

**Action Title: The digital literacy and multimodal practices of young children (DigiLitEY)**  
**Management Committee Meeting**  
**Zanhotel Europa, Bologna, Italy**  
**31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017**

**1. Welcome to participants**

Jackie Marsh welcomed participants to the meeting.

**2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries**

31 countries were represented at the meeting.

**3. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was agreed by all participants.

**4. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**5. Update from the Action Chair**

JM gave an update on the action.

**a. Status of Action**

There are currently 34 countries in the action, since the last meeting we welcomed France to the Action and Professor Marlene Loicq as Management Committee Member.

Julia Gillen has taken over from Helle Strandgaard Jensen as Co-Chair of Working Group 1.

**b. Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)**

JM gave an update on STSM's that have taken place to date. 18 STSM's have taken place to date. There is a call for STSM applications at present, we will extend the deadline for applicants to end September 2017.

**6. Update from the Grant Holder**

JM gave an update on the Action budget status. At the end of year 2, there was an underspend of 126.41.

**7. Update from the COST Association**

Dr Rossella Magli, Science Officer for the Action gave an update from the COST Association. The good news is that we received some additional funding. The additional funding is 13,000. This is for specific activities: sending researchers from ITC countries to conferences.

This can be used for other activities if needed, the procedure for requesting changes to the budget is the same, the management committee approve any requests for changes and this is sent to the Science Officer to approve.

RM also discussed an event that will be organised with other Cost Actions. RM is working with JM on the 'Cost Connect' event. The aim of this event is to:

- Invite other cost actions
- Put cost actions in touch with Stakeholders
- Get in touch with funding bodies
- Develop the next generation of interest

RM has persuaded the Cost office to have one on Learning Technologies. There may be other actions contributing to this. The meeting will take place in Brussels in the second or third quarter next year. RM will invite the Chair of the Actions and suggest another 1 or 2 researchers from each actions attends to give different perspectives.

This is not an official announcement, as still requires approval by the Cost office. RM needs some suggestions of Stakeholders to invite. Giovanna is attending on behalf of DigiLitye.

## **8. Monitoring of the Action**

A full report of the activities that have taken place during the last 2 years is available on the digilitey website. JM thanked everyone for their work.

## **9. Implementation of COST policies on:**

- a. Promotion of gender balance and Early Career Investigators (ECI)

The working groups have been established with ECI's involved in each working group.

Early childhood industry has a disproportionate number of female colleagues, although there is a good gender balance on the DigiLitye Steering Group.

- b. Inclusiveness and Excellence (see below list of Inclusiveness Target Countries)

We have good participation from Inclusiveness Target Countries. ITC's currently not involved are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.

## **10. Follow-up of MoU objectives: progress report of working groups**

### **Working Group 1**

Julia Gillen gave an update on WP1. There are currently 3 activities taking place:

- Literature review on publications up to 2015, this will be published end September 2017
- Nicoletta is coordinating Tips and Tricks
- A day in the digital lives

### **Working Group 2**

Stavroula Kontovourki gave an update on work package 2. The big news is that the literature review has been completed. We are working with teachers with approximately 9 or 10 countries interviewing teachers. We are hoping this will lead to publications. The major task for next year is publication and dissemination. WG 2 will also update information on policies, and want to disseminate this work.

### **Working Group 3**

Adrianna Bus and Natalia Kucirkova gave an update on working group 3. WG had a very productive meeting this morning. Adrianna is leading on reading on screen and collected information from 4 different countries. They have looked at apps available for different EU countries, most apps are in English.

Natalia is working on a short report and articles which will be out end September 2017. There is also a book series: reading and writing on screen and there will be a special issue.

### **Working Group 4**

Giovanna Mascheroni gave an update on working group 4. The literature review was completed in January 2017. Giovanna thanked Jackie Marsh for her work on this. A proposal on the Internet of Toys was submitted mid-July 2017, no feedback has been received to date.

The WG 4 meeting will take place in November 2017 and will focus on research with the toy industry. JM said the book proposal looks great.

### **Working Group 5**

Rosie Flewitt gave an update on WG5. Rosie encouraged people to put their work on the database and will cross check with groups. Rosie will contact groups if work is not listed on the database and ask them to update it. We need to build on this to look outside of our work. WG 4 may need a small grant to do this. Rosie thanked everyone who had uploaded their papers.

WG 5 will discuss innovation methodologies at tomorrow's meeting and encourage people to attend. Rosie thanked Bieke Zaman for the short videos produced. Rosie also delivered a workshop at the summer school in Madrid earlier this year. Also produced the ethics chapter for the handbook.

### **Think Tank**

Brian O'Neill and Anca Velicu gave an update on the think tank that took place in London in March 2017. This focused on parents and the outputs for parents. Today's meeting was a follow up with a smaller group to develop and campaign. The group brainstormed solutions and discussed a digital diary with tips for parents and are developing this as a concept. This will be available as resource on the website. We need to draft the content for this and get input from working group members. Jackie reminded Brian and Anca to keep in touch with the tips and tricks group.

## **11. Scientific planning**

- a. Scientific strategy (MoU objectives, GP Goals, WG tasks and deliverables)

The working group 1 literature review will be coming out soon.

We focused on Internet of Toys in year 2, and in year 3 we will be focusing on Virtual Reality. Dylan Yamada-Rice prepared a report about academic and industry collaboration in Virtual Reality. We hosted a Think Tank at Dubit in Leeds, UK, we are putting together a report from this and this should be available soon.

Dylan Yamada-Rice is going to write about the need for ratings on Virtual Reality, she is looking at Virtual Reality ratings and this will eventually be available to download on the website.

Dubit are hosting an event at BAFTA on 19<sup>th</sup> September, they have invited 230 to the event. BAFTA have a VR department which is why the event will be held there. They will showcase their involvement with children.

The training school took place in June 2017. This was very successful with 16 students participating in the training school. It was proposed to hold a training school on Virtual Reality in Year 3.

Brian and Ana will lead on the parent campaign.

We will develop policy briefs.

#### **b. Action Budget Planning**

The budget for year 3 is 180,000 Euro. It is proposed that the additional funding supports the following:

- STSMs: 2,000
- Training School: 7,470
- Policy briefs: 2,000
- ITC grant: 5,130

For STSM's we will only fund 1 ECI per country per call.

Jackie asked if there were any objections to the budget suggestions listed above, no objections, therefore this revised budget is accepted by the Management Committee.

#### **c. Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities)**

In Year 4, we will hold 2 large project meetings. One meeting will take place in and ITC and the second meeting will be the end of project conference at Manchester Conference Centre 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This will be a joint event with the journal of early literacy.

We will also have a meeting in Brussels in January/February 2018, this might be a joint meeting with EREAD and the European Literacy Network.

Budapest was suggested as a location for the next meeting.

Ola Erstad provided an update on the book and outlined the suggested chapters and deadlines. Jackie congratulated the editorial team on this very exciting book. We hope to launch this at the final conference in Manchester 2019.

#### **d. Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)**

Bernadette Dwyer was invited to present at the European Conference of Science Journalists in June 2017. Bernadette talked about DigiLitEY, Internet of Toys, Reading and writing on screen and digital lives. Some really interesting questions came up and the DigiLitEY Cost Action went down really well.

Internet of Toys have a really good video on the website.

The digilitey twitter feed is quite active and going well.

We need more entries on the blog. Bernadette suggested a rota system for the blog, where blog entries are submitted by working groups. We also need some copyright free images that we can use to update the website.

## **12. Requests to join the Action from:**

### **a. COST countries**

None

### **b. Institutions in Near Neighbouring Countries, International Partner Countries, and/or Specific Organisations: EU agencies, European RTD Organisation, International Organisations**

Monica Araujo from the University of Minas Gerais in Brazil requested to join the action. We need to process this via the portal and will request approval outside of the meeting.

**Action:** AC to check that Monica Araujo has uploaded her CV.

## **13. AOB**

None

## **14. Location and date of next meeting**

June 2018, Location TBC

## **15. Summary of MC decisions**

- The academic programme for year 4 was accepted
- The revised budget for year 3 was accepted
- The process for Monica Araujo joining the action will be processed outside of the meeting

## **16. Close**