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Title: D6.1 Establishment of Quality Control (QC) board and appointment of external experts for QC

Lead Organization: UC3M

Participating Organization: UNI-KLU, UC3M, UNC, UNS, UNMDP, Udelar, UCU, INCUTEX, ALASSIO, ALENET, TEAC, EYCON, ALLIANSYS SRL, Santex, TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A, CONTROLNET S. A., ABM ingeniería y sistemas S.R.L., UTE, CONAE.

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Task	T6.1 Establishment of the QCM Board and appointment of external experts for QC.	

Revision History				
Version	Date	Author(s)	Organization(s)	Brief description of change
1	23.3.2021	A. Garcia Armada	UC3M	First complete report
2	24.3.21	A. Garcia Armada A. Tonello	UC3M UNI-KLU	Revised version
1.2	31.5.22	L. Méndez	UC3M	Minor update

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1. Introduction

The general goals of the NEON project are to improve and diversify the training of human resources, both in the academic field (students, professors, technicians) and in the public - private sphere, motivating innovative technologies in the ICT field, in particular the internet of things.

In [1] it is specified that in WP6 quality control and monitoring (QCM) will be done continuously during the project realization. The QCM board (QCMB) will review each project activity in consultation to the Development Board (DB) and Management Board (MB), defined in WP8.

Accordingly, this document provides an overview of the structure and functions of the Quality Control and Management board for NEON and an explanation of the process followed to appoint its members. Also, a list of all the appointed members of the board is presented.

2. Overview of the Quality Control and Management Board of NEON

As foreseen in [1], the WP 6 is led by UC3M. The QCM Board (QB) has been established at the kick-off meeting by assembling:

- A team of representatives from UC3M, UNI-KLU, UNS, UdelaR.
- Two representatives of students
- In addition, one external QCM expert has been appointed, who will be assisted by two external High Education Reform Experts (HEREs) that will act as advisors to provide inputs and independently assess the project results.

The main activities of the QCMB comprise:

- Consolidation of areas to be monitored with selected indicators and correction strategies (both internal and external).
- Internal control of project progress and outcomes.
- Monitor graduates profile, improvements in skills, and correspondence to industry needs.
- Collect questionnaires and surveys, taking advantage of social networks.
- Monitor student enrolment statistics in the region.
- Establish a monitoring system for entrepreneurship attitude and new companies created by graduates in ICT and IoT.
- Organize one physical QCM board meeting in Madrid (if and when circumstances allow), and regular remote meetings to monitor the project results and QCM board organization.

The project activities and deliverables will be constantly monitored. Deviations and difficulties will be examined and actions for quick solution will be determined. Indicators will be measured through report analyses, surveys and questionnaires. QCM activities will also include evaluation of student reactions, achievement of objectives and impact of the project on the institutions as a whole, as well as the project results in terms of increased cooperation with the socio/economic environment, the correspondence between the graduates skills and job market needs.

Quality indicators will be collected and QC guidelines developed, adopted and distributed to all partners. Reports on project implementation made by WP leaders will be evaluated by QB. Reports on graduates profile improvements and correspondence to industry needs, tools for monitoring students enrolment and employability/ employment/ entrepreneurial statistics of graduates will be developed and delivered to partners, as well as reports on reached stakeholders beyond the consortium.

3. Process to appoint the members of the Quality Control and Management Board of NEON

The QCM Board (QB) has been established at the kick-off meeting by appointing the representatives from UC3M, UNI-KLU, UNS and UdelaR. Additionally, there are the following members that need to be appointed:

- two representatives of students, one from Argentina and one from Uruguay;
- one external QCM expert ;
- two external High Education Reform Experts (HEREs), one from Argentina and one from Uruguay. These experts are independent and not related/employed by local Erasmus offices.

The activities of the external QCM Board members will be: to overview and verify the internal QA report, to give recommendations on areas that could be further developed and improved, and to provide an opportunity for dialogue among evaluators and strengthen the self-assessment process.

After proposals have been solicited to the members of NEON consortium, a selection has been performed in order to appoint the needed members. Some reserve candidates are kept and will be also involved in the project activities. Selection was based on the following:

In the case of students, on adequacy of the studies, willingness to participate and gender balance. For the QCM expert, on their expertise and qualifications regarding quality management in the telecommunications sector. For the HEREs, on their expertise and qualifications regarding HE reform in the HE telecommunications degrees, and also considering gender balance.

4. Members of the Quality Control and Management Board of NEON

The following are the appointed members of the QCMB:

- Ana Garcia Armada (UC3M), chair
- Andrea Tonello (or the delegated person communicated to the chair) (UNI-KLU)
- Fernando Gregorio (UNS)
- Leonardo Steinfeld Volpe (UdelaR)
- Martín Castorina, student of Electronic Engineering at UNMDP
- Alejandra Clivio , student of Electronic Engineering at UdelaR
- Eduardo Ballesteros Martínez, QCM expert, Spain
- Cecilia Galarza, HERE; Buenos Aires University, Argentina
- André Luiz Fonseca De Oliveira, HERE, Universidad ORT, Uruguay

5. Conclusions

As foreseen in the proposal [1], the QCMB members have been appointed at the project start. The structure, functions and appointed members have been detailed in this document.

The QCMB of NEON is ready to start the supervision of the quality of the project activities.

6. References

[1] NEON project proposal, 2020.