



**ACTIVE LEARNING IN ENGINEERING
EDUCATION**

**586297-EPP-1-2017-1-EL-EPPKA2-
CBHE-JP**

2ND MEETING EVALUATION REPORT

9TH-11TH JANUARY 2019

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report evaluates the Second Meeting of the ALIEN project, held between the 9th and 11th January 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This evaluation is based on the feedback from 17 participants that attended the meeting and answered a standardized questionnaire assessing the specific components of the meeting, as well as its strengths and weaknesses. The survey was conducted online via Google Forms.

2. MEETING EVALUATION

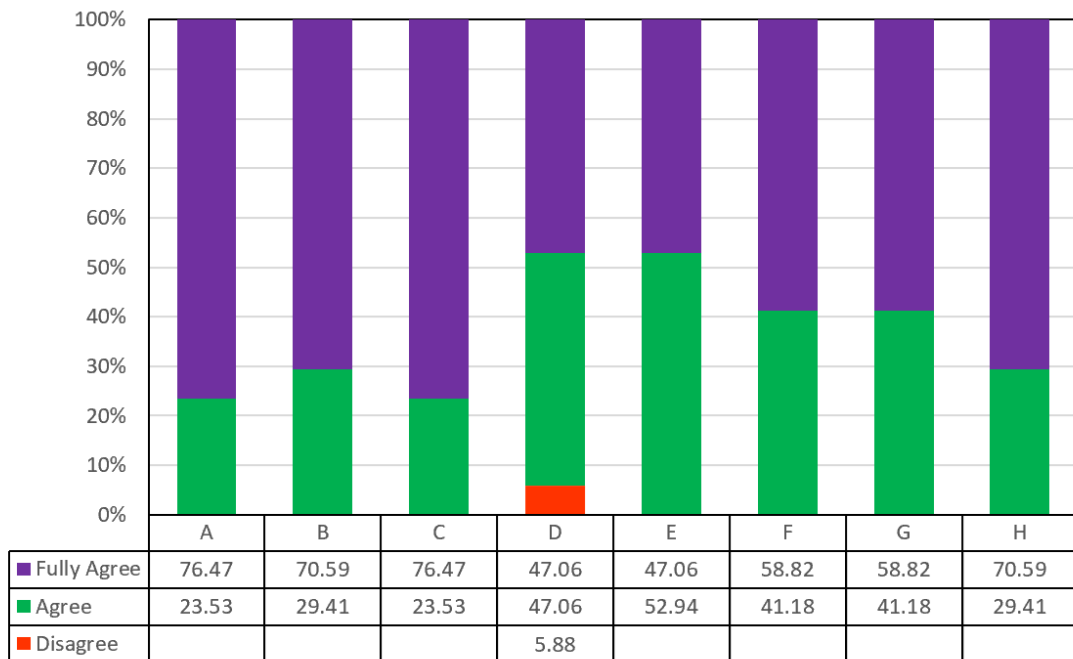
The overall perceived quality of the meeting seems to be positive, even if with some occasional deviations in a couple of questions, with some answers reporting a negative or neutral attitude towards that aspect. That being said, no single question had a systematic negative response, with always at least 70% of the participants having a positive response (that is, answering with agree or fully agree).

2.1. MEETING ORGANIZATION

Overall, the level of satisfaction with the meeting organization seems to be positive, with almost all questions receiving an approval rating (that is, answering fully agree or agree) of 100%, with only one question (question D) having 1 negative answer. This assessment is similar to the previous meeting, with slight improvement in almost all questions.

The schedule and agenda of the meeting were prepared in due course - all the partners considered that they had received all the information about the meeting in a timely manner, having been given sufficient advance notice of the schedule and location of the meeting (question A). Regarding the meeting venue (question B), general responses was also positive, which is an improvement from last meeting, in which 21.4% had neutral or negative answers. Regarding the facilities and catering (questions C-D), the response was also overall positive, although in regard to the catering there was one person (5.88%) giving a negative assessment.

Figure 1 General Assessment of the Meeting Organization



- A) Information about the meeting was received on time;
- B) Access to the meeting venue was easy;
- C) The conference room and its facilities facilitated the work during the meeting;
- D) Catering and Meals were adequate;
- E) The agenda of the meeting was balanced, focusing on the key aspects of the project;
- F) The timetable was respected;
- G) The presentations by the partners were clear and understandable;
- H) The meeting was well planned and managed.

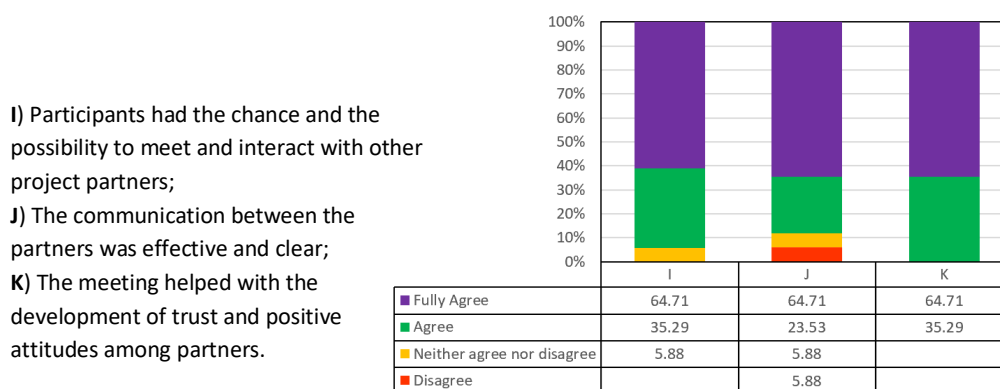
Regarding the way the meeting was conducted (questions E-G), the overall assessment was also positive – thus, most partners considered that the agenda as well balanced, that the timetable was, in general, respected and that the presentations by the partners were clear and understandable. Almost all questions related to these aspects had more than half people giving the best rating possible (Fully Agree), as can be seen in Figure 1, with the exception of question E, where most people inquired gave the second-best assessment (Agree). In sum, regarding the planning and management of the meeting (question H), most partners fully agree (70.59%) or agree (29.41%).

2.2. PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Given the size of the partnership and the different countries/continents involved in the project, it is important to ensure that the partners can effectively communicate with each other and that the activities are well coordinated.

Regarding this aspect, the overall assessment was equally positive in general, which is similar to what happened in the previous meeting. However, there were two questions in which the assessment slightly differed. Whereas in the last meeting all partners had agreed that they had the chance to interact with the other project partners (question I), now there was one person (5.88%) giving a neutral assessment in this regard. In question J, which is related to the efficiency and clarity of the communication between partners, there was a minor setback – in the previous meeting there was only one person giving a neutral assessment, whereas in this meeting there was one person giving a neutral assessment and another person giving a negative assessment. In the question regarding the development of trust and positive attitudes among partners (question K) the assessment was also 100% positive, with most people (64.71%) answering with the highest possible ranking.

Figure 2 General Assessment of the Partnership and Collaboration



There was in general an increase in the proportion of people giving the highest ranking to the questions I-K, with always more than half fully agreeing, which did not happen in the previous meeting.

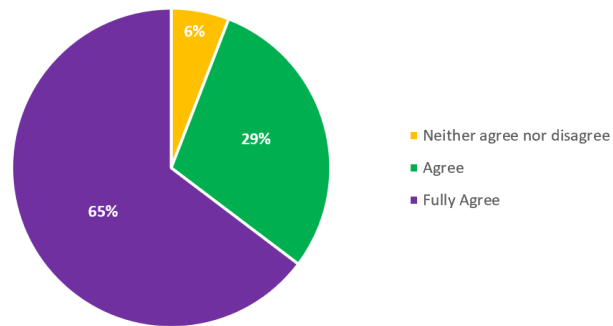
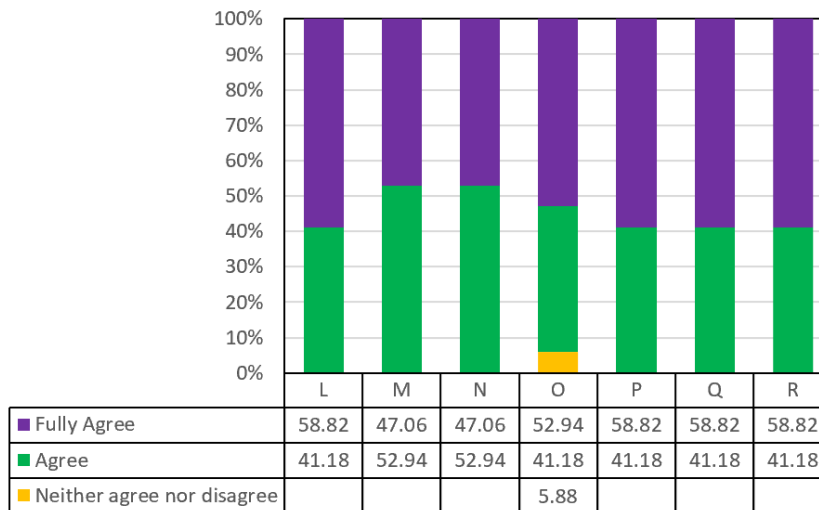


Figure 3 Assessment of the Project Partnership and its Coordination

Following the meeting, most partners (94.11%) agreed that the project was built on a strong partnership with an efficient administrative and financial coordination (Figure 3), with most people (11 people in total) fully agreeing. There was only 1 person giving a neutral answer in this regard. This represents a slight improvement in regard to the previous meeting, although the percentage of people giving the first ranking was maintained relatively equal.

2.3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Figure 4 General Assessment of the Project Management



- L) I have a clear view of the project aims and objectives;
- M) I understand clearly the administrative structure and procedures of the project;
- N) The information given as to the financial management facilitated my understanding of those issues;
- O) The information given helped me to better understand the tasks and activities of the project;
- P) I understand clearly the role of my institution/organization in this project and what is expected from me for the project;
- Q) I understand clearly the framework and deadlines to be respected by all partners;
- R) I think that the timescales proposed are realistic and feasible.

In general, the assessment of the way the project was being managed is good, with improvements in all questions except for question O. Regarding the project aims and objectives (question L), all partners gave a positive assessment, with the majority (58.82%) giving the highest ranking in this regard. This is an improvement from last meeting, where 14.3% gave a neutral or negative assessment.

Regarding the information provided during the meeting (questions M-N), the assessment was also positive, with everyone believing that the information given regarding administrative structures, procedures of the project and the financial management facilitated their understanding. However, in these questions, the majority (52.94% in both questions) gave only the second highest ranking and not the first.

Regarding the way this information helped the partners better understand the tasks and activities, the assessment was also overall positive, with only person giving a neutral assessment.

Regarding the role of each institution/organization in the project (question P), all partners agreed that this was made clear during the meeting.

Lastly, regarding the framework and deadlines (questions Q-R), all partners have a clear understanding of the framework and deadlines and believe that the timescales are realistic and feasible.

Namely, the meeting enabled the participants to clear up questions respective to: dissemination, the timetable regarding next tasks and activities, the working packages, the concepts of PBL (Problem/Project-based learning) and AL (Active Learning) and its implementation in the classroom, the budget for the Active Learning Lab.

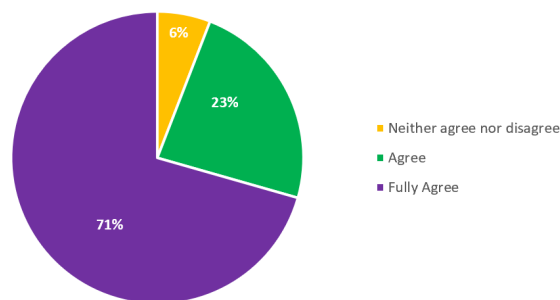


Figure 5 Assessment of the (positive) impact of the meeting on the project

Overall, most partners agreed that the meeting had a positive impact on the progress of the project. Although there was an increase in the proportion of people giving the highest ranking to the impact of the meeting (71% in this meeting vs 50% in the previous meeting), there was now one person giving a neutral assessment, which didn't happen in the previous meeting, where all partners had agreed on the positive impact.

3. PERCEIVED WEAKNESSES & OPPORTUNITIES/THREATS

Through the questionnaire sent to the partners, it was possible to ascertain the perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the project.

Regarding the **opportunities** that the project presents to each partner organization, the following aspects were pointed out:

- ALIEN Platform;
- Sharing of experiences and transfer of knowledge between partners;
- Games/simulations to help apply the AL/PBL methodology;
- Promote PBL in all institutions, especially in those who had never previously done it;
- Networking with partners worldwide;
- Effective and proven teaching techniques.

However, there are also some concerns, that may present some **challenges** that the partnership has to work on:

- Development of games/simulations that use the equipment that was purchased;
- Applying AL/PBL methodologies in universities for the first time;
- The set-up and maintenance of the Active Learning Lab and how to design courses that will make an effective use of these Labs;
- Publication and dissemination activities;
- How to find applicable problems or assess student performance in PBL;
- It's some partners first experience with PBL, therefore showing concern when it comes to creating their own work on games/simulations.

Some **suggestions** were made, especially in regard to the coordination of the tasks. There seems to be the perception that there is no place where all tasks and the assigned partners are compiled and no effective way to check on the status of each task. There was one person who mentioned that e-mails are not an effective means of assigning

tasks, as the information is provided separately, so a list of missing activities should be provided.

Additionally, suggestions were made about conducting training on AL, with more workshops and more online meetings to train and discuss PBL and to get hands on experience on how to design a course in AL modality. There was a suggestion to have a group of 1 Asian partner and 1 European partner in order to have interactive sessions and transfer of knowledge, and visits to the PBL labs. Practical activities during the meetings were also encouraged and to set up teams with members from different countries.

Regarding the next meeting, one partner mentioned that the places selected for future meetings should be revised.

Lastly, regarding the potential outside **threats**, it was mentioned the following:

- Different needs across countries in what regards the software platform that was planned;
- Slow change in University Teaching Habits regarding AL/PBL methodologies;
- The involvement of other stakeholders;
- Financial Issues – namely buying equipment that is not supported by ALIEN (air-con, tables and chairs) for the Lab.

4. CONCLUSION

The overall evaluation indicates that the reaction to the meeting was positive and that it served to better define the dissemination strategy, the most pressing deadline and tasks, as well as the role of each partner in these, the budgeting questions and the concepts of PBL/AL.

The partners seem to have a positive assessment of the outcomes of the project, even if they have some concerns in regard to the concrete application of the PBL/AL methodology via the PBL labs and how to handle the following tasks and activities.