



Tempus



English as the Cornerstone of Sustainable Technology and Research



August 2015

Issue 7 Consortium Meeting Edition



THE MAN WITH THE FLAME IN MAASTRICHT

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4th Tempus ECOSTAR Consortium Meeting, hosted by The University of Maastricht, Sept 7-8, 2015.

It's been 6 months since we were in Nicosia for the last consortium gathering, and yet with so many activities taking place in the interim, it doesn't feel as if so much time has passed. From work package meetings to training workshops, both in Israel and in Europe, much has been going on and many people have been involved. The intermediate report recounting all the achievements to date and the challenges we have faced, and which was submitted to Brussels in June, well and truly marked the half-way stage of the project, and I am happy to report that the feedback we have just received was very positive. However, there is no time to rest on our laurels as we prepare for implementation of the project's deliverables.

During the meeting in Maastricht, there will be in-depth discussions relating to each of the work packages, and detailed planning and scheduling of the upcoming tasks. We have made great progress in the last year and a half, and the effort that the partners have put in is reflected in the achievements to date. There are great challenges ahead, and I look forward to facing those with you all together.

Wishing you all safe journeys and looking forward to seeing you in Maastricht soon.

Linda



ECOSTAR 4th Consortium Meeting

Hosted by Maastricht University February 7th-8th, 2015

Day 1 - Monday 7th September

09.00 - 09.15	Registration at Maastricht University
09.15 - 09.30	Welcome remarks (MU): Clive Lawrence, and Dr. Ron Corvers, Director of ICIS, International Centre for Integrated assessment and Sustainable development (ICIS), UM
09.30 - 10.00	Opening remarks and project overview: Dr. Linda Weinberg
10.00 - 10.30	Walk to language center Coffee break
10.30 - 11.45	WP9: reporting, budget and management issues: Dr. Linda Weinberg and Judy Pressman WP6: quality review and report updates: Victoria K (UNic)
11.45 - 13.00	National EFL framework: WP1 updates - data, discussion issues Dr. Lisa Amdur and Iair Or (TAU)
13.00 - 14.15	Lunch & Group Photo
14.15 - 15.30	Discussion on national framework issues; finalizing syllabi for 3 Israeli levels, ready for piloting in October Dr. Lisa Amdur and Iair Or (TAU) Assessment issues: writing rubric - discussion Dr. Ruthy Fortus (NITE)
15.30 - 16.15	WP5: Eli Shmueli (IUCC) What's new, what's in the offing, challenges, questions and answers on requirements (repository/Merlot; Moodle; Word Press; final version of Ecostar website). Ongoing support
16.15 - 17.00	WP3: Dr. Ingrid Barth and Dr. Shaya Kass (OUI) - updates on WP3 deliverables, repository, mobile app development
17.00 - 17.15	Summing up day 1, reviewing schedule of planned events
17.15 - 19.00	Walking tour of Maastricht. Return to hotel; free time
19.00	Dinner in the Perroen

Day 2 - Tuesday September 8th

09.30 - 10.30	WP2: Dr. Miriam Symon and Monica Broido (IDC) - WP2 integration with WP1, WP3 and WP5, ongoing development in LO creation, cooperation with other partners, piloting options
10.30 - 11.15	WP7: Yshai Gabai (SCE) dissemination - review the plan: what is planned for the next 6 months - discussion on possible activities, types of materials, ways to reach target audiences - partner contributions
11.15 - 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 - 13.00	WP8: Yshai Gabai (SCE) sustainability - review the plan; challenges facing implementation and adoption of the new framework; discussion on how to deal with these challenges
13.00 - 14.15	Lunch
14.15 - 15.30	WP4: Dr. Victoria Robinson, Prof. David Harper (Uleic), Dr. Linda Weinberg (OBC) EMI updates, "show and tell" Sustainable Futures units ready for piloting, virtual field course
15.15 - 16.00	General Assembly: issues for discussion and agreement relating to ongoing running of the project and attainment of targets; preparation for field monitoring
16.00 - 16.45	Summing up day 2, review of plans for next 6 months
18.00	Bus to Vijverdal, Dinner at Bergerstraat 30

We are also pleased to let you know that Bob Wilkinson will be joining us and will contribute from his experience with EMI. We look forward to seeing him again and to his input in the consortium meeting.

Preparation to the Consortium Meeting

In preparation for the upcoming meeting, partners are kindly asked to:

1. Read the interim report and be ready for discussion of progress in each of the WPs, together with your suggestions for next steps.
2. Review WP1 can-do survey in preparation for in-depth discussion in WP1 session.
3. Review Ruthy's proposed draft rubric for exit writing ability.
4. Review the dissemination and sustainability plans in WP7 and WP8 and prepare suggestions for future activities.
5. Enter the ECOSTAR website and review it critically and in depth, both as an external visitor and a partner with access to the inner working pages. Bring your suggestions to the discussions.

A Dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.

Colin Powell

Useful Information for coming to Maastricht

Clive has kindly provided the following information to ease your travel and time of stay in Maastricht.

Transport on Arrival:

For those travelling from Amsterdam Airport (Schiphol), the train station is joined together with the airport. Just follow the signs. You need to buy a ticket to Maastricht CENTRAL station, either from a manned kiosk, or a machine using a VISA card (28.70 euro one-way). The train takes 2hrs 35mins.

You need to change once in Utrecht (or Sittard) and it is clearly signposted. The second train usually comes into the same platform, or on the other side of the same platform. The overhead signs on the platform are very clear. The time between arriving and departing on the second train is 8 minutes.

<http://www.thetrainline-europe.com/plan/amsterdam-schipol-airport-ams-to-maastricht?departDate=2015-08-23&departTime=17-01&earlierJourneys=false&earlierReturnJourneys=false>

If you are spending time in Amsterdam before travelling to Maastricht, take the train to Amsterdam Central.

Tram/bus tickets for travelling round Amsterdam can be purchased at the Tourist Information Office (VVV) in a small building immediately outside the exit to the station.

Trains run from Amsterdam Central to Maastricht Central every 30 minutes and take 2hrs 30mins.

For those flying into Eindhoven, there is a shuttle bus to the station right outside the airport terminal. From Eindhoven station the train to Maastricht Central takes an hour. (The same line as the train from Amsterdam).

Note: Be sure to get in one of the front 3 carriages of the train when going to Maastricht, as the train sometimes splits in Sittard and you may find yourself on the wrong line going to Heerlen!

For those requiring a taxi from the airport of their arrival, our local friendly taxi company is Sittard/Geleen Taxi Service. Telephone: 0031 464 000398 E-Mail: info@sgtaxiservice.nl Clive can book it for you, or if you book direct, please quote "Maastricht University Ecostar". They charge 130 euros from Brussels to Maastricht and slightly less from Eindhoven.

On arrival at Maastricht Central station, you can either walk to the Mabi Hotel, which is just off the market square (10 minutes) or take a bus. The bus station is immediately outside the station exit (no need to go through the main Station entrance hall – just go directly outside the station from the platform). Bus number 1, 3, 10, 53 all go to the Market (stopping by the statue of the man holding a flame) and run every few minutes until 19.00, after which there are 2 busses an hour. The Mabi Hotel is at Kleine Gracht 24, a very small road that runs off the Market square, along the left side of the Hotel de la Bourse, which is behind the Town Hall.



THE TOWN HALL

Transport in Maastricht:

On Monday morning will walk (10 minutes) from the Mabi hotel to the UM Faculty of Law (in the Bouillonstraat 1-3) for the opening session: Departing at 09.00. Either Pauline or Clive will be there to guide you. If you are staying somewhere other than the Mabi, please let Clive so he can arrange to collect you en route.

All the venues and restaurants are within 10 minutes walking of the hotel (except for the dinner on Tuesday evening, for which you need to take a bus no 10 from the market to Vijverdal, departing at 5.18, 5.48 and latest 18:15). The house is 100 metres from the Vijverdal bus stop. You will have no problem seeing it.

Weather and Currency

The Maastricht long range weather forecast suggests that temperatures will be 24C on Sunday and Monday falling to around 17 on Tuesday and Wednesday.

<http://www.accuweather.com/en/nl/maastricht/248722/weather-forecast/248722>

In Amsterdam and Brussels the weekend leading up to the consortium will be cooler and also with showers.

The classroom where we are gathering is not air-conditioned, although this will hopefully not be an issue!

The only currency accepted in the Netherlands is the Euro.

The Venue



THE UM LANGUAGE CENTRE. SINT
SERVAASKLOOSTER 32

The opening session will be held in the boardroom of the UM Law faculty, which is 100 metres from the UM Language Centre. This is to give the project extra visibility in the UM and to allow you to see a more representative UM building than the Language Centre classroom where we shall hold the remainder of the sessions.

The Language Centre is in an old, but renovated building with relatively antiquated facilities. We have reserved a classroom there for the two days.

In the area of the hotel

The hotel is on the edge of the shopping centre of Maastricht and there are supermarkets and a wide variety of boutique clothes shops within 5 minutes walking distance. Shops are open from 12.00 – 17.00 on Sunday and from 12.00 – 18.00 on Monday and 09.00 – 18.00 on Tuesday and Wednesday. There is a small market on the square in front of the Town Hall from 08.30 – 13.00 on Wednesday, and a larger one all day on Fridays.

We shall make a short walk (45 minutes) round the old city walls and key points of the city on the Monday afternoon, for those who want to build up an appetite for dinner.

Contact Numbers:

If case of emergency or your need assistance on the way, Clive's mobile telephone number is: 0031 654 393039. In the event that you cannot find him, you may also contact Pauline on: 0031 650 970119



A SECTION OF THE OLD CITY WALLS



Dear ECOSTAR partners,

This is a reminder to please document your meetings with photos, send in summaries, articles, researches, news, references of interest, etc.

The newsletter is as informative and useful as everyone's contribution to it.

In best support,

Judy

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