

UNFOLD Deliverable D12. Project showcase

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D12 UNFOLD Project Showcase

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Project manager name: Josep Blat

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Contents	Page
1. Objectives	4
2. Strategy	4
3. The context of the UNFOLD web site	4
4. The Showcase site	5
5. Sustaining the UNFOLD forums and learning activities	6

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Abstract	<p>This is the cover sheet for the UNFOLD project deliverable D12, the Project Showcase.</p> <p>The deliverable itself is available at http://www.unfold-project.net/.</p> <p>Readers who would like greater detail on the policy for sustainability which informs the Project Showcase will find it useful to consult D12, the Sustainability Plan.</p>
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1. Objectives

The UNFOLD Project Showcase has four principal objectives:

- To present the achievements of the project to the wider public in a clear manner
- To provide a point of contact with the user group, so that they can participate in ongoing activities
- To manage the sustained UNFOLD mailing list
- To provide information about IMS Learning Design.

2. Strategy

In order to achieve these objectives it was decided that the most effective strategy would be to build on the existing UNFOLD web site, in order to leverage the large number of people who are members of the site, its self descriptive address, and its high visibility in search engines.

It was also decided to produce a printed final publication, in the form of a booklet which would present the achievements of the project, together with some introductory material on Learning Design. This provides a more pleasurable reading experience for people who want to find out about the whole breadth of project activities, and copies of the booklet are provided with the printed version of this report. 300 copies were printed and distributed to key members of the Community of Practice. The material developed for this publication was reused in the pages of the Project Showcase, and the PDF file of the publication is also available for download.

3. The context of the UNFOLD web site

The UNFOLD project was launched as a coordination action in January 2004 to support the adoption and implementation of open specifications for eLearning interoperability which support multiple user roles and flexible pedagogies. In order to achieve these goals, the project fostered and supported the uptake, implementation and use of the IMS Learning Design specification through its facilitation of three core Communities of Practice (CoPs): teachers, learning designers and system developers. During the course of its two year life span UNFOLD has sought to fulfill its commitment to these CoPs through a series of events, online activities, and awareness raising and support actions. The UNFOLD project website at has been a key asset in this work

Since its inception in July 2004, the project web site has been central to the project's aims through its provision of a number of important services including a repository of freely accessible documentation, an announcement/news space and a discussion forum. The site also played a crucial role in providing CoP specific resources to registered members and has served as the main point of contact with both members and the wider user group. It also houses the UNFOLD online discussion environment used in synchronous events.

4. The Showcase site

The UNFOLD Project Showcase is available at <http://www.unfold-project.net/>.

The Showcase web site, like the earlier versions of the site, is built using Plone, an Open Source Content Management System, available for download at <http://plone.org/>. This platform has sophisticated metadata and search facilities, forums, and mailing list support which have been and remain of great value to the project. Further information on the original implementation of the project web is available in UNFOLD deliverable D5, *Establishment of CoPs report*, submitted in September 2004.

As the project reached its end in late 2005, preparations were made to facilitate the transition of the website from project interface to project showcase. These have resulted in a number of significant alterations to produce a legacy site which currently includes the following functionality:

- Links to subscribe to the UNFOLD mailing list and unsubscribe.
- Automatically updated RSS feeds showing news from projects and initiatives relevant to Learning Design
- A simplified navigation structure. The navigation tree has been removed and the navigation is now carried out through tabs. This makes it easier to get a clear picture of project achievement.
- Information summarising the achievements of the project has been added. This largely consists of HTML pages adapted from the UNFOLD final publication, which is also available as a PDF file.
- Information on IMS Learning Design and related issues which has been gathered throughout the life of the project remains available. This will be periodically updated by project partners.

These changes ensure that the transformation of the site into the Project Showcase will be effective, and that the information required by visitors interested in the project will be easy to find. At the same time, the site will continue to provide a point of contact for interested parties and will retain its function as a repository and news outlet in keeping with plans to sustain the project beyond its closing date. The use of the same server infrastructure and web address means that the project web can easily be reactivated if further funding becomes available for continuation of UNFOLD, with the showcase becoming a section of the site.

5. Sustaining the UNFOLD forums and learning activities

The **Learning Networks for Learning Design** (LN4LD) site at <http://moodle.learningnetworks.org/> is an important complement to the project showcase. The Moodle platform is a leading Open Source Virtual Learning Environment. Learning activities related to IMS-LD have been created on LN4LD, including courses to introduce new commers to IMS-LD, and forums are provided where CoPs members can discuss their topics of interest.

In April 2005 it was decided to concentrate all the UNFOLD forums and learning activities on LN4LD. This decision was taken for two reasons. Firstly it rationalised the struture of the project infrastructure, and made it clearer to users to know where they should go to find the resources they needed. Secondly it prepared for this showcase deliverable by separating the dynamic and changing content of the UNFOLD web provision away from the more static documentation of the project and information about UNFOLD and Learning Design, which has been turned into the Showcase, as indicated above.

LN4LD will be maintained by the Open University of the Netherlands, and will be kept available to the members of the UNFOLD Communities of Practice, and the wider Learning Design community and projects. This will have the dynamic and changing content.

6. The UNFOLD final publishable report

As mentioned above, an UNFOLD final publication, was produced in the form of a printed booklet, with ISBN number. Copies of the publication are submitted together with this printed version of this report, and a pdf file accompanies the electronic versión, as we consider that this final publication showcases the project in a printed form.

The material developed for the final publication has been reused extensively in the project showcase website, and the electronic version of the document is also available. (<http://www.unfold-project.net/project/UNFOLDbooklet.pdf>). The booklet is authored and edited by UNFOLD partners and participants and charts the life of the project and the evolution of the specification. It is divided into three parts, the first of which gives an overview of UNFOLD and the various CoPs. In section two, the booklet introduces and explains the specification in easily understood terms and provides an update on the state of tooling at the time of writing. The third and final section includes a useful glossary of IMD LD terms as well as section with links to relevant websites and assorted resources.

The table of contents for the booklet is provided on the following page.

Table of contents of the UNFOLD final publication

Introduction	5
Acknowledgements	9
Project partners	11
Reading guide	13
Section 1: The UNFOLD Project	15
1.1 The UNFOLD Project	17
1.2 Learning Network for Learning Design	21
1.3 How Learning Design can be used	25
1.4 Teachers and Learning Design	31
1.5 Learning Designers and Learning Design	35
1.6 System Developers and Learning Design	39
1.7 PhD Researchers and Learning Design	43
1.8 Unfold UNFOLD Communities of Practice activities	45
1.9 Participation in UNFOLD	53
1.10 Teachers and patterns	59
Section 2: The IMS Learning Design Specification	63
2.1 Introduction to IMS Learning Design	65
2.2 IMS Learning Design from inside	83
2.3 Current state of tooling	95
Section 3: Additional information	103