

CETIS Learner Information and Profiles SIG - The IMS Project PROJECT PLAN SUMMARY

	Actions	Who	When	Duration	Project Outcomes	Mapping to CETIS	Project Deliverables
1	Liase with the key sector representative bodies in order to produce a generic specification of the UK HE Transcript set out in the Policy Statement as a basis for consultation.	Core Group	31 May 2001		Generate a technical specification for the UK HE transcript which can be used to inform the HE and FE sectors	A technical definition, using IMS terminology, of the UK HE transcript.	Proposal emerging from technical and pedagogic analysis of the UK HE transcript and current IMS specifications tackling
2.1	Map the agreed UK HE Transcript Specification against current IMS specifications	Technical Group	Follows 1	1 Week (Understand the overlap between IMS specifications and the UK Transcript Specifications	Comparison of IMS LIP and Enterprise specifications against the Policy Statement's definitions of the generic transcript.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of HE/FE sector policy • Extensions to UK HE transcript • Ability of IMS to support transfer of transcript information This document can be used to inform discussion at the policy level within the sector
2.2	Map the UK HE Transcript Specification against currently available MIS software;	Tech Group & SROC /CAR	Follows 1	2 Months	List currently used MIS systems and their ability to support the UK HE Transcript Specification		
2.3	Map the UK HE Transcript Specification against the work of the MLE Steering Group	Prof/Tech Groups	Follows 1				
2.4	Identify the extensions likely to be required to the Transcript in order to take account of the European Diploma Supplement (EDS).	Prof/Tech Groups	Follows 2.1	1 Month	List of fields in the EDS currently not supported by the UK HE Transcript.		
3	Document the above work with a statement of pedagogic rationales covering the minimum UK HE Transcript Specification (2.1 and 2.2); the FE context (2.3); and the EDS (2.4)	Core Group	Follows 2	1 Month	Statement of the minimum and maximum definitions of the UK HE Transcript and their rationale		'Plain English' statement of minimum UK HE Transcript and extensions
4	Propose defined extensions to the IMS Learner Information Packaging (LIP, Public Draft Specification 0.4).	Prof/Tech Groups	Follows 2, concurrent with 3	1 Month		Add to the Project Outcomes listed above a technical description of the extensions, including an XML example of their use, as included in IMS documentation.	
5	Disseminate the results of these exercises and consult upon their implications with the audiences identified including university and commercial software developers.	Core Group	Ongoing Milestone follows 4				Establish email lists of communities seeking notification of events and updates on the CRA IMS website
6	Inform the key sector representative bodies charged with the implementation of the HE Progress File of the results of this work.	Core Group	Ongoing Milestone follows 3				
7	Liase with practitioner networks in order to analyse current best PDP/R practice, so as to enable to Core Group to:	Prof Group	Ongoing			Provide a specification of the elements of a PDR in order that software developers can produce software which will underpin the process of PDP and allow for interoperability between	Refinement of the LIP specifications in order to support the UK Policy Statement and its extensions in the area of transcript/PDP
7.1	Define the difference between the Transcript and PDR	Core Group	Follows 4-7				
7.2	Map current PDP/R practice against IMS specifications.	Core Group	Follows 7.1	1 Month			

7.3	Identify evolving PDP/R practice and consider its implications for IT support.	Core Group	Ongoing			systems	
7.4	Identify the further extensions likely to be required to the generic specification of the Transcript by the inclusion of the Transcript alongside PDP/R within the Progress File.	Core Group	Follows 7.3	2 months			
8	Identify the objects to be exchanged, in order to pass learner information between Management Information Systems and Student Support Systems;	Tech Group & input from SROC	Follows 7.4	3 Months (dep. on SROC input)			
9	Publicise the process of consultation, and the outcomes from this, on the CRA website and - in respect of defined audiences - via national bodies and networks.	All Groups	Ongoing		Regular updates to a defined area of the CRA website to coincide with the bi-monthly reporting function of the project.		
10	Establish a forum where academic, technical and professional staff can develop long term plans to provide the support that the Progress File will require.	Core Group Tech Focus	Ongoing				Develop a discussion forum, either within the CRA website, or using the UK Mailbase project, which will continue beyond the life of the project.
11	Identify opportunities for piloting emerging standards beyond the initial 18-month project.	Core Group Tech Focus	18 month end-point	1 Week		Agree a test-bed for the recommended extensions to the IMS specifications.	Project extension plan including the commitment of those projects identified as pilots.

Staffing Structure

Core Group

The members of the core group will be: - Rob Ward (chair), Angela Smallwood, Paul Drummond, Peter Woodhead, Dennis Barrington-Light, Val Butcher, Peter Rees Jones (and subject to their agreement Keith Cooper, Janet Strivens)

The remit of the Core Group will be to: -

1. Undertake the functions of a local Steering Group.
2. Receive material from the outcomes of the Technical and Professional Groups, and consider these for wider dissemination.
3. Take primary responsibility for consultation with and disseminate to the key sector representative bodies, specifically:
 - liaison with the HE Sector Representative Bodies (Universities Scotland, LTSN, QAA, SCoP, UUK), in order to produce a generic specification of the UK HE Transcript set out in the Policy Statement (Action 1)
 - The production of a proposal emerging from technical and pedagogic analysis of the proposed UK HE transcript and current IMS specifications (Action 3);
 - Dissemination of the results of these exercises and consultation upon their implications with the audiences identified (Action 5).
 - Informing the HE Sector Representative Bodies charged with the implementation of the HE Progress File of the results of this work (Action 6).
4. Draw upon the expertise of the Professional Group to extend the work into the PDP/R area, by
 - Defining the difference between the Transcript and PDR (Action 7.1)
 - Mapping current PDP/R practice against IMS specifications (Action 7.2).
 - Identifying evolving PDP/R practice and consider its implications for IT support (Action 7.3).
 - Identifying the further extensions likely to be required to the generic specification of the Transcript by the inclusion of the Transcript alongside PDP/R within the Progress File (Action 7.4)
5. Taking a pro-active role in respect of further development work, by:
 - establishing a forum where technical and academic staff can develop long term plans to provide the technical support that the Progress File will require (Action 10).
 - Identifying opportunities for piloting emerging standards beyond the initial 18-month project (Action 11).
6. With all groups publicise the process of consultation, and the outcomes from this, on the CRA website and - in respect of defined audiences - via national bodies and networks (Action 9).

The Core Group will meet on a six weekly cycle (some twelve meetings over the life of the Project).

Technical Group

Members will include: - Paul Drummond (Chair), Adam Marshall, Steve Outram

The remit of the Technical Group will be to:

1. Map the UK HE Transcript specification agreed under 1 against current IMS specifications (with support from SROC and CAR) (Action 2.1)

2. (With SROC/ARC) Map the UK HE Transcript against currently available MIS software (Action 2.2).
3. Provide, for the Core Group/CETIS:
 - A technical definition, using IMS terminology, of the proposed UK HE transcript.
 - Comparison of IMS LIP and Enterprise specifications against the Policy Statements definitions of the generic transcript.
4. With the Professional Group:
 - Map the UK HE Transcript against the work of the MLE Steering Group (Action 2.3).
 - Identify the extensions likely to be required to the Transcript in order to take account of the European Diploma Supplement (Action 2.4):
 - Propose defined extensions to the IMS Learner Information Packaging (LIP, Public Draft Specification 0.4) (Action 4).
5. With input from SROC, Identify the objects to be exchanged, in order to pass learner information between Management Information Systems and Student Support Systems (Action 8).
6. With all groups publicise the process of consultation, and the outcomes from this, on the CRA website and - in respect of defined audiences - via national bodies and networks (Action 9).

Professional Group

The remit of the Professional Group will be to:

1. With the Technical Group:
 - Map the UK HE Transcript against the work being undertaken in FE (Action 2.3).
 - Identify the extensions likely to be required to the Transcript in order to take account of the European Diploma Supplement (Action 2.4):
 - Propose defined extensions to the IMS Learner Information Packaging (LIP, Public Draft Specification 0.4) (Action 4).
2. Liaise with practitioner networks in order to analyse current best PDP/R practice (Action 7.), and report upon this to the Core group.
3. With all groups publicise the process of consultation, and the outcomes from this, on the CRA website and - in respect of defined audiences - via national bodies and networks (Action 9).