

WP6 D6.2 Project website

Project title:	Promoting Youth Scientific Career Awareness and its Attractiveness through Multi-stakeholder Cooperation
Project Acronym:	MultiCO
Project ID:	665100
Prepared by:	University of Eastern Finland
Date:	November 2015
Dissemination level:	PU (Public)



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Introduction

This document has been written for the EU H2020 project titled “Promoting Youth Scientific Career Awareness and its Attractiveness through Multi-stakeholder Cooperation” (MultiCO). This report on the introduction and presentation of the project website is one of the outcomes of Task 6.6 communication and dissemination materials and activities. The website is one of the main tools to provide information about the project, all stages of the research and tools for searching in the recorded practices etc. The project website is developed by the University of Eastern Finland and will be continually updated by the coordinator and used for reaching the different target groups according to the Dissemination and exploitation plan.

The objectives of dissemination through project website are as follows:

- To promote and raise public awareness with respect to the project objectives and developments
- To provide information on the effectiveness of the project results
- To address the decision-makers so as to achieve the support and sustainability of the project results
- To convince end-users in using the project products during and after the completion of the project

MultiCO-project website can be found in <http://www.multico-project.eu/>.

The eu-domain was chosen to maximize the visibility and to emphasise funding from the European Union’s Horizon2020 research and innovation programme. Domain is reserved until five years after the project ends.

The website provides information about the project and its progress and has a public part and will have an intranet for partner’s communication and collaboration e.g. exchange of documents. The intranet is still under construction when the project website is opened but will be ready to use as soon as all partners get access to it. As the main dissemination channel for the project, the website is user friendly and interactive.



Website structure

Front page

MultiCO-project website is designed to be clear and user friendly to enable as much users as possible to find the information. The structure of the website is simple and maximum amount of subpages is only two. All main pages are available on the top of the page as well as in the left side margin for the user to decide which is better to use.

All relevant project identification information, including project name and acronym, project duration, grant agreement number, call and EU emblem for symbolizing the funding, is placed on the front page. Disclaimer excluding *Agency* responsibility can also be found on front page. (Figure 1.)

The layout of the project website is based on the layout of official website of the coordinator University of Eastern Finland. MultiCO-project does not have a logo at the moment of opening the website; logo competition is arranged for students and the winning logo will be chosen in February 2016. The logo will have prominence on the website instead of the UEF-logo. The UEF-logo will be removed from the top of the page. The consortium reserves the right to modify website layout and structure throughout the project.

Since social media is one way to increase our coverage, direct links to Facebook and Twitter are placed on the footer and can be used on every page. Twitter account is created as soon as possible.

MultiCO slogan “Smart science education by smart project” is a variation of UEF’s slogan “Smart science by smart people”. The Consortium may at any stage change it.



SMART SCIENCE EDUCATION BY SMART PROJECT



MULTICO

 > MultiCo

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Promoting Youth Scientific Career Awareness and It Attractiveness through Multi-stakeholder Cooperation -MultiCO

MultiCo is a new project funded by the European Commission. It includes partners working together from five countries: UK, Finland, Estonia, Germany and Cyprus. Our main aim is to promote the awareness of a range of careers for all young people that involve scientific skills. Initially we are working with partners in industry, business and professions to establish 'stories' from those in work, in order to create interesting scenarios that can be linked to curriculum topics and presented to students in lessons. The aim is to stimulate students' engagement in science learning through the use of scenarios and at the same time raise their awareness and interest in career paths that involve science. In addition we plan to work with teachers, parents and students themselves to incorporate their ideas in the design of scenarios, so that these are relevant to students from different cultures and communities. This is an important project to widen the opportunities for students and advance their understanding of science and possible careers.

The project started in August 2015 and ends in November 2018.

This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 665100.



Call: H2020-SEAC-2014-1

Disclaimer: This web site reflects only the view of MultiCO consortium. The *Research Executive Agency* is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

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Figure 1. Project website, front page.



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Project Overview

The page Project overview gives a short introduction to the project; background, main objectives and research methodology are described. (Figure 2.)

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PROJECT OVERVIEW CONSORTIUM WORK PACKAGES DELIVERABLES AND PUBLICATIONS EVENTS

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This project builds on literature research outcomes and proposes to study the impact of real life related, career-focused stories (referred to as scenarios) as the introduction to the learning of science subjects by secondary school students (ages 13 to 15). Through such an innovative development, initiating motivational and meaningful context- and inquiry-based science studies, the project researches the impact on learning and attitudinal gains, as well as students' own ideas to enhance the relevance of science studies. The target is to increase students' future preferences for choosing science studies and their desire to reflect on and pursue science-related careers.

There has been a general educational trend towards context-based approaches and viewing science education as being education through the context of science. Context-based approaches and strategies that actively engage students in the learning process have been shown to result in improvement in students' attitudes towards science, although the need for students to input their ideas and their indigenous knowledge should be taken into account. However, research has shown that middle grade students were not aware of career options, were not conversant with competences needed and few indicated knowing professionals actively working in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. Yet in recruiting graduates, employers have indicated that a range of skills were important and that the most important skills were team working, sector-specific and communication skills.

The intended project outcome is to raise youth awareness of the role of science and technology in society, an awareness of science and technology careers and orientation of students towards gaining positive views towards undertaking science careers. The project is planned as a longitudinal study over 3 years, involving multi-stakeholder co-operation between different stakeholders.

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Figure 2. Project overview



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Consortium

On the Consortium page, the consortium is presented as whole. (Figure 3.) Each partner and leader of that partner are presented on separate subpages. Every partner has valuable background knowledge and their experience is introduced to provide a comprehensive view of consortium strengths. Links to each university, department or faculty and national MultiCO-website is/will be presented.

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PROJECT OVERVIEW CONSORTIUM WORK PACKAGES DELIVERABLES AND PUBLICATIONS EVENTS

**SMART
SCIENCE
EDUCATION
BY SMART
PROJECT**

MULTICO > MultiCo > Consortium

Project Overview »

Consortium »

- › University of Eastern Finland
- › Institute of Education, University College London
- › University of Tartu
- › University of Bonn
- › University of Cyprus

Work Packages »

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The project is balanced so that all consortium partners work with all work packages. The project consortium brings together expertise at the highest level and quality from different areas of science education geared to secondary school and teacher education. The consortium carries out research in five European countries (Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, and United Kingdom).

The consortium has been selected to represent different educational and cultural contexts, different achievement levels in international science education studies and different parts of Europe. Cyprus represents the Mediterranean countries, Estonia Baltic and Eastern countries, Finland Northern Scandinavian countries, Germany, countries from Middle Europe, and U.K. the Western countries. In this way, the consortium is able to extrapolate and exploit the findings from the five partner countries at the European level. The consortium includes big countries (U.K., Germany), small countries (Finland, Estonia and Cyprus), old European Union members (Germany, U.K.) and new members (Estonia, Cyprus). Through European collaboration, the project enables excellent medium-scale research and supports the research infrastructure of these countries both at the individual and at the European level. Particularly the small countries benefit from the research collaboration.

The partners of the consortium bring with them considerable expertise in research on science education. All project partners have been extensively involved in the actual development of science education through their research and from different points of view. As well as in their respective research, all partners have special expertise in science education as well as in teacher education. Furthermore, while all partners have high science education research expertise, Finland has wide experience in ICT based education and e-learning interventions, Cyprus in inquiry learning, the United Kingdom has expertise in participation and reasoning education, Germany is specialised in creativity in science education and informal learning, while Estonia has expertise in Socio-Scientific Issues and scientific literacy in science education. All partners have an institutional background related to their national and international networks and are well placed to disseminate the project outcomes.

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Figure 3. Consortium. All partners are presented at subpages available on left side margin.



Work packages

A short overview of each work package, including leading partner and main objectives, can be found under Work packages. (Figure 4.)

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PROJECT OVERVIEW CONSORTIUM WORK PACKAGES DELIVERABLES AND PUBLICATIONS EVENTS

MULTICO > MultiCo > Work Packages > WP2 Conceptual Framework

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- WP1 Management
- WP2 Conceptual Framework**
- WP3 Developing and Analysing Career-based Scenarios
- WP4 Intervention Studies In Secondary Schools
- WP5 Students' Science Study and Career Choices
- WP6 Dissemination

Deliverables and Publications »

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This WP (leader UCL IOE) aims to define a clear and detailed conceptual framework comprising of the issues related to motivate students towards science education and the factors to be addressed in all subsequent stages of the research. This is achieved initially by extensive meta-analysis of the literature at the beginning of the project. The analysis establishes criteria for comprehensively and consistently coverage of all aspects determined as relevant to the concepts mentioned in the project, (mainly including: interest, motivation, relevance, attractiveness, scenarios, careers, study choices in science education). The plausibility of the conceptual framework is discussed and enriched through focus group discussions by personnel from industry.

Issues of particular interest to the development of the conceptual framework are recognised as:

- Definitions and aspects of interest, motivation, relevance, attitudes
- The diversity and dominance of societally-oriented teaching approaches, context-based teaching
- Issues indicated by stakeholders, science education literature and career presentation documents.

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Figure 4. Each work package is shortly introduced under the main page of Work packages.



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Deliverables and publications

Under this section, all public dissemination materials and publications are added as soon as they are delivered. (Figure 5.)

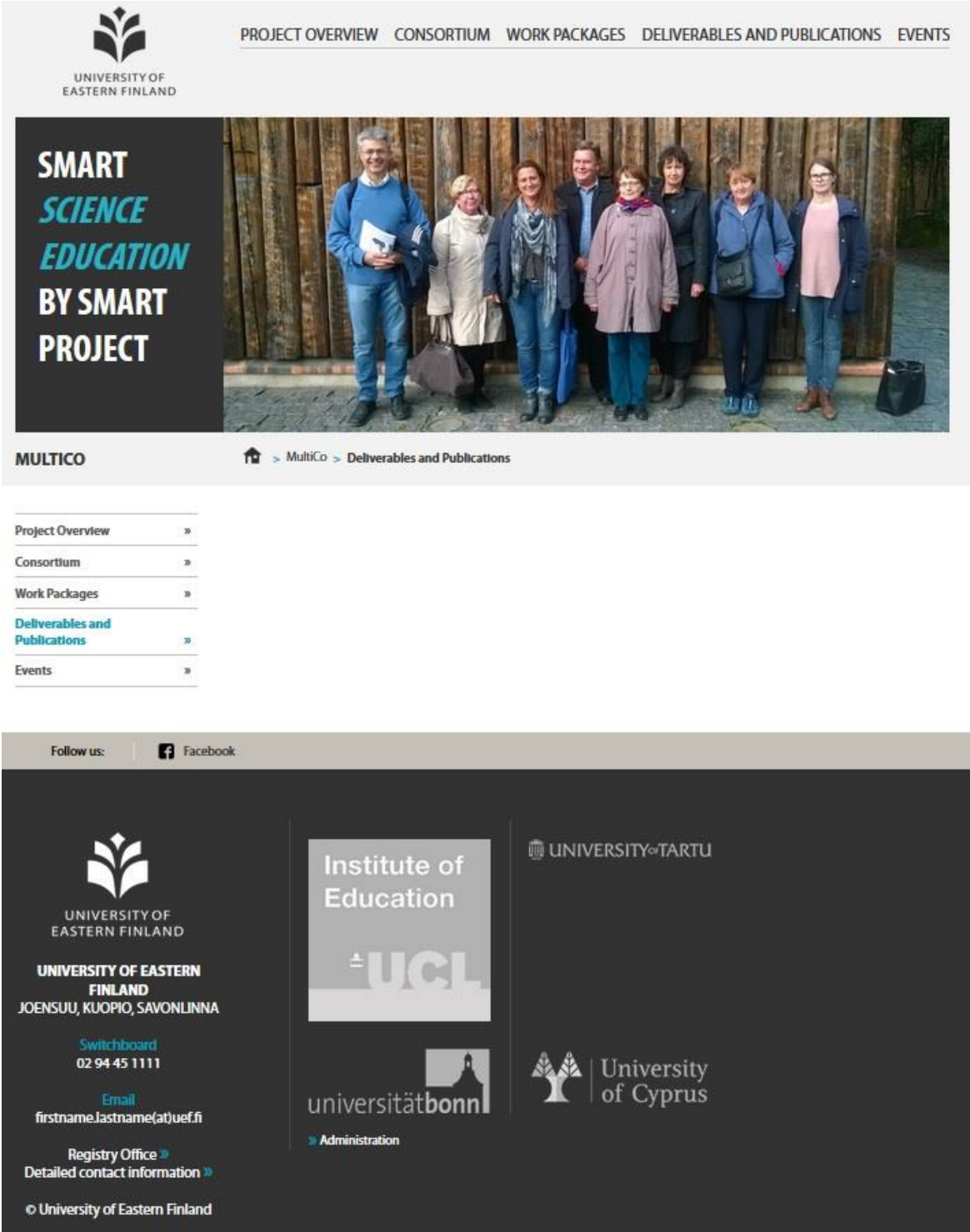


Figure 5. Deliverables are added as they are submitted.



Events

All project related events are shown on a separate page once they are confirmed. This section will also include for example MultiCO-Newsletters. (Figure 6.)

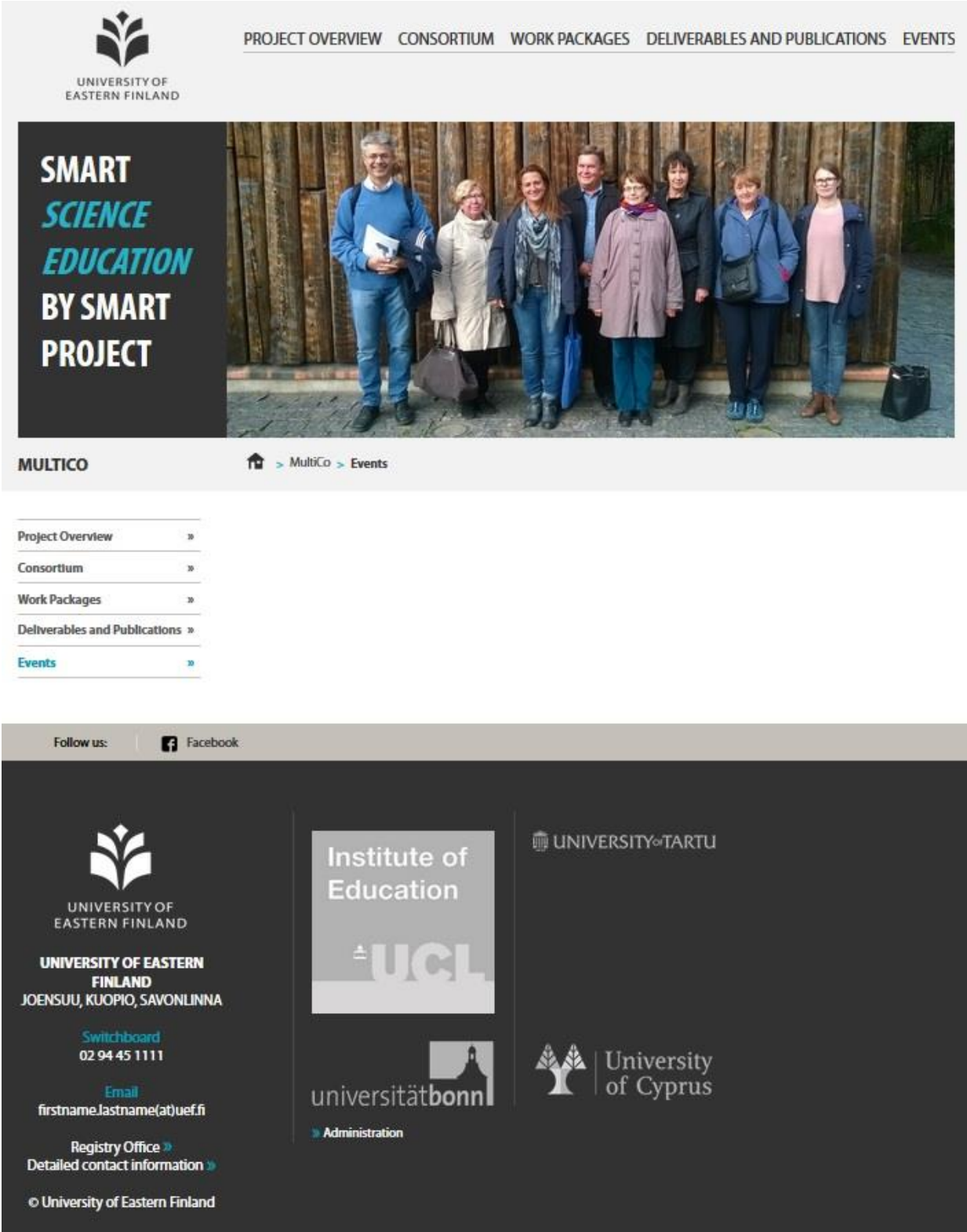


Figure 6. All project events are added here as soon as the schedule is confirmed.



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Conclusions

At the moment of making project website available to the public, there are still some elements lacking, i.e. project logo and intranet. These are added as soon as possible. Information about project actions are continually updated on the website by the coordinator and once national websites are opened, direct links to them are placed at the MultiCO official website. Guidance for creating national websites will be given in the near future by the coordinator and estimated date for having national websites available for public is in December 2015.

