University of BRISTOL

Centre for IT & Law

Reviewer's Report

Final Report – September 2007

LEFIS - Legal Framework for the Information Society
Thematic Network Project
Programme SOCRATES Sub-Programme ERASMUS
GA No: 225990 - CP - 1 - 2005 - ES - ERASMUS - TN

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Overview

The LEFIS Project had the following stated **objectives**:

- the development of undergraduate and Masters level modules in both ICT law and general law for law students, computer science students and engineers, in line with the objectives of the Bologna Declaration and the Tuning initiative;
- the development of teaching modules with juridical or technological content in electronic format;
- the development of a consolidated European infrastructure with global reach designed to prepare socio-legal, economic and statistical studies; and organisational and regulatory proposals; in relation to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs);
- the performance of studies and development of organizational and regulatory policies and proposals for the governance of ICTs.

The LEFIS project's **target groups** were:

- University academic staff;
- Academic associations;
- Students and Student associations;
- Policymakers within the participant countries, at varying levels;
- Professional associations;
- Teachers;
- Private and Public sector third parties.

The main LEFIS project **activities** envisaged during the funding period were:

- the development of a non-profit association comprised (initially) of interested LEFIS members;
- the development of a business plan for exploitation of products developed jointly by the LEFIS members;
- the development of a common web site (or portal) for the dissemination of common teaching products, and information about research and development activities;
- the organisation of annual Workshops and Conferences on the most important topics on regulation of the ICTs in each participating country;
- the establishment of nationally delivered European Masters and teaching modules for graduates and undergraduates in law, social sciences and for computing/engineering students with a common core based on the methodology of the Tuning project;
- the publication of comparative analysis in the form of reports and books;
- participation in the activities of the European Archipelago of Humanistic Thematic Networks.

The main LEFIS project **outputs** envisaged during the funding period were:

- registration of 'LEFIS' as a European trade mark;
- creation of a non-profit association integrating international and national groups of public and private institutions to develop practical implementation strategies for the activities of the Thematic network;
- creation of a business plan with the aim of producing at least one product per year, jointly developed by the LEFIS members;

- creation of updated educational programs on principles of ICT law and related subjects throughout Europe based on the methodology of the Tuning project;
- holding of/attendance at a variety of Conferences and Workshops, in conjunction with various Professional Associations;
- publication of results, including guidelines addressing training and guidelines for the integration of policies directed at experts tasked with making legal policies for the regulation of the ICTs;
- publication of reports and analysis of surveys across participating countries.

This Final Review Report assesses the effectiveness of the LEFIS Project in achieving its stated aims and objectives and, in particular, in delivering the outputs promised.

NB: This review of the work of the LEFIS project is written having regard to the following documentation:

- The LEFIS application documentation (Parts 1 & 2);
  http://www.lefis.org/management/applications/lefis/LEFIS_Application_2005_part_1.pdf
  http://www.lefis.org/management/applications/lefis/LEFIS_Application_2005_part_2.pdf
- The selection letter from the Commission (03/08/05), including the comments of the independent experts who assessed the Project proposal;
  http://www.lefis.org/management/applications/lefis/apticelefis.pdf
- The LEFIS 2006 Progress Report.
  http://www.lefis.org/management/progress_and_final_reports/lefis/lefis_progress%20_report_2006.pdf

and by general review of the material available on the LEFIS website. Clarification of materials and outputs was undertaken via e-mail correspondence with the project principal, Professor Fernando Galindo, of the Facultad de Derecho (Faculty of Legal Studies), Universidad de Zaragoza. No institutional visits or formal project representative interviews were conducted as part of this review.

Project Activities Assessment Table.

Interim Review - Stages 1 - 4.

Stage	Outputs Envisaged	Activities leading to outputs	Completed	Reviewer Comments
Stage 1 LEFIS-TN KICKOFF 01.10.05 / 31.10.05	General plan of activities and meetings for the two years (including places and dates) Appointment of persons in charge of the Work Groups (WG) and initial planning of WG activities Management rules and certification policy for the certification authority within the LEFIS PKI and for the LEFIS communications tools	Establishment of the LEFIS Administrative office Meeting of the NSG-Network Steering Group - Brussels Constitution of work groups and appointment of in-charge-persons: - WG1: graduate studies - WG2: postgraduate studies - WG3: continuous education - WG4: public-private relations - WG5: quality Support planning for the NSG and WGs activities by the coordinator Drafting of use rules for the LEFIS communications secure infrastructure: PKI, web portal, online discussion groups (fori), IP phone, chat, email, blog Diffusion activities of the first year in countries of partners	Yes Yes (change of venue) Yes Yes Yes Yes	Product (1) - Satisfactory Product (1) - Satisfactory Product (2) - Satisfactory Product (2) - Satisfactory Products (3-6) - Satisfactory Product (7) - Satisfactory
Stage 2 COMPETENCES 01.11.05 / 31.01.06	Draft document on general and specific competences of the studies promoted by LEFIS Report on the adequacy of LEFIS-defined competences to TUNING Agreement and final report on the general and specific competences of the studies promoted by LEFIS	Development of the planned NSG and WGs activities as for - definition of competences to be acquired by LEFIS students - discussion on further teaching and learning issues (contents, teaching offer, materials…) Assessment of initial results by a TUNING advisor First-year General Assembly, focused on competences.- Firenze Definition of the general and specific competences to be acquired by students at all levels (graduate, postgraduate and continuous education), classified by three major areas: - Law and policy area - Business and management - Informatics and telecom	Yes Yes Yes (change of venue) Yes	Products (8 & 10) - Satisfactory Product (12) - Satisfactory Product (9, 11) - Satisfactory

Stage 3 PROPOSAL OF THE LEFIS TEACHING MODEL 01.02.06 / 30.04.06	Proposal of contents, ECTS and work load of the modules elaborated by the Thematic Network Draft proposal of the LEFIS Teaching Model Proposal of e-learning modules	WG's Workshops - Development of the planned tasks of WG1, WG2, WG3, WG4 and WG5. Proposal of normalization and quality requirements for LEFIS learning materials	Yes Yes	Product (13-16) - Satisfactory Product (17 & 18) - Satisfactory
Stage 4 FEASIBILITY OF THE LEFIS TEACHING MODEL 01.05.06 / 30.06.06	Report on the feasibility of the LEFIS Teaching Model	Assessment of the current teaching offerings in the light of the LEFIS model (Stages 2-3) Proposals on involvement of non academic members in the LEFIS model (e.g. "practica") Selection of participants for model implementation Extended Network Steering Committee Meeting in La Laguna Participation in activities organized by another organization	Yes Yes Yes Additional Additional	Product (19) - Satisfactory Product (20) - Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory Products (21-28) - Satisfactory

Final Review - Stages 5 - 10

Stage	Outputs Envisaged	Activities leading to outputs	Completed	Reviewer Comments
Stage 5 (Formerly Stage 7) LEFIS ACCREDITATION SYSTEM 01.02.07/ 31.07.07	LEFIS Tuning Model Draft and Acceptance Booklet on the LEFIS Tuning Model in practice, by the LEFIS members Documents on the LEFIS accreditation system, LEFIS code of practice and LEFIS business plan	Review of experiences and needs (reports, audits). Workshop on the LEFIS accreditation system.- Beja (Portugal) Drafting of accreditation rules for the LEFIS teaching model, LEFIS code of practice and LEFIS business plan	Yes Yes Yes	Draft Tuning Model + Acceptance (Beja) = Product (29) - Evidenced (documents) and satisfactory. Booklet on the LEFIS Tuning Model = Product (30) - Evidenced (documents) and satisfactory. LEFIS Accreditation System, Code of Practice, business plan = Product (31) - Evidenced (documents) and satisfactory.
Stage 6 (Formerly Stage 5) LEARNING MATERIALS 01.07.06 / 30.09.06	Online publication of learning material (and in printed form if possible) eLearning model-modules	Elaboration of nine sets of learning materials covering all levels (graduate, postgraduate and continuous education) in accordance to the LEFIS rules (Stage 2-3) Design of three eLearning model-modules	Yes	Course outlines, learning materials, presentations and LEFIS series publications = Product (32) - Evidenced (documents) and satisfactory. Webpages, Law & ICT shared virtual campus, module in e-learning (Spanish) = Product (33) - Evidenced (webpages, documents) and satisfactory.
Stage 7 (Formerly Stage 6) PROOF OF THE LEFIS MODEL 01.10.06 / 31.01.07	Design of LEFIS tests Report by the WG5 on quality issues Evaluation report (external audit)	Design of assessment quests and tests by the WG5 (Quality) according to the criteria defined in Stage 3 Carrying out of tests and surveys in selected centres Internal audit of the content and results of the teaching experiences External audit of LEFIS activities (first year) Diffusion activities of the second year in countries of partners	Yes Yes Yes	Assessment test webpages and document = Product (34) - Evidenced (webpages, document) and satisfactory. Tests and surveys, and internal audit carried out by partners, rather than by WG5, otherwise = Product (35) - Evidenced (documents) and satisfactory. Interim external audit completed - Audit found no significant issues = Product (36) - Evidenced (document) and satisfactory.
Stage 8 THEMATIC WORKSHOPS 01.03.07 / 30.06.07	Online publication of materials and handbooks by each workshop	Scientific Workshops focused on the LEFIS thematic areas: Telecom. Governance.- Florence (Italy) Legal Principles for key technical issues. Communicating the Law.- Oslo (Norway) Ethics, Rights & Control.- Bratislava (Eslovaquia)	Yes	Workshops through 2007, various publications resulting from Workshops, LEFIS Series Vol.1-3 thus far = Product (37) - Evidenced (webpages, documents) and satisfactory.

Stage 9 FINAL ASSEMBLY 01.08.07 / 30.08.07	Final document on the LEFIS accreditation system and the LEFIS code of practices (approval) Approval and formal constitution of the LEFIS Association Report by the TUNING advisor on the educational activities of the Thematic Network	Assessment of activities. Review of the activities in co-operation with the TUNING advisor, Conclusions of every WGs Final General Assembly.- Wroklaw (Poland)	Yes Yes Yes	Final LEFIS Accreditation System and Code of Practice + Acceptance (Wroklaw) = Product (38) - Evidenced (webpages, documents) and satisfactory. Constitution of LEFIS Association + Acceptance (Wroklaw) = Product (39) - Evidenced (webpages, documents) and satisfactory. Product (40) - actions completed by LEFIS project - awaiting final report from the TUNING Advisor.
Stage 10 CONCLUDING TASKS 01.09.07 / 30.09.07	Final report	External audit Final conclusions	Yes In train	This report constitutes the final external audit, and will be included with the Final Report - Product (41).

Assessment of the LEFIS Project

Membership

At the end of the time period covered by this report, the LEFIS project had 118 member institutions (primarily academic institutions) within and outside the European Union. This number included representative institutions from all 27 EU Member States and all 3 EEA states, and can be broken down as follows:

Country		No of Institutions	Academic Institutions	Country		No of Institutions	Academic Institutions
Argentina		1	1	Latvia	EU	1	1
Austria	EU	4	4	Liechtenstein	EEA	1	0
Belgium	EU	2	2	Lithuania	EU	2	2
Brazil		6	6	Luxembourg	EU	1	1
Bulgaria	EU	3	2	Malta	EU	1	1
Canada		1	1	Mexico		1	1
Chile		3	3	Netherlands	EU	3	3
China		3	1	Norway	EEA	1	1
Cuba		1	1	Poland	EU	2	2
Cyprus	EU	1	1	Portugal	EU	2	2
Czech Republic	EU	2	2	Romania	EU	1	1
Denmark	EU	1	1	Russia		1	1
Estonia	EU	2	2	Slovak Republic	EU	1	1
Finland	EU	2	2	Slovenia	EU	2	1
France	EU	1	1	Spain	EU	33	13
Germany	EU	4	4	Sweden	EU	3	3
Greece	EU	4	2	Turkey		1	1
Hungary	EU	2	2	Uganda		1	1
Iceland	EEA	1	1	United Kingdom	EU	5	4
India		1	0	United States		1	1
Ireland	EU	1	0	Uruguay		3	1
Italy	EU	5	4	Total		118	85

As such, the Project was successful in its aim of obtaining a full complement of representation from the Member States as originally envisaged, and also in obtaining access to a broad range of affiliated organisations drawn from outside the EU. The wide programme of activities undertaken by the Project is testament to its success in engaging the majority of the partners in its activities.

Organisation

As was noted in the interim report, the organisation of the project was established effectively with a LEFIS Administrative Office, Network Steering Group, and 5 Working Groups. Each of these organisational groupings appear to have carried out the work allocated to them in line with the Project proposals, with some limited re-allocation of tasks, usually to the partners. Minutes of the

meetings of the Network Steering Group, General Assemblies and Working Groups are available from the LEFIS website.

The Project website http://www.lefis.org/ was developed using Moodle.[1] It has been upgraded and updated since the interim review and presents a professional public face for the Project. The website is well laid out and easy to navigate. A secure communication infrastructure is in place, and obtaining a PKI certificate for extended use of the website is relatively simple.[2] The technical infrastructure of the Project appears practical, effective, and sustainable.

The registration of 'LEFIS' as a Community Trade Mark (CTM) proceeded through examination by OHIM and is subject to publication/opposition requirements before final registration. The publication of the Community trade mark application was made on 16/07/07 (OHIM Bulletin no.: 2007/034), and the opposition period will thus end on 16/10/07 at which point, in the absence of opposition, the mark will be registered to the Universidad de Zaragoza.

Trade mark name: LEFIS LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
Trade mark No: 005625132
Trade mark basis: CTM
Filing date: 02/01/2007
*Publication date:*16/07/07
Nice Classification: 16 - Printed matter; bookbinding material. 35 - Advertising; business management; merchandising. 41 - Education, training and entertainment services; publication of books. 42 - Scientific and technological services; scientific dissemination.
Trade mark: Individual
Type of mark: Figurative
Acquired distinctiveness: No
Status of trade mark: Application accepted

LEFIS
LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The organisation and management of the LEFIS Project appears to have been handled effectively during the time period covered by this report.

Future organisation and development of LEFIS

Future development of the LEFIS Project will be via the Legal Framework for the Information Society Association, and the Articles of the Association were agreed at the LEFIS general Assembly in Wroklaw on 18th September 2007.
http://www.lefis.org/images/documents/meetings/general/wroklaw_2007/LEFIS_propuesta.doc

http://www.lefis.org/images/documents/meetings/general/wroklaw_2007/LetterLEFISAssociation.pdf

Institutional membership of the Association shall be open to any Further or Higher Education Institution or other bona fide educational institution. Individual membership of the Association shall

[1] Moodle is a software package for producing internet-based courses and web sites, and is provided freely as Open Source software (under the GNU Public License) – "Moodle's open source license and modular design means that many people can develop additional functionality, and development is undertaken by a globally diffuse network of commercial and non-commercial users" (Wikipedia)

[2] There are two different PKIS: LEFIS APTICE and LEFIS UNIZAR.

be open to any member of such institutions. The Executive Committee may permit institutions or individuals not otherwise eligible to become non-voting Associate Members.

The Articles of Association in conjunction with the initial business plan contained in the Letter of Intent signed by the key partners in Wroklaw provide for the effective continuation, and expansion, of the work of the LEFIS project, and it appears that there has already been success in raising ongoing funding in support of the continuation of some of its various activities, e.g. the project LAW&ICT Shared Virtual Campus.
http://www.lefis.org/images/documents/outcomes/law_ict/Preparation_1st_Meeting.pdf

LEFIS Outputs

Stages 1-4

The outputs in stages 1-4 of the Project were reviewed in the interim external report, which found them to be in line with the aims and objectives of the Project proposal, and noted that they were of satisfactory quality. As such, they will not be revisited in detail here.

Stages 5-10

The LEFIS Project sought to apply the concepts developed by the TUNING Project[3] to undergraduate, Masters and continuing development level teaching in both ICT law and general law for law students, computer science students and engineers. Thus Stages 2-4 of the LEFIS project prepared the ground by:

- Developing and distributing questionnaires about the general and specific competences, and appropriate subject matter for such modules for dissemination to a range of stakeholders;
- Collecting and analysing responses to the questionnaires and developing a set of core competencies for 9 sets of qualified learning materials, three for each defined teaching area (Law and Policy / Business and management / Informatics and Telecommunications) and educational level (graduate, postgraduate and continuing education);
- Drafting a LEFIS Tuning template to identify points of reference, convergence and common understanding in those teaching areas, taking account of generic competences; subject-specific competences; the role of ECTS as an accumulation system; and the role of learning, teaching, assessment and performance in relation to quality assurance and evaluation.

In Stages 5, 6 and 7 project partners sought to:

- Implement the LEFIS and Tuning requirements in to their respective teaching offerings, both existing and innovative, and thus provide feedback into the LEFIS Tuning template development process; *LEFIS TUNING Model* – (Products 29, 30, 40)
- Develop a range of teaching outlines, teaching materials and supporting publications that could support and enhance LEFIS learning modules, and trial online elearning 'model modules'. *LEFIS Learning Materials, eLearning modules, Materials and Handbooks* – (Products 32, 33, 37)
- Review/audit their respective teaching experiences, including the provision of internal cross-partner review/audit and provide a booklet outlining their experiences and discoveries; *Project Audit, Testing and Review* – (Products 34, 35, 36, 40, 41)

[3] The TUNING process aims to identify points of convergence in education systems across Europe. By tuning education systems in this way, and locating simple, common reference points amongst them, the goal is to make recognition of qualifications easier. These reference points relate to general competences, such as communication or leadership skills, and the subject-specific competences a student will have acquired from their particular course of study.

- Develop a definitive Code of Practice and Accreditation System for the teaching of courses within the LEFIS fields that would form the basis for the award of a LEFIS Education Seal that could be awarded to institutions meeting the LEFIS core principles, as determined by an evaluation team from the LEFIS Network, which would identify the main characteristics of computer and law education in accordance with the requirements of current social needs. *LEFIS Accreditation System, Code of Practice and Business Plan* – (Products 31, 38)
- To seek to develop a sustainable system for the continuing development of the LEFIS model. *Sustainability* – (Product 39)

On the basis of the materials available to me, including both the public and restricted area of the LEFIS website, it appears that these primary objectives set out in the LEFIS Project proposal have all been satisfactorily met and, indeed, that the Project has, in several areas, progressed further than was initially envisaged. Examples of the enhancement of the original aims and objectives can be seen in:

- the development of some of the supporting publications into a specific and ongoing 'LEFIS Series' of publications;
- the development of the International School for Law and Knowledge & Information Technologies; http://www.aulaoptima.org/cgi-bin/sumocursos3.pl?categoria=&cliente=islit&idioma=ing
- The use of Greenstone Open Source Digital Library to facilitate access to the information contained within the project website. http://www.lefis.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=464

Conclusion

On the basis of the material available to me as reviewer for the LEFIS Thematic Network Project, it is my opinion that:

- the work of the Project has been fully carried out in accordance with the original stated objectives, and that, in certain areas of its activity, the Project has in fact delivered more than was initially envisaged;
- the Project has achieved a satisfactory level of engagement with its indicated target groups across the EU/EEA and beyond, and has thus laid a sustainable foundation for the continuing work of the LEFIS Association;
- the Project's administration has been carried out efficiently and effectively during the Project lifespan and with appropriate attention to the future development of the LEFIS Association and the effective use of the LEFIS outputs;
- the Project's outputs are generally of a high quality, and in relation to the administrative and technical infrastructure and the creation of updated educational programs on principles of ICT law and related subjects throughout Europe, are clearly both practical and sustainable.

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October 2007.