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INTERNATIONALISATION OF SIF AND HARMONISATION WITH OTHER SPECS/STANDARDS

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CEN

WORKSHOP

AGREEMENT

CWA 14929

March 2004

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English version

Internationalisation of SIF and harmonisation with other specs/standards

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Foreword

This work is directly related to the European Commission's Mandate M/280 "Standardisation mandate to CEN, CENELEC and ETSI in the domain of 'Learning and Training Technologies & Educational Multimedia Software', covering the development of a workplan for standards related activities in relation to Learning Technologies. The first agreed workplan was published as CWA 14040 in the year 2000. In a second step, the original workplan has been expanded. The development of Interoperability frameworks for exchange of information between diverse management systems in cooperation with OASIS [1], Open Architecture and Schools in Society, was one of the recommendations for further work.

This report was prepared by an appointed Project Team within the CEN/ISSS Learning Technologies Workshop. The CEN/ISSS Learning Technologies Workshop (WS-LT) [2] agreed at its meeting in Madrid on April 04/05 2002 to provide interoperability specifications for a range of information exchange, initially aimed at school systems, but also applicable in a wider lifelong learning context. This work item will support the output of the OASIS (Open Architecture and Schools in Society) project which enables different applications and systems to share information.

OASIS is an ambitious project to promote virtual communities in the school system, partly by harmonizing information exchange standards. It has been proposed in the framework of the User-friendly information society (the IST Programme) under the Fifth Framework Programme, which defines the European Commission activities in the field of RTD (Research Technological development and Demonstration). The work of OASIS will initially be based upon the SIF project (Schools Interoperability Framework) [3] but will be adapted by the partners to meet European needs. Some of the original specifications will be discarded and some additional ones will be created.

The work item will focus on collaborating with the OASIS partners in ensuring that the specifications they produce do not duplicate international standards activity, are appropriate for a broader audience and are suitable for e-Europe standardisation.

This CEN Workshop Agreement identifies those elements within the SIF Data Model that should be further studied in order to properly cope with the multi-cultural and multi-lingual environment in Europe. In addition, this document also identifies those parts of the SIF specification that overlap with other existing standards for e-learning and other domains whose adoption may be considered by SIF-based initiatives.

The document has been developed through the collaboration of a number of contributing partners, representing a wide mix of interests, from universities to commercial companies representatives. The names of the individuals and their affiliations that have expressed support for this CWA is available form the CEN/ISSS Secretariat

The final review/endorsement round for this CWA was started on the 2004-01-12 and closed 2004-01-25.

The final text of this CWA was submitted to CEN for approval and publication in 2004-02-04.

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