and a start is Moodle, they have a lot of respect for the needs of the users. Graham Attwell

saw two problems: who are the users? Teachers or learners? And usability of the software, how do we translate pedagogical design in technical features? Shall we use 'Use Cases'? 'EML's'? A lively discussion started about these issues with in the end the suggestion of Stuart Yeates to make 'a guide of pedagogy for the software developer', 'pedagogy for dummies' or 'Bluff yourself into pedagogy'. Graham Attwell urged to get this debate on the website forum and continue *there* with it. Group c) started on economical issues first. Free content and sell content are the problems. Dirk Stieglitz mentioned that there is a lot of free content out there already, so there will not be a danger of exclusive elearning content becoming expensive. The area of legal issues will be discussed and researched further in ITB. The fact that it is different in the new EU countries is taken into account. Group d) wrote their first paper -which was presented and discussed on several conferences- to try to clarify the persistently existing metaphor of the Cathedral and the Bazaar, to clarify how the discussion should NOT be going. After this the aim of group d) is a scientific, academic article or paper, but not as the only result, because practical info in the form of the Key Issues, out on the website will also in a parallel way be aimed at. There has to be an administration tool to address people to get them about!

## 16. Planning of future activities

Graham Attwell emphasised that we want to see SIGOSSEE as an umbrella organisation in future. We want to broaden the concept to include content and talking about content. We will apply under funding a new elearning platform. SIGOSSEE will continue through networking, discussing ideas, publishing information and by going from country to country. We don't want to mess it up or narrow it down. The steering committee will discuss with the commission to get funding. There are four classification types of projects (which will involve some members of SIGOSSEE but probably not all): geographically space (OSSWatch e.g.); sectorial (forms a group, looking at the use of OSS compulsory schooling); thematic projects (e.g. Dai's Unfold about LD specifications) and practice.

Then there was some time for people who wanted to put forward an idea for new things.

Mikhel Pilv said that it would be interesting to look at what kind of organisational solutions the EU countries have. It would also be interesting to learn from the new countries if their ideas are good. In the old countries everything is already in place. Some of their traditions are excellent but changing things in those countries is sometimes very difficult. There is too much focus on technology instead of on the human factor. It is agreed that Mikhel writes a paper about this and include it in the newsletter, send it to the others and ask them for comment. Get it under the SIGOSSEE/JOIN umbrella is better than doing this alone. Ferran asked Mikhel one or two pages about what he wants to do.

Ferran Cabrer talked about EOSCIS: European O.S. cooperative Info-Space. This will be a webportal to exchange experience and cooperate in the field of e-government. To search between companies for Best Practices and learn from

experience of an expert with good or bad recommendation. Website: <http://eoscis.net> He also announced a networking session where he will be on the conference in The Hague in the Netherland in november 2004.

Agreed was that there should be some dissemination on **the LearnTech** in the form of a flyer together with OSSWatch, Unfold, SIGOSSEE and JOIN? It is proposed to move this forward. Peter Bauer can offer space on the commission stand. To go to Online Educa is too late for SIGOSSEE, but Unfold will be there. Website: [www.online-educa.com](http://www.online-educa.com) We gave Fred de Vries leaflets to distribute them there, because there are two sessions on O.S. Alexandra will be there too. Graham will hand out leaflets in Berlin.

### **17. Next SIGOSSEE meeting in Athens**

The next SIGOSSEE meeting will be in Athens, Greece. It will have the same format as in Barcelona with one day meeting and one day public seminar. Proposed dates are 21 and 22 february 2005.

Dai Griffiths said some words on the Public Seminar. He would like to keep it informal, to have discussions and to try make your position if possible.

Everybody received a large stack of SIGOSSEE flyers for dissemination purposes.

*november 2 2004*

### **18. Public Seminar**

The public seminar was divided in four short sessions with different themes: Open Content; Open Standards; Open Source Learning Management Systems and Organisational Models, with a panel discussion after each session. The seminar started with a short introduction about SIGOSSEE by Graham Attwell who also chaired the first two sessions. **The first theme about Open Content** started with the speaker Jesus M. González-Barahona about the Edukalibre project. The idea is to build and test a software system for collaborative production of materials which is simple to use and built with free software. The project is in the second year now. Everybody is invited to use it and contribute to it. Website:

[www.edukalibre.org](http://www.edukalibre.org)

Second speaker Francesc Busquets spoke about the Clic project. Clic enables teachers to arrange additional activities for their students in the form of multimedia presentations (for primary and secondary schools). Website: <http://clic.xtec.net> Clic is freely available. He showed some examples in catalan about what you can make with it: puzzles (based on pictures, text, mathematics), associations and text activities (like fill in blancs). It can be rebuild on the fly, you can define a framework and the program generates it randomly. Third speaker is Dirk Stieglitz about open content and IPR. Title of presentation: 'The growing importance of IPR all rights reserved – some rights reserved !!?' He sketched the hihglights of IPR-history and what is happening today. Although there are six directives to harmonise the different laws on IPR in Europe, still every national copyright law in Europe is different. What could be done now for sharing content: CCL is C for some rights, cc for no rights and pd for public domain. Fourth speaker is Mikhel Pilv about the project LeFo, LearningFolders. LeFo

platform contains 25.000 pieces of content which can be freely used. You can make your own worksheet. But quality doesn't lie in original worksheets but in the process of creating your own content. When we learn we produce content. Content will not be the problem but select the right one is. The panel discussion focused on the missing link between the many projects and initiatives in open content which are out there and if SIGOSSEE can be the umbrella group here.

**The second theme about Open Standards** started with speaker Dai Griffiths about the project Unfold. The need for interoperability and being open to all platforms asks for standardising elearning and not constraining. Unfold supports the implementation and adoption of IMS LD. He encouraged people to post in the forums. Website: [www.unfold-project.net](http://www.unfold-project.net) IMS Learning Design doesn't model learning but what people do in an educational context. It gives for the first time a formal representation of what the teacher does.

Second speaker is Fred de Vries who gives a brief introduction to Coppercore. Coppercore is an O.S. IMS LD engine with an easy interface and which is able to process IMS LD documents (units of learning). Coppercore v.2.0 is just released and they like to get feedback! Website: [www.coppercore.org](http://www.coppercore.org)

Third speaker is Stuart Yeates who spoke about OSSWatch. OSSWatch is looking at the rest of the Open Source Software, in stead of specific elearning software. It functions as an Open Source Advisory Service. They provide for general information about O.S.S. in the form of Briefing Notes which are published on the website. Graham Attwell added the intended translation of these Briefing Notes.

Last two sessions were chaired by Alexandra Tödt. **The third theme about Open Standards for Learning Management Systems** started with speaker Fred de Vries about the potential of O.S. Virtual Learning environments. The future is in modular VLE's and offering all the functionality in one package only will become less important. Discussion points are: Why is everyone starting from scratch their own VLE? What is the best formula or business model to maintain it?

Second speaker is Marta Capdevila. Alexandra gives first an introduction about JOIN because Marta is from the JOIN project. Everybody from the JOIN project presents on their Open Door Days in the language of the country where these are held. Dai Griffith translated simultaneously in english through headphones. Marta spoke about the evaluation questionnaire of 'tele learning' platforms they made with JOIN and handed out a draft questionnaire in spanish. Website: [www.ossite.org/join/sp](http://www.ossite.org/join/sp)

**Theme four about organisational models** started with speaker Enrique Félez who presented in catalan. The presentation is titled: free software, the city of knowledge. Knowledge should not have barriers. Tools have to be open and free. The city hall thinks free software is essential and considers to move to open software because of costs, standards, security and because free software is a good way to promote local economy. On 21 july 2004 they had an open meeting where they presented a program, a set of actions to promote O.S. in society, private and public.

Second speaker is Joan Antoni Català from Tsystems about clusters for innovation. This initiative is based on a creation of associative model to share

innovation with private and business oriented focus. It joins catalunyan ICT players. Tsystems as the biggest ICT service supplier (1200 employees) doesn't want to create ICT discussion forums but business forums. The clusters of innovations are the place where people join and find opportunities to share.

Final goal → new projects. [innovacio@clustersinnovacio.org](mailto:innovacio@clustersinnovacio.org)

Third speaker Cristina Barrado spoke about the creation of la Càtedra de programari lliure (the cathedral of free software). The cathedral is different from the bazaar idea. The initiative is to go inside the cathedral and be part of the community. This is the political part of the work.

Fourth speaker is Raymond Elferink who gave insight in how his ICT company RayCom, as programmers, works with a client. Most of the time it works best if we invest a lot in talking about the project and the programming options with the client. The client feels then more of an owner to the project although they don't understand the coding really. Raymond stressed that today every piece of software is actually a pilot, also proprietary software. The user has to be part of the workgroup and not be merely part of the external environment to make a good 'product'.

The public seminar was attended by 52 people. Every speaker got several questions after their presentations and there was a good deal of discussion going on with the public and the panels after each session.

The next seminar in Athens was announced.