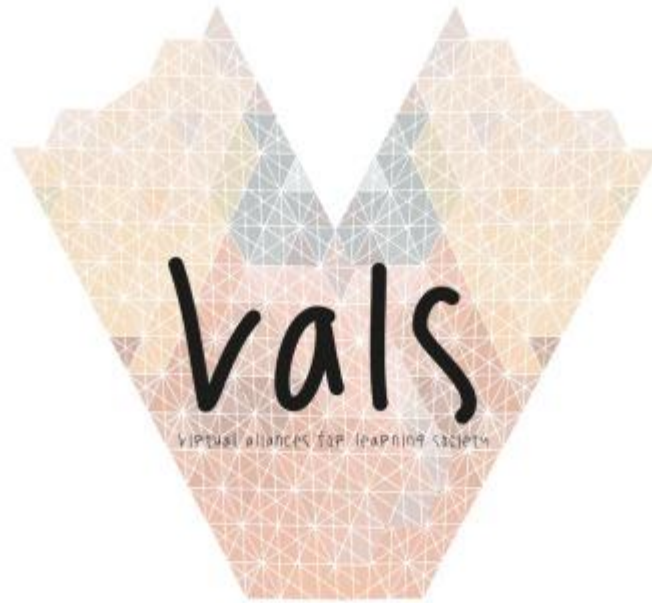


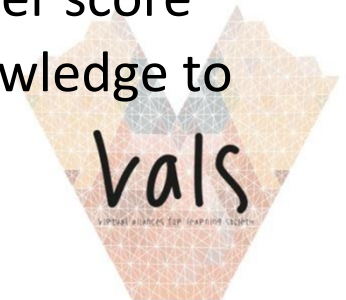
Involving students in Semester of Code: experiences and issues from the first round



**Achilleas Achilleos
Project Meeting: Udine
23/02/2015**

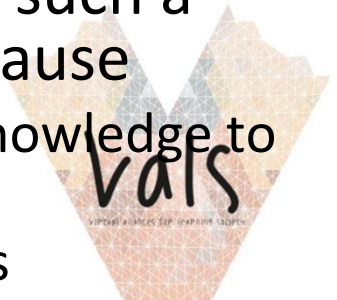
Experiences/Issues 1st Round

- University of Cyprus identified the following challenges, experiences and issues
 - Faculties/Supervisors
 - Not sure how this can and if could be linked to the curriculum and the official work of the students
 - Were unsure how to involve students and motivate them to undertake such a project
 - Students find it challenging to work on such a virtual placement but they are uncertain because
 - Not tied to credits so students were reluctant since they prefer to work harder on courses to achieve higher score
 - They were skeptical they might not have the knowledge to complete such a demanding task



Early Experiences/Issues 2nd Round

- University of Cyprus identified the following challenges, experiences and issues
 - Faculties/Supervisors
 - Its easier to motivate students since now VALS projects are linked to the courses
 - Still challenges exist since the academics are reluctant to provide only VALS projects as part of their course activities
 - Not highly tied to the course material
 - See complications managing and assessing the project since they are dependent on the mentor
 - They would like to provide the students also academic projects more related to the course material and let students choose
 - Again students find it challenging to work on such a virtual placement but they are uncertain because
 - They are still skeptical they might not have the knowledge to complete such a demanding task
 - More willing since it coupled with credits/courses



Current Progress 2nd Round

- University of Cyprus progress in the 2nd round.
 - 3 students from EPL361 (Software Engineering I) course are working on a proposal
 - Dr. Georgia Kapitsaki already contacted the mentors and let them know of the UCY semester schedule to be followed
 - Mentors agreed to collaborate based on this schedule
 - 2 Students from EPL 425 (Internet Technologies) working to submit a proposal on a group course project
 - Trying to motivate more students to get involved
 - No students have committed from EPL 362 (Software Engineering II)
 - Working on getting more students involved from other courses and other Universities



Comments for Discussion (1)

- Linking VALS projects to credits it's a right move according also to academics contacted and asked to participate
- Students and academics are open to participate
- Still challenges exist such as
 - University schedule is always an issue
 - Students rather take an academic project and be supervised only by their professor
 - On a face to face basis
 - On a topic that their supervisor is fully knowledgeable

Comments for Discussion (2)

- Professors are reluctant to provide only VALS projects for the course activities/work mainly because
 - Majority of the projects not fully inline with the course objectives
 - Not fully confident to what degree the student-mentor-supervisor process will be successful and without issues/complications
 - In some rare cases they are unwilling to change the way they contact their courses since its not part of their work duties
 - Not fully knowledgeable on some technologies of VALS projects that increases the risk of their supervision process
- Perhaps involving academics that are active in open source communities could be another good step forward for involving more students

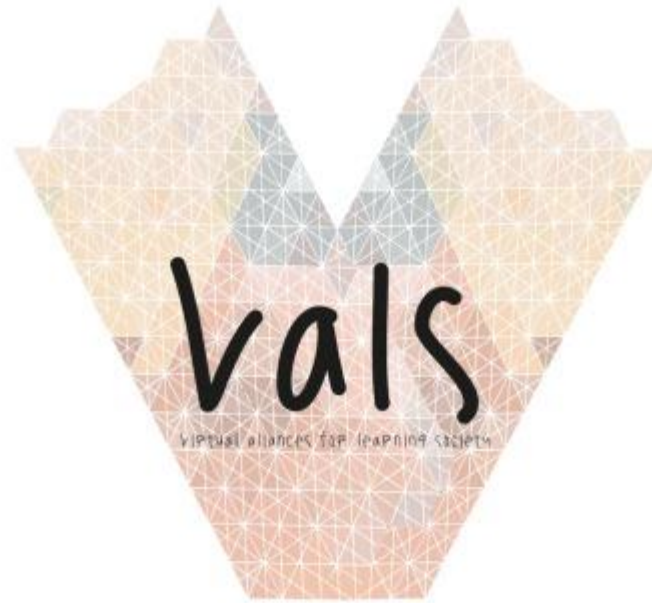
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