

Report on Self-Evaluation of the Progress of the RETHINK Project November 2014

Background:

In the framework of the RETHINK project meeting in Tbilisi from November 3rd to 7th, 2014 Dr. Kaufmann had asked the participants for the completion of a questionnaire on the project progress that had been achieved until October 2014. The questionnaires should have been sent to Dr. Kaufmann until November 30th, 2014. Until December 10th, 2014 Dr. Kaufmann has received 13 questionnaires out of 22 consortium members.

Questionnaire:

The standardized questionnaire consists of a brief description of how to complete the questionnaire, a table to weight the work packages according to their importance for the project and for each work package a catalogue of criteria describing the achievement of outputs/outcomes of the project.

The completion of the questionnaire had to be done in three steps:

1. Weighting of the work packages according to their importance for the achievement of the project targets.
2. Weighting of each single criterion describing the progress of a work package,
3. Evaluation of the achievement of each single criterion by a score between 1 and 10 according to the following meaning of scores:
 - 1 means achievement of the criterion has not at all started,
 - 5 means achievement of the criterion is in progress,
 - 10 means criterion is fully achieved

Sample Included into Self-Evaluation:

The questionnaires of the following consortium partners have been included into the analysis:

- P2: Polytechnic Institute of Leiria (IPL)
- P4: Universidade da Coruna (UDC)
- P5: Technische Universiteit Delft (TUD)
- P6: University of Paderborn (UPB)
- P7: Kaufmann Unternehmensberatung (KUB)
- P8: Gavar State University (GSU)
- P9: State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA)
- P10: Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction (AzUAC)
- P11: Baku State University (BSU)
- P13: Brest State Technical University (BrSTU)
- P14: Polotsk State University (PSU)
- P16: Georgian Technical University (GTU)
- P17: Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)
- P18: Alecu Russo Balti State University (USARB)
- P19: Technical University of Moldova (TUM)
- P20: Donbas National Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture (DNACEA)
- P21: Donetsk National Technical University (DNTU)

This sample includes all university partners from each country involved in the project. Although the validity of the analysis would be improved by the inclusion of the ministries of education this sample allows a realistic valuation of the status of RETHINK at the end of the first project year.

Results of Self-Evaluation:

Block of Criteria	Evaluation Results		Weighting	Median
	consensus (or highest)	consensus (or lowest)		
1. Road Map	10,0	3,9	12,7%	10,0
2. Rethinking Curricula Architecture/Urban Planning	6,3	2,0	12,0%	3,5
3. Rethinking Curricula Environmental Sciences/Climate Engineering	6,4	1,0	13,4%	3,4
4. Upgrade Cluster	7,3	1,0	12,8%	3,5
5. Quality Plan – Quality Statute	4,4	1,0	12,4%	1,0
6. (Dissemination) – Expand RETHINK	7,9	1,0	12,4%	3,6
7. Exploitation and Sustainability	7,4	1,0	11,4%	1,0
8. Administration & Management	9,7	3,6	12,9%	7,0
Total	7,4	1,8	100,0%	4,2

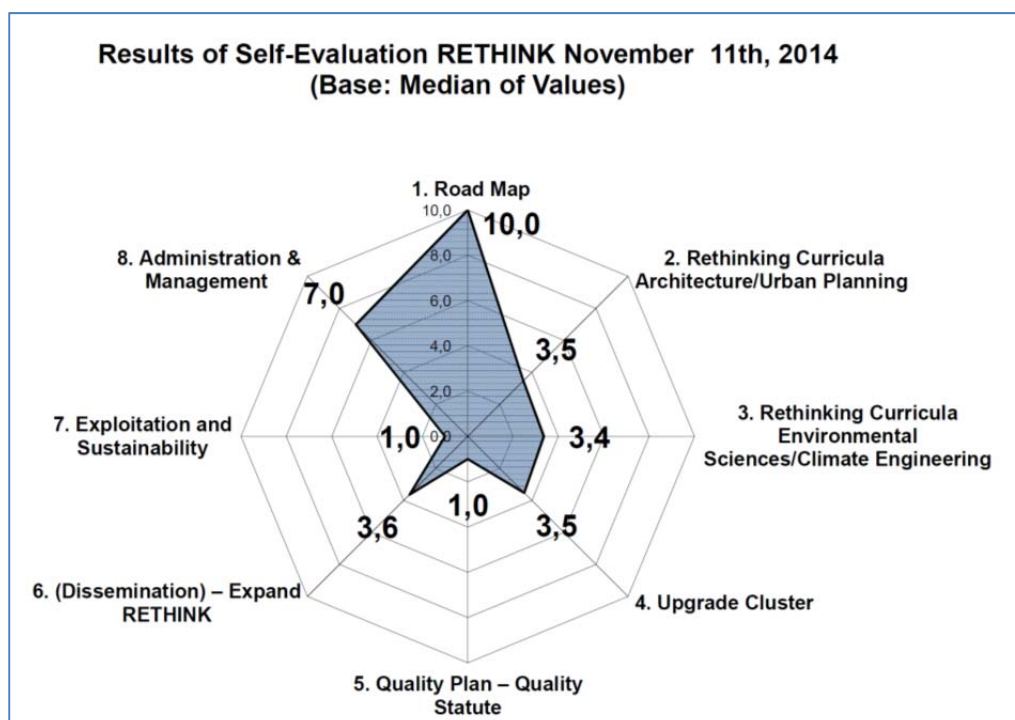
This table provides a first survey on the evaluation of the progress achieved according to each work package.

The weighting of the work packages equates almost an equal weight of each work package.

The weighted median values reflect a differentiated pattern. Whilst work package 5 “Quality Plan – Quality

Statute” and work package 7 “Exploitation and Sustainability” seem not at all have started work package 1 “Road Map” already has achieved its targets completely. All other work packages are in progress more or less, but still a lot of work has to be done.

The weighted maximum and minimum values indicate that the progress of the work packages is evaluated differently by the consortium members.



The informative value of the figures themselves is rather small but the pattern of the values provides an interesting impression of the project’s progress. The single axes of the figure are showing the extent to which a work package has been completed on a scale from 0 to 10 until the date of the evaluation. The

area of the figure that is created by the connection of the values that have been achieved according

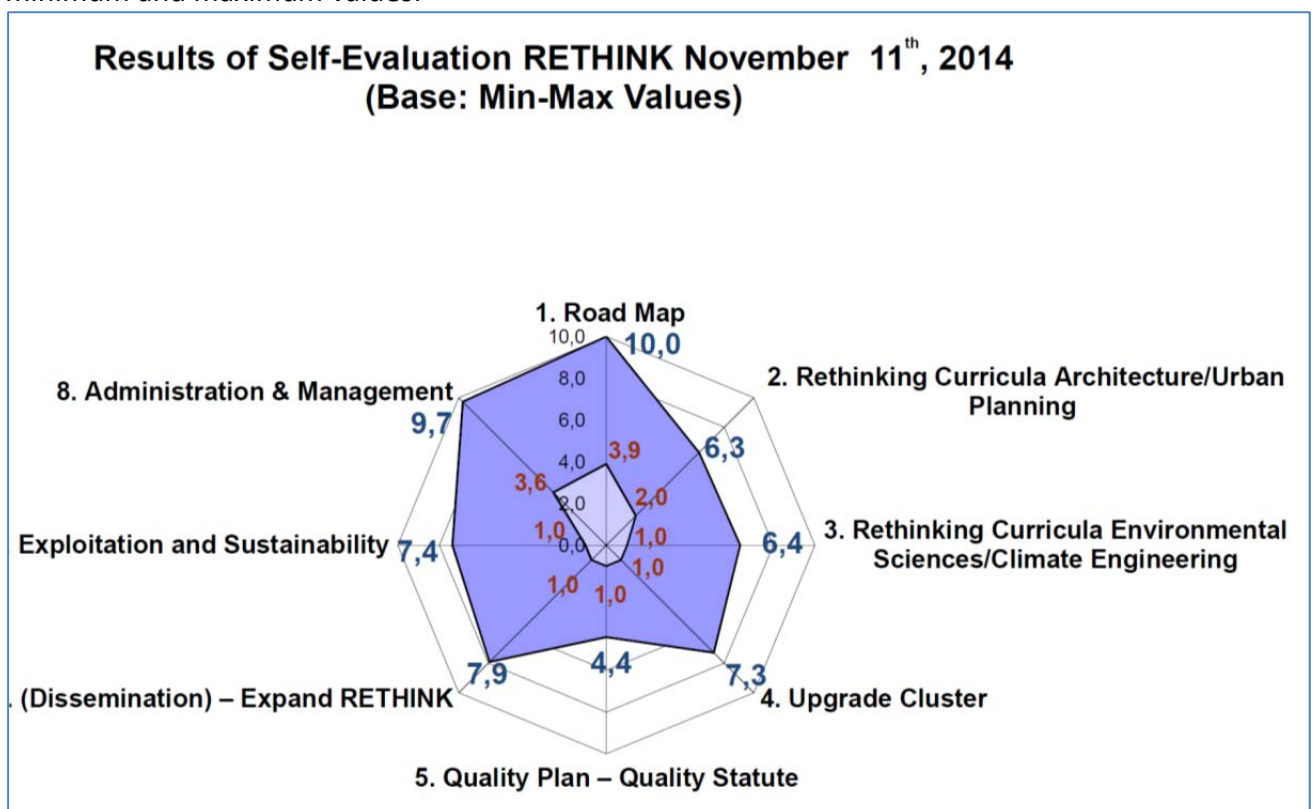
to each work package is representing the share of the total project progress. When doing a final project evaluation at the end of the project this area should cover the entire figure.

The pattern leads to the same interpretation as the table above does:

- Work packages 1 Road Map has been completed,
- Work packages 2 Rethinking Curricula Architecture/Urban Planning, 3 Rethinking Curricula Environmental Sciences/Climate Engineering, 4 Upgrade Cluster, 6 Dissemination and 8 Administration & Management are in progress and
- Work packages 5 Quality Plan – Quality statute and 7 Exploitation and Sustainability did not really start up now.

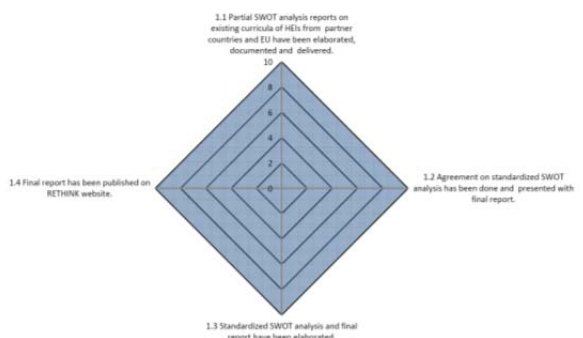
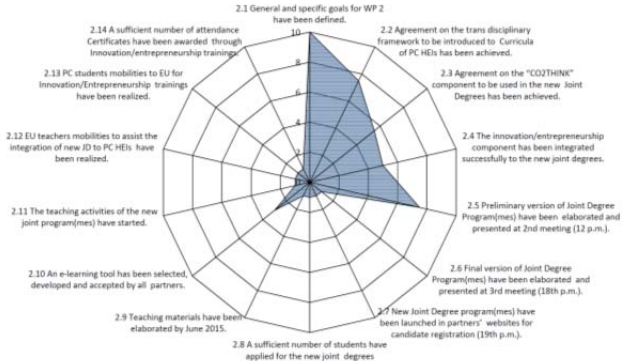
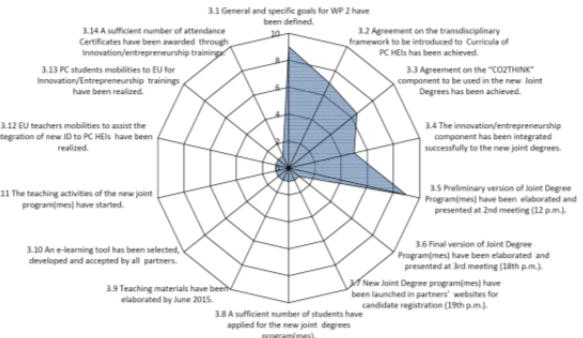
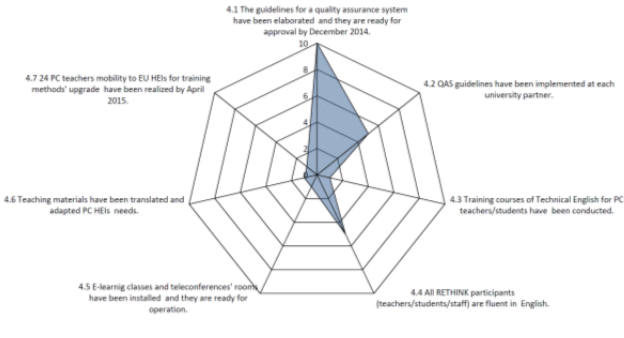
These results are corresponding to the work plan of the project. According to the outputs/outcomes of the project and the activities that are necessary for their achievement roughly one quarter has been completed.

When analyzing the evaluation results one should keep in mind that they are based on individual estimations of the project partners and that there is a different level of information at each single partner. That is why the single estimations differ as well. This becomes very clear by inspecting the minimum and maximum values:

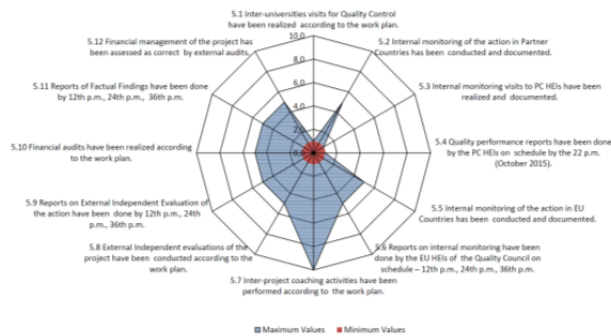


Obviously there is a broad variance regarding the estimations of the progress of the work packages.

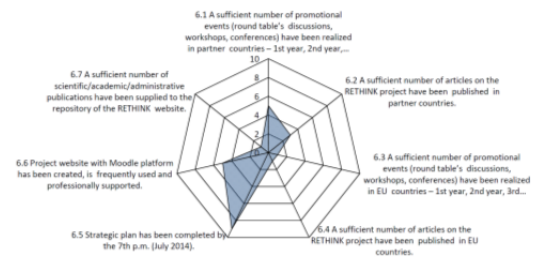
Some further interesting information is provided by analyzing each single work package according to the achievement of the criteria of progress or better: which outputs/outcomes not yet have been achieved. The following charts are showing this in detail:

<p>Work Package 1. Road Map Median Values</p>  <p>1.1 Partial SWOT analysis reports on existing curricula of HEIs from partner countries and EU have been elaborated, documented and delivered.</p> <p>1.2 Agreement on standardized SWOT analysis has been done and presented with final report.</p> <p>1.3 Standardized SWOT analysis and final report have been elaborated.</p> <p>1.4 Final report has been published on RETHINK website.</p>	<p>WP 2. Rethinking Curricula Architecture/Urban Planning Median Values</p>  <p>2.1 General and specific goals for WP 2 have been defined.</p> <p>2.2 Agreement on the trans disciplinary framework to be introduced to Curricula of PC HEIs has been achieved.</p> <p>2.3 Agreement on the "CO2THINK" component to be used in the new Joint Degrees has been achieved.</p> <p>2.4 The innovation/entrepreneurship component has been integrated successfully to the new joint degrees.</p> <p>2.5 Preliminary version of Joint Degree Program(mes) have been elaborated and presented at 2nd meeting (12 p.m.).</p> <p>2.6 Final version of Joint Degree Program(mes) have been elaborated and presented at 3rd meeting (18th p.m.).</p> <p>2.7 New Joint Degree program(mes) have been launched in partners' websites for candidate registration (19th p.m.).</p> <p>2.8 A sufficient number of students have applied for the new joint degrees (programmes).</p> <p>2.9 Teaching materials have been elaborated by June 2015.</p> <p>2.10 An e-learning tool has been selected, developed and accepted by all partners.</p> <p>2.11 The teaching activities of the new joint program(mes) have started.</p> <p>2.12 EU teachers mobilities to assist the integration of new JD to PC HEIs have been realized.</p> <p>2.13 PC students mobilities to EU for Innovation/Entrepreneurship trainings have been realized.</p> <p>2.14 A sufficient number of attendance Certificates have been awarded through Innovation/entrepreneurship trainings.</p>
<p>Work package 1: All criteria have been achieved by 100 percent.</p>	<p>Work package 2: Fundamentals have been elaborated or they are in good progress. Because their completion is a precondition for all further activities and outputs/outcomes of this work package it is self-evident that the achievement of criteria no. 2.6 to no. 2.14 not yet has started or just is in poor progress.</p>
<p>WP 3. Rethinking Curricula Environmental Sciences/Climate Engineering Median Values</p>  <p>3.1 General and specific goals for WP 3 have been defined.</p> <p>3.2 Agreement on the transdisciplinary framework to be introduced to Curricula of PC HEIs has been achieved.</p> <p>3.3 Agreement on the "CO2THINK" component to be used in the new Joint Degrees has been achieved.</p> <p>3.4 The innovation/entrepreneurship component has been integrated successfully to the new joint degrees.</p> <p>3.5 Preliminary version of Joint Degree Program(mes) have been elaborated and presented at 2nd meeting (12 p.m.).</p> <p>3.6 Final version of Joint Degree Program(mes) have been elaborated and presented at 3rd meeting (18th p.m.).</p> <p>3.7 New Joint Degree program(mes) have been launched in partners' websites for candidate registration (19th p.m.).</p> <p>3.8 A sufficient number of students have applied for the new joint degrees (programmes).</p> <p>3.9 Teaching materials have been elaborated by June 2015.</p> <p>3.10 An e-learning tool has been selected, developed and accepted by all partners.</p> <p>3.11 The teaching activities of the new joint program(mes) have started.</p> <p>3.12 EU teachers mobilities to assist the integration of new JD to PC HEIs have been realized.</p> <p>3.13 PC students mobilities to EU for Innovation/Entrepreneurship trainings have been realized.</p> <p>3.14 A sufficient number of attendance Certificates have been awarded through Innovation/entrepreneurship trainings.</p>	<p>WP 4. Upgrade Cluster Median Values</p>  <p>4.1 The guidelines for a quality assurance system have been elaborated and they are ready for approval by December 2014.</p> <p>4.2 QAS guidelines have been implemented at each university partner.</p> <p>4.3 Training courses of Technical English for PC teachers/students have been conducted.</p> <p>4.4 All RETHINK participants (teachers/students/staff) are fluent in English.</p> <p>4.5 E-learning classes and teleconferences' room have been installed and they are ready for operation.</p> <p>4.6 Teaching materials have been translated and adapted PC HEIs' needs.</p> <p>4.7 24 PC teachers mobility to EU HEIs for training methods' upgrade have been realized by April 2015.</p>
<p>Work package 3: Fundamentals have been elaborated or they are in good progress. Because their completion is a precondition for all further activities and outputs/outcomes of this work package it is self-evident that the achievement of criteria no. 3.6 to no. 3.14 not yet has started or just is in poor progress.</p>	<p>Work package 4: By completion of the quality guidelines an important output of this work package has been achieved according to the work schedule of the project.</p> <p>The progress/achievement of all further activities/outputs, outcomes is in general in line with the work plan. Nevertheless the conduction of training courses on technical English of PC teachers should be enforced in order to promote efficient project communication with all partners.</p>

5. Quality Plan – Quality Statute Minimum and Maximum Values



WP 6. (Dissemination) – Expand RETHINK Median Values



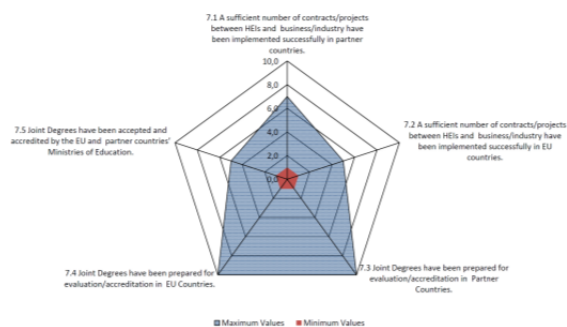
Work package 5:

Although all criteria only have to be achieved in future according to the work plan some single activities already have been accomplished.

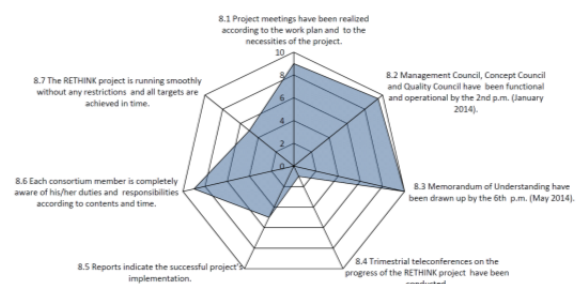
Work package 6:

Dissemination is a permanent task of all project partners all over the entire project duration. But there are two central activities that are basic for dissemination work, the strategic plan for dissemination and the project website. Both activities are in line with the work plan: the strategic plan has been completed and the website is online and in good progress. Furthermore promotional events have been realized in Moldova and Georgia. Articles and scientific publications should report about important outputs/outcomes and events of the project. As soon as those will be achieved the project management should initiate the elaboration of them.

WP 7. Exploitation and Sustainability Minimum and Maximum Values



WP 8. Administration & Management Median Values



Work package 7:

The achievement of results is a precondition for their exploitation and sustainability. Thus all criteria only have to be achieved in future according to the work plan.

Work package 8:

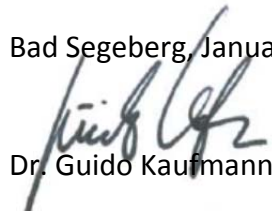
The chart is indicating proper progress according to all criteria besides "trimestrial teleconferences on the progress of the RETHINK project". The project management should promote this subject or it should take a decision how to deal with it.

Résumé:

The results of the self-evaluation provide an impression how the participants of the project themselves are estimating the project's progress. In doing so it becomes very clear that the progress is estimated very different by different partners. The reason might be that there are formal/administrative or legal problems establishing double degrees at some of the partner universities. This would mean that the legal representatives and/or decision boards of those partner universities should be involved more intensively into the project in order to overcome those problems.

Nevertheless most of the partners have completed and sent their questionnaires. Based on this sample the results should be rather valid. They show a progress of the project that is in line with the work plan in general. At the same time they provide hints on those subjects that should be taken special care about in the next months of the project implementation.

Bad Segeberg, January 22nd, 2015



Dr. Guido Kaufmann