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Middleware for collaborative Applications and Global vIrtual Communities

Deliverable N° D5.2

Annual report on Global Virtual Days in priority worldwide fields and on International Calls InfoDays transmitted

This project is co-funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union

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Periodical Progress Report

MAGIC Deliverable: D5.2

Annual report on Global Virtual Days in priority worldwide fields and on International Calls InfoDays transmitted

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EU-LAC	Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean
NREN	National Research and Education Network
GSC	Global Science Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WP5 of the MAGIC project is devoted to creating and coordinating relevant research communities (Global Science Communities) comprising representatives from all possible world regions. The project has established communities in four thematic areas: e-Health; Biodiversity; Environment; and Remote Instrumentation. The project team is introducing and guiding partipants of communities in the use of the collaborative applications, and helping them find funding opportunities for their joint research activities. Emphasis is also being placed on disseminating the collected information worldwide and specifically to the selected user communities.

This Deliverable D5.2 reports on the activities involved in the organisation of Global Virtual Days on Worldwide Priority Fields (Task 5.3) and Global InfoDays on H2020 Calls (Task 5.4) as carried out by Work Package 5 – Global Virtual Communities of the MAGIC project during the first year. An InfoDay was held in June 2015 focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean under the theme: “Segundo Ciclo Virtual para América Latina y el Caribe sobre Horizonte 2020” (Second Virtual Cycle for Latin America and the Caribbean about Horizon 2020). A Global virtual Day was held in December 2015 under the title Politics and Models of Implementing Open Access in the World.

The deliverable gives more information about these events and concludes by outlining the next set of activities – events – to be carried in the coming months.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This document, Deliverable D5.2, of the MAGIC project reports on the virtual activities developed during the first year around: a) global virtual days on worldwide priority fields related to the Global Science Communities (Task 5.3); and b) Info days to promote and offer information on the Horizon 2020 call for proposals (Task 5.4). Four Global Science Communities were established during the course of the reporting period around the themes of eHealth, Environment, Biodiversity and Remote Instrumentation. The establishment of the communities was reported in D5.1 - Guidelines, objective, directives and strategic work plan of the MAGIC Global Science Communities.

In both cases, the project team was devoted to strengthening the work of the members of the GSC, offering them a space to find opportunities, share knowledge and to identify experiences that could be applied in their own environment. Besides all the activities involved, the use of the tools available in the Collaborative platform, Colaboratorio, were integral in communication and sharing information, organizing the events and storing the material of the sessions.

1.2. STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

The document consists of eight major sections. This first section gives introductory information about the project and the deliverable, and an introductory outline of the content to the document. The second presents the status of the four Global Science Communities. The Third outlines the activities developed around Global virtual days on Horizon 2020 calls while the fourth is devoted to virtual days on priority fields related to the MAGIC Global Science Communities. Next steps are provided in section fifth and the Conclusion is summarized in section 6. The last section informs the reader about where to forward possible comments.

1.3. DOCUMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

Requests for amendments to this document should be made to the authors, Tiwonge Banda, F&A Manager, UbuntuNet tiwonge.banda@ubuntunet.net and Tania Altamirano, Community Coordinator,

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RedCLARA tania.altamirano-lopez@redclara.net (both WP5) and copied to the Management of the MAGIC project: magic-all@listas.redclara.net

2. STATUS OF GLOBAL SCIENCE COMMUNITIES

Four Global Science Communities (GSC) were established as previously reported in D5.1 - Guidelines, objective, directives and strategic work plan of the MAGIC Global Science Communities. The communities are on the priority areas: e-Health; Biodiversity; Environmment; and Remote Instrumentation. Each community has a Champion, who is a thematic leader, an expert in the field. The communities held their opening conference during the month of February 2016 and have since been active, planning the next steps.

Table 1: Global Science Communities

Community	Champion/Affiliation	Number of Members
e-Health	Prof Luis Ary Messina, Coordinator, Brazilian Telemedicine Network	58
Biodiversity	Prof José Ramón Martínez Batlle, Professor in the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo	31
Environment	Dr David Smith Coordinator, Institute for Sustainable Development, University of the West Indies	28
Remote Instrumentation	Prof Patricia Santiago, Physics Institute at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	15

As at the time of writing this deliverable, the project team is working with the community Champions to organise follow up activities. Surveys to determine the interests of the members of the community have been conducted for the e-Health and Environment communities. The results for the e-Health community have led to the identification of 4 sub priiorities and 'ground rounds' are being planned to be held starting in May 2016. The survey for the Environment community is still open and the idea is

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to match sub-priorities to determine the next topics for virtual events. A virtual event for the Biodiversity was initially set for 5 April, but had to be postponed to 5th May 2016 because some presenters had connectivity issues. The event description and agenda is available at https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/661/overview.

3. GLOBAL VIRTUAL DAYS ON HORIZON 2020 CALLS

During the reported period, a three day session dedicated to Latin America and the Caribbean titled: "Segundo Ciclo Virtual para América Latina y el Caribe sobre Horizonte 2020" (Second Virtual Cycle for Latin America and the Caribbean about Horizon 2020)[1] was developed. It took place on June 17-24, 2015 and was developed jointly with the Argentine Bureau for Enhancing Cooperation with the European Union (ABEST III), the Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Network on Research and Innovation (ALCUENET) and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay.

For the organization of the activity, a web page was created (See: https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/495/overview) on the event manager of the collaborative platform, Colaboratorio, that presented:

- Agenda
- Speakers
- Important dates
- How to participate
- Registration

Also, from the main page of the website, it is possible to access the material section where all the material from the sessión are available. These inlcude slides and links to the recording of each day of the event. (See image 1)

Because this activity was mainly intended to Latin America and the Caribbean, the language chosen to present the information and to develop the activity was Spanish. Nevertheless it included presentations in English. The participants were informed that in the case they wanted information

[1] This was a second version of a previous activity developed; the information is available here: https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/435/

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from the English speakers they could send their questions by email or request the help of the moderator to translate the message.

The three day agenda covered topics such as Nanosciences, Science with and for Society, Bioeconomy, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Environment, Biodiversity and Energy, besides the last day it included information on how to identify a specific call and how to apply. That last part was really interesting for participants because it offered key elements to a successful evaluation.

Image 1: Website of the event

The dissemination activities included news, a newsletter and invitation by email to potential participants from the region (See image 2). The event was developed by H323 videoconference, therefore those interested had to register their videoconference rooms through the form available on the website and to be part of the test session to guarantee the quality of the transmission during the event.

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Image 2: Material produced

The impact of the activity was shown in the elevated number of videoconference rooms registered to participate in the cycle: 56 in total (See registrants list 1). Additionally, the event was streamed live through Internet, with a peak of 120 users connected at the same time and a total of 290 participants by streaming on the three days (See image 3).

Image 3: Images of the event by streaming

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4. GLOBAL VIRTUAL DAYS ON WORLDWIDE PRIORITY FIELDS

Another activity planned with the communities is the development of global virtual days on worldwide priority fields. In this context, on December 15th, 2015 a virtual day on Politics and models of implementation of Open Access in the world took place

For the coordination of the event, a web page was created (see: https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/623/) that includes the following sections:

- An Introduction text
- Registration Form
- Speakers short bio
- Agenda
- Important dates
- How to participate

The activity was mainly direct to the African region, thence all the presentations and the material generated (available for download from the home page of the web site) was in English. The agenda included the participation of representatives from Latin America, Africa and Europe who presented their respective experiences.

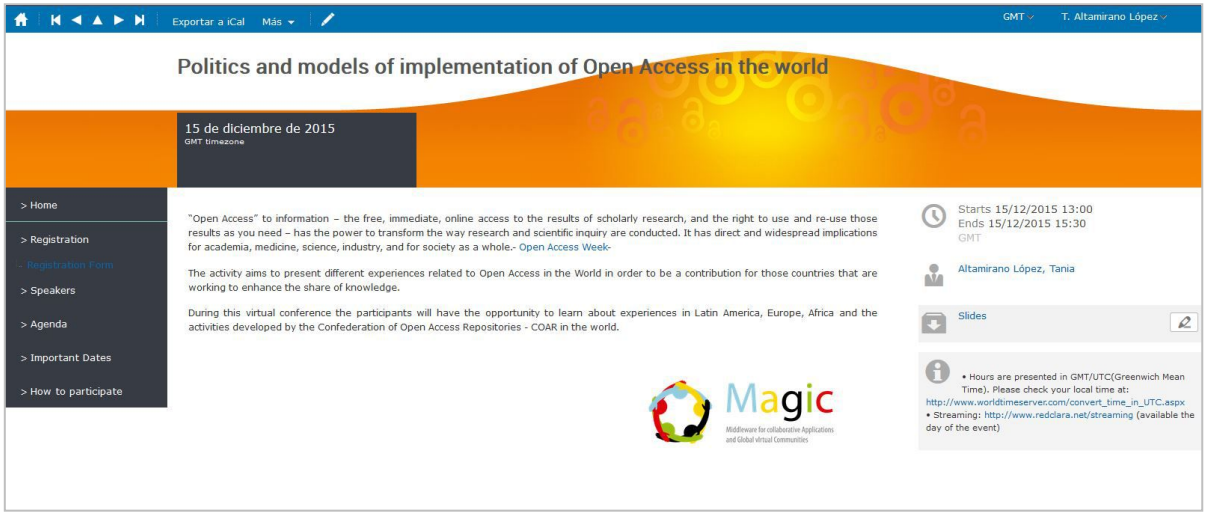

Image 4: Website of the event

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For the dissemination of the activity, an informative article was generated and published in the web pages of the RedCLARA, MAGIC and was also included in the informative material of the partners institutions (See image 8).

Image 5: Images of the material produced for the event

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The event wad developed using a H.323 videoconference system with a streaming transmission. The participation included 22 videoconference rooms registered and a peak of 20 participants by Internet. For those connected remotely, there was the option of sending their comments and questions using the Skype account: dias.virtuales to interact with the speakers.

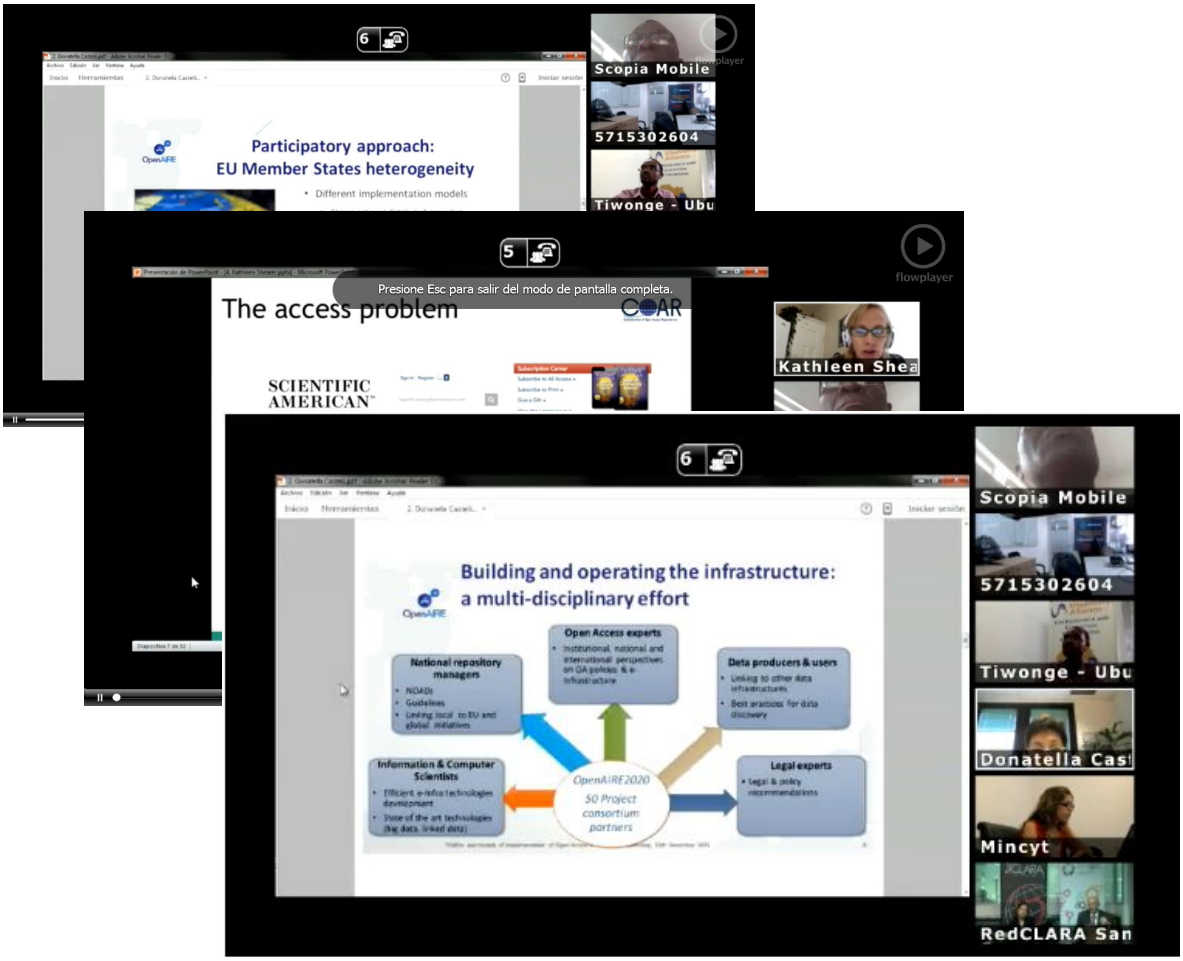

Image 6: Images of the event by streaming

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5. NEXT STEPS

For the coming months the following activities are planned and sychronised with the activities of the GSCs:

1. Participate in the next Info Day, Horizon 2020 - 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing' announced at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=314FDE2A-B120-5C11-0BC24DEE2CA8115E and scheduled for July 8th, 2016. This topic could be of interest of the MAGIC GSC on e-Health, therefore the idea is to identify with the champion possible opportunities and promote the event among the community members.

2. Organized a Info Day dedicated to the Africa region. This task would be developed in coordination with a National Contact Points in Africa, that is the target region for the mentioned activity. The estimated month for this session is June, 2016 and will focus on one of the priority areas covered in the Global Science Communities.

3. Create a calendar of events that includes all the virtual and face to face activities to be developed in the next period of the project. This would include the Horizon 2020 Info Days, session about priority areas topics and the sessions of the GSC. This calendar will be published on the website of the MAGIC project and will be updated periodically. This will be a tool for dissemination and also for the follow up of the activities of the communities.

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6. CONCLUSION

Despite delays in establishing the GSCs, the project team has been able during the first year to organise planned virtual events in Task 5.3 and Task 5.4. The events drew together participants from different countries to share experiences (for the virtual days) and discuss opportunities (for InforDays). Now that the GSCs are in place, more events are planned and will be held during the second year of the project. Successful organisation of these online events continues to prove that such events are possible and emphasizes the need for the research and education networking community to continue investing in collaborative platforms such as Colaboratorio. This also underscores the need for improved communications infrastructure as virtual collaborative platforms, especially those for real time collaboration, require good connectivity.

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