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## **Report on the organisation of the Community of Practice (CoP) in each participating country**

## **D5.2 Report on the organisation of the community of practice (CoP) in each participating country**

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# D5.2: REPORT ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE COP IN EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY

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## 1. Introduction

This report describes the infrastructure and organisation put in place to promote and facilitate the Community of Practice (COP) in each participating country and at a European level for the duration of the project.

### 1.1 Overall Objectives of the COP

The overall objectives for the COP are as follows:

1. **Participation:** Ensure that a significant number of the teachers trained through the SAILS project become active COP participants; Promote active membership of the COP to teachers not directly involved in the SAILS project.
2. **Promotion:** Drive IBSE and IBSE-related assessment frameworks into as many schools as possible;
3. **Sustainability:** Ensure the viability of the COP beyond the lifetime of the SAILS project.

### 1.2 COP Overview

The COP operates on two levels:

1. National COPs for each of the countries participating in the SAILS project:
  - o Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom.
2. An International COP providing support and a common central forum.

### 1.3 COP Benefits

COP members avail of the following benefits:

- **Publications** Access to publications and other material output from the SAILS project;
- **Forums** The facility to discuss and comment on Inquiry-based Science Education (IBSE) issues with other likeminded contributors, both nationally and internationally;
- **Events** Access to information on upcoming events as well as the opportunity to promote them.

From the COP members' perspective, the overall objective of the COP is to maintain and grow teacher interest in and use of IBSE and IBSE-related assessment frameworks. The COP presents an opportunity for teachers and educationalists trained through the SAILS project, to deepen their knowledge through active participation in their national (and international) COP.

## 2. COP Structure and Services

### 2.1 COP Structure and Services

Figure 2.1 below shows the structure for a national Community of Practice (COP) – the Polish COP in this instance.

The screenshot displays the SAILS website interface for the Polish COP. At the top, the SAILS logo and navigation menu are visible. Below the logo, the text 'Strategies for Assessment of Inquiry Learning in Science' is present. The navigation menu includes 'HOME', 'ARTICLES', 'EVENTS', 'RESOURCES', 'PROJECT', and 'COMMUNITIES'. The 'Polska COP' section is highlighted with a red box, showing a sub-menu with 'Group Overview', 'Discussions', 'Calendar', 'Resources', 'Folders', and 'Members'. The 'Discussions' section is active, showing a list of discussions. The first discussion is titled 'Jak "wędruje" energia?' and has a comment from Aleksander Pecyna. The second discussion is titled 'CZEŚĆ' and has a comment from Katarzyna Wilk. A 'Recent comments' box is also visible, showing a comment from Aleksander Pecyna. The 'Add Discussion' button is located in the top right corner of the discussion section.

**Figure 2.1:** Community of Practice (COP)

Each member of a COP can access the following services, highlighted in red in the figure above:

1. **Group Overview** – Listing the recent additions made by COP members in terms of:
  - a. New discussions posted and comments on discussions;
  - b. New events posted and changes to events in the COP calendar, and
  - c. New resources posted to the COP website.

The listed additions can be clicked on and examined further.

2. **Discussions** – Listing the discussions that are taking place in the COP. Clicking on a discussion shows the contributions of the members who are part of the discussion. It also enables the viewer to post a new comment to the discussion.

Members have the facility to add a new discussion and notify some or all COP members that the discussion is being added.

3. **Calendar** – Showing planned events in a calendar format. There are 6 types of event: Conference, Meeting, Workshop, Milestone, Deliverable and Other.

Members can add an event and notify particular COP members of that event. Notified members can view and edit the event. Members who have not been notified can view but not edit the event.

All events are visible to all COP members.

4. **Resources** – Containing material (e.g. documents, images, videos, web links, etc.) that members have uploaded to the COP.

Members have the facility to add a new resource and notify some or all COP members that the resource is being added. Members can also search for resources under a keyword search or a guided search.

All members of the COP will have access to the resource.

5. **Folders** - In addition to the Resources section, there is also a Folders section for materials. This has been included following requests from several COP moderators who prefer a folder structure for documentation, rather than the searchable Resources function.

6. **Members** – This section lists the members of the COP, showing their name and photograph. Clicking on a member’s photograph shows their email address and lists any discussions in which that user has taken part.

Each national COP is based on the agreed language for that country, listed in Table 2.1 below.

Country	Language	Country	Language
Belgium	Dutch	Poland	Polish
Denmark	Danish	Portugal	Portuguese
Germany	German	Slovakia	Slovakian
Greece	Greek	Sweden	Swedish
Hungary	Hungarian	Turkey	Turkish
Ireland	English	United Kingdom	English

**Table 2.1:** Community of Practice (COP)

## 2.2 International COP

The international COP is in English. Members that are added to each national COP are automatically included in the international COP.

The international COP has separate forums, publications and events to the national COPs. It is expected that members will not participate in the international COP until they are familiar with using their national COP.

### 3. COP Support

#### 3.1 COP Management

Each national COP has a national moderator, who is currently a SAILS participant based in that country. The moderator will in time establish a national council for the COP, made up of COP participants trained in IBSE through the SAILS project. The moderator role will be migrated to COP participants, within three years from the establishment of the national COP. A COP has been established in each participating country since month 10 (October 2012).

The international COP is being managed by an international council, comprising the national moderators, supported by the Intel until the end of the SAILS project. Once the SAILS project concludes, the international COP will be managed by COP participants without any support from the SAILS project.

#### 3.2 Moderator Services

The COP Moderator has access to the same COP services as those available to registered members, previously outlined in section 2.1. However the moderator has additional responsibilities concerning membership of the COP. The moderator can complete the registration of new members and add new members. The moderator can also suspend and remove members from the COP.

#### 3.3 Launch

Each COP has been launched and moderators have been appointed in each country.

#### 3.4 Early Challenges

The COPs are being incorporated into the training of both in-service and pre-service teachers, which is being undertaken as part of the SAILS project. Trainees are being automatically registered in their respective national COP.

The early challenges faced by COP moderators are:

1. **Content** The initial vital impression of the COP on trainees depends on the level and quality of resources available in the COP. The COP must be populated with reference material relevant to members, commencing with training course documentation and followed-up with other material such as training course outputs, relevant education reports and so on.

The strategy should be to build the COP as a valuable resource of IBSE-related content. Once the COP's value becomes recognised, it will drive increased use by trainees and ex-trainees.

2. **Communications** Trainees, especially in-service trainees, are unusually unknown to each other when they commence a SAILS training course. It is important during the training course to promote the use of the COP as a medium to support the developing communications and interaction among trainees.

Furthermore when the course is completed, the COP must be the primary medium for any follow-up activities with the trainees.

## 4. Conclusions

A national Community of Practice (COP) has been implemented for each of the countries participating in the SAILS project. Each national COP has a national moderator, to manage the COP in their respective country.

An international COP has also been set up, which automatically includes members of each of the national COPs. The international COP has separate forums, publications and events to the national COPs.

In-service and pre-service teachers participating in SAILS training workshops are automatically being registered as members of their national COP. Table 4.1 below shows the levels of COP membership in April 2013 (Month 16) and June 2013 (Month 18).

<b>COP Membership</b>	<b>Month 16</b>	<b>Month 18</b>
Belgium	6	6
Denmark	12	15
Germany	27	33
Greece	4	4
Hungary	6	8
Ireland	9	37
Poland	94	94
Portugal	19	50
Slovakia	9	9
Sweden	38	38
Turkey	5	9
United Kingdom	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>307</b>

**Table 4.1:** COP Membership

Membership will increase further during the second phase of SAILS workshops. There are early signs of members using the COPs to host discussions on topics of interest and to share resources.