VALS Project Overview
at the Third Meeting Time

Dr. Francisco José García Peñalvo
fgarcia@usal.es / @frangp

GRIAL Research Group
University of Salamanca

VALS Meeting, Udine, Italy
February 23rd and 24th, 2015
Outline

• Main administrative issues
• Issues and challenges after the first year
• The numbers behind the first round of the Semester of Code
• Initial numbers of the second round of the Semester of Code
• Meeting objectives
• Meeting Agenda
• Conclusions
# Approval of the Progress Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Sheet - Items</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objectives, results and products</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohence between workplan and activities carried out to date</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial management</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation and/or quality assurance</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Progress Report
Objectives, results and products

Strong points
• The activities initially planned have been carried out in line with what stated in the initial application
• Key supporting materials confirmed above
• The assessment is considered satisfactory

Weak points
• Need of more details in the reports and documents
Progress Report

Cohence between workplan and activities carried out to date

Strong points

• The activities are coherent with the initial plan
• Vast majority of 1st year activities have been completed
• Delays in WP5 are considered fair

Weak points

• More details regarding upcoming work
Progress Report
Partnership

Strong points
• The partnership is considered to be working satisfactorily

Weak points
• Lack of participation of all the partners in the meetings
Progress Report
Management

Strong points
• The project has been properly managed to date
• Communication and internal monitoring system are satisfactory

Weak points
• Need of more details in the reporting activities
Progress Report
Financial management

Strong points
• The expenditure are in line with the workplan and activities
• The project leader has distributed funds received to the partners

Weak points
• Need of clarify the purpose of the travels
• Respect of subsistence ceilings and days for travel
Progress Report
Evaluation and/or quality assurance

Strong points
• Evaluation plan quite well structured.
• Evaluation report includes recommendations

Weak points
• It is recommended to make explicit in the final report the consortium addressed the recommendations
Progress Report
Dissemination

Strong points

• The activities started on time and complied with what had been foreseen in the initial application

Recommendation

• To intensify the activities in the second year
Knowledge retrieved after the first year

- University managers like VALS proposal
- Companies rely on VALS ideas (62 at least)
- Students think that VALS is an amazing opportunity

BUT

- University is slow in reaction
- Companies want having results immediately
- Students need to internalize VALS new opportunities
Issues and challenges

• Administrative processes in the universities are very strict, especially regarding schedules, and are not shared by all the universities all over Europe

• Schedules and workload in companies are not always compatible with universities ones and students’ planning
  
  – Ad hoc adapting and making more flexible the administrative processes in the universities (it depends on each university and the people involved in)
  
  – Defining a two-round piloting procedure (inside the VALS scope)
Issues and challenges

• University tutors engagement
  – Personal relationships
  – Altruistic behaviours
Issues and challenges

• Students engagement
  – They need time to include VALS activities with their own plans (short term plans are not usually compliant with the most of the students’ reality)
  – The VALS benefits must include academic rewards (credits recognition for the placements, reusing the work done for their final degree works, and so on)
  – The fear of English communication, workload, effort done in the proposal definition and other different excuses
    • Presentation of the project several times including open placement definitions in the platform
    • Flexibilizing the administrative procedures in the universities
    • Taking into account all the possible and available academic rewards
    • Involving more universities
Effective results of the first round

• A workflow definition for an open innovation process regarding virtual placement

• Two sites for project dissemination

• A platform for virtual placement management
  http://vps.semesterofcode.com
The numbers behind the first round of SoC

• Some participation data
  – 12 universities
  – 64 companies
  – 237 placement proposals

– 12 proposals submitted by students, 7 active projects
  • 4 open
  • 1 preselected
  • 7 active (accepted)
Current state of the second round

• Some data
  – 12 universities
  – 67 companies
  – 253 placement proposals
  – 23 students enrolled for the second round
  – Open proposals 2
  – 4 proposals finished (3 new proposals + 1 proposal from the first round)
Meeting Objectives
VALS Project Management

• Discussion and approval of all WPs deliverables
  state-of-art

• Identify reporting activities to be completed

• Assign responsibilities and deadlines for:
  - reporting activities
  - deliverables
Semester of Code
2° round

• Evaluation of **successful** and **transferable experiences** of the 1st round

• Identifying reasons for not feasible scenarios

• Assign **responsibilities** and **deadlines** to manage:
  - students submission by deadline (13th March)
  - students virtual placements
  - final evaluations
Meeting Agenda
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic of discussion</th>
<th>Partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:30 – 15:00</td>
<td>Welcome coffee and registration</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00 – 15:15</td>
<td>Introductory session with host welcome (prof. Alberto F. De Toni)</td>
<td>University of Udine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:15 – 15:45</td>
<td>Project management and overview</td>
<td>University of Salamanca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:45 – 16:30</td>
<td>Involving students in Semester of Code: experiences and issues from the first round</td>
<td>Academic Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:30 – 19:00</td>
<td>Open discussion about new approaches for involving students and other issues for the second round</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Social dinner</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Meeting Agenda 24/02/2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic of discussion</th>
<th>Partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:30</td>
<td>WP1 and WP6: Project Management Issues (Financial management and Quality Assurance)</td>
<td>University of Salamanca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:10</td>
<td>WP2: Review of Open Innovation Process Model</td>
<td>University of Udine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 – 11:40</td>
<td><strong>Coffee break</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40 – 12:20</td>
<td>WP3: Review of VALS Virtual Placement System platform</td>
<td>University of Bolton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:20 – 13:00</td>
<td>WP4: Feedbacks from foundations and industrial companies engaged in the Semester of Code</td>
<td>University of Oxford - OSS Watch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:40</td>
<td>WP5: Evaluation and observations of virtual placements already started</td>
<td>Academic Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:40 – 15:20</td>
<td>WP7: Discussion about dissemination activities carried out and contacts established</td>
<td>University of Cyprus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>Meeting conclusion: next steps and deadlines</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00 – 17:30</td>
<td><strong>Meeting closure coffee</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions of the meeting and next steps
Conclusions

• Looking for more students’ engagement to VALS
  – More VALS presentations
  – Shift the second round deadline to the end of March
  – Try to use the summer also as time to perform the placements
  – Contact with OSS representative academics to disseminate VALS
  – Invite more universities to be involved in VALS
  – Contact with potential supervisors
  – Contact with failed previous students’ proposals

• Looking for having more insight of the VALS procedure
  – Make an internal report with the full experience of the first piloting round
  – Make a survey to the students that assist to next VALS presentations
  – Keep statistics from the VPS
  – Make systematic interviews with students and lectures mainly to understand barriers and opportunities regarding VALS
Conclusions

• Regarding the management
  – Request information to the project officer about some financial issues in order to proceed in the final report
  – Send the originals or signed copies to the coordinator for the audit process

• Regarding the VPS
  – Good work done
  – Some improvements have been presented
    • Make visible supervisors’ selection to the students
Conclusions

• Regarding the mainstreaming
  – Make the process more flexible in order to
    • Allow universities establishing their own schedules or open innovation workflow implementation
    • Allow foundations and companies make project proposals including the timing restrictions associated to every individual proposal instead of all the procedure

  – In order to support that, the VPS should
    • Be always open for receiving new project proposals from the foundations and companies and applications from the students
    • Notify to the foundations and companies that a deadline is approaching and they may decide if extending the deadline or dropping out the proposal
Conclusions

• We need to guarantee three pillars to sustain the VALS future
  – Commitment of the universities
  – Commitment of the foundations and companies
  – Commitment of the VPS providers
The other presentations of the meeting


Some references


More info

• http://virtualalliances.eu/
• http://semesterofcode.com/
• http://vps.semesterofcode.com
• http://vps2.semesterofcode.com
• http://grial.usal.es

Contact

Dr. Francisco José García Peñalvo
GRIAL Research Group, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Computers and Automatics
Plaza de los Caídos, S/N
37008 Salamanca (España)
(+34) 923294500 (ext. 1302)
fgarcia@usal.es

This presentation reflects only the author’s view and that the Agency and the Commission are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains

540054-LLP-L-2013-1-ES-ERASMUS-EKA
VALS Project Overview at the Third Meeting Time

Dr. Francisco José García Peñalvo
fgarcia@usal.es / @frangp

GRIAL Research Group
University of Salamanca

VALS Meeting, Udine, Italy
February 23th and 24th, 2015