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HARMONISATION OF VOCABULARIES FOR ELEARNING

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Údarás um Chaighdeán Náisiúnta na hÉireann

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AGREEMENT

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English version

Harmonisation of vocabularies for eLearning

This CEN Workshop Agreement has been drafted and approved by a Workshop of representatives of interested parties, the constitution of which is indicated in the foreword of this Workshop Agreement.

The formal process followed by the Workshop in the development of this Workshop Agreement has been endorsed by the National Members of CEN but neither the National Members of CEN nor the CEN Management Centre can be held accountable for the technical content of this CEN Workshop Agreement or possible conflicts with standards or legislation.

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FOREWORD

This CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) provides concepts, techniques and guidelines for the harmonisation of *vocabularies*. The term *vocabulary* is used in this CWA in the broad sense, referring to value lists, classifications, taxonomies, glossaries, dictionaries, ontologies, and thesauri.

Different communities have their own identity, language, and *vocabularies* which are important to express exactly what is meant. For instance the educational system in North America is differently structured than in Europe and it uses different terminology. Even in Europe great differences exist between different sectors. For example, a thesaurus applicable for vocational education is different from the one for schools. These naturally grown differences make the application of standards more complex and often less effective. In addition *vocabularies* are created again and again sometimes with differences that are not essential but that inhibit interoperability.

The CWA also provides tools to specify mappings between learning technology vocabularies.

In parallel to this CWA, an online service that supports the analysis of different thesauri has been developed.

The decision for this work item was taken by the Learning Technologies Workshop at the 14th meeting on March 24/25, 2003. Work on the CWA actually started at the 17th meeting in January 2004.

The CWA was edited by Frans Van Assche with contributions of Sylvia Hartinger, Angelika Harvey, David Massart, Kateryna Synytsya, Anne Wanniar and Marc Willem.

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 from the CEN/ISSS Secretariat.

The final review/endorsement round for this CWA was started on 2005-06-16/17 and closed on 2005-07-15.

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Comments or suggestions from the users of the CEN Workshop Agreement are welcome and should be addressed to the CEN Management Centre.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADL	Advanced Distributed Learning
CEDEFOP	Centre européen pour le développement de la formation professionnelle
DDC	Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme
ECLAS	European Commission Library Automated System
ELR	European Learning Resource
EUN	European Schoolnet
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc.
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
ISO	International Organization for Standardisation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LOM	Learning Object Metadata (usually used in "IEEE LOM")
LTSC	IEEE Learning Technology Standards Committee
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RFC	Request for Comment (usually used in "IETF RFC xxxx")
SCORM	Shareable Content Object Reference Model
UDC	Universal Decimal Classification Scheme
VDEX	IMS Vocabulary Definition Exchange Specification
VET	Vocational Education and Training
W3C	World Wide Web Consortium
XML	Extensible Mark-up Language
XVD	Exchange of Vocabulary Definition Specification (this specification)

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