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DeCAIR Steering Committee

Meeting 10

Feb 2, 2022 (10:00 – 12:00)

University of Genoa and Zoom Meeting

Dipartimento di Informatica, Bioingegneria, Robotica e Ingegneria
dei Sistemi

Developing Curricula for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (DeCAIR)
618535-EPP-1-2020-1-JO-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Attendance

- Gheith Abandah
- Wafa Batayneh
- Murad Alaqtash
- Clovis Francis (Virtual)
- Soubhi Abou-Chahine (Virtual)
- Lucia Pallottino
- Francesco Masulli
- Jorge Casillas (Virtual)
- Peter Eberhard (Virtual)
- Dimos Papakonstantinou (Virtual)

- Also: Iyad, Ramzi, Mohammad
- Virtual: Sofia, Mario, Musa, Adham, Imane, Ali

Agenda

- Status review and planning for the following work packages:
 1. WP2: Development of new MSc and BSc programs in AIR
 - Presented by **Francesco**
 2. WP5: Improving curricula of current MSc programs in JO and LB
 - Presented by **Peter** and **Mario**
 3. WP6: Improving curricula of current BSc programs in JO and LB
 - Presented by **Jorge**
 4. WP7: Building capacity in AIR in universities of Partner Countries
 - Presented by **Lucia**
 5. WP8: Establishing and developing AIR labs
 - Presented by **Sobhi**
 6. WP10: Quality assurance
 - Presented by **Sofia**
 7. WP11: Collaboration with industry and community labs
 - Presented by **Clovis**
- UGR participation in the DeCAIR project
 - Presented by **Gheith** and **Jorge**
- Misc. points by **Gheith**

Minutes of the Meeting

1. WP2: Development of new MSc and BSc programs in AIR

- Francesco summarized the progress in this work package. He reported that syllabi development of Activities 2.2 and 6.2 is finished. The draft syllabi were developed last year, discussed and improved in November 2021 meeting in Amman, and each syllabus was reviewed by two experts (one from the same university offering the course and another expert from a European university).
- In the afternoon session today, the formal final discussion and approval of these syllabi will be carried out.
- After this session, the authors of the syllabi should carry out any suggested changes/modifications and submit the syllabi to be uploaded on DeCAIR Repository.
- There is a need to get the students opinions about these syllabi.

2. WP5: Improving curricula of current MSc programs in JO and LB

- Peter and Mario reviewed the status of WP5. They reported that the planned course developments of Activity 5.1 were successfully completed.

2. WP6: Improving curricula of current BSc programs in JO and LB

- The course developments of Activity 6.1 are concluded as part of Activity 2.2.

4. WP7: Building capacity in AIR in universities of Partner Countries

- Lucia reviewed the progress and plans for Work Package 7. She reported that the second virtual course (Robotic Operating System) was concluded and that the third course (Introduction to Machine learning) will start tomorrow in a hybrid mode, then it will be continued later in February in a virtual mode.
- She suggested two courses for July 2022: Deep Learning and Computer Vision.
- She will coordinate with the consortium to plan for the next courses in Spring and Summer 2022.

5. WP8: Establishing and developing AIR labs

- Gheith reported that three contracts were signed based on the central tender for buying equipment for the three Jordanian universities. These contracts will provide two thirds of the needed equipment. The rest third will be bought through proper purchase orders.
- Sobhi reported that purchasing equipment for BAU faced several problems related to the difficult financial situation in Lebanon. He expects that the purchase contract will be concluded in 1-2 weeks.
- Clovis reported that the contract for purchasing the LU equipment was signed and he will report the details next week.

6. WP10: Quality assurance

- Sofia reported the quality assessment of the following:
 - Meeting in Amman (Nov 2021)
 - Syllabi development of Activity 5.1
 - Course of Robotics Operating System
- She reviewed the project quality plan and introduced the project monitoring table on the cloud and asked work package leads to report the progress of their work packages using this table.

7. WP11: Collaboration with industry and community

- Clovis reviewed the plans for this work package. He also presented the plan for the first collaboration workshop scheduled in Lebanon in early March 2022.
- Iyad presented the plan for the second collaboration workshop scheduled in Jordan later in March 2022.

UGR participation in the DeCAIR project

- Gheith mentioned that UGR didn't have participation in the project since July 2021 other than participating in SC Meetings 8 and 9. Although the project was able to proceed successfully through moving tasks to other activities and partners, the results could have been better was UGR engaged.
- Jorge mentioned that there were difficult issues that affected UGR's participation and that he and his team will be better involved in the rest of the project.

Miscellaneous Points

- Gheith thanked Francesco and University of Genoa for hosting this SC meeting and the other technical and capacity building sessions in the period 2-4 Feb 2022 in Genoa, Italy.
- Gheith reported that the final approval for starting the new MSc program in AIR is pending hiring new faculty members to meet student-faculty ratio requirement.
- Gheith reported that the approvals for the three developed existing programs in UJ have passed the department level.
- Wafa reported that the needed approval for the development of the MSc program in JUST was acquired.
- Murad reported that all necessary approvals for the three developed BSc programs in TTU were acquired.

Miscellaneous Points

- Clovis reported that the needed approvals for both programs in LU are at the faculty level. The MSc courses were approved, and the BSc courses are pending the faculty council decision.
- Sobhi summarized the status of approving the development of the two programs in BAU. He will send the details next week.
- The SC noted that good progress was done in this project throughout the first year and that bi-monthly Steering Committee meetings are sufficient now.
- The next SC meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2022, 21-25.
- Gheith and Clovis are going to discuss executing the result dissemination activities of WP12 led by LU.

Thank you

- The meeting ended in 12:15.