

Training Modules within the NECOBELAC Project (Network of Collaboration Between Europe and Latin American-Caribbean Countries) Based on Topic Maps¹

NECOBELAC (Avrupa ve Latin Amerika-Karayip Ülkeleri Arasında İşbirliği Ağı) Projesindeki Konu Haritalarına Dayalı Eğitim Modülleri

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Abstract: NECOBELAC is a European project to improve the production and dissemination of scientific information in public health. NECOBELAC stands for a “Network of Collaboration Between Europe and Latin American-Caribbean Countries”. One of the project working packages consists of developing training modules related to the scientific publication process and open access. This poster describes the methodology applied to develop the modules based on topic maps, an ISO standard for describing knowledge structures and associating them with information resources. Training modules are composed by topics; each topic has its properties, including subject descriptors and resources (internal or external ones), that can be links to web sites or digital objects of different natures.

Keywords: NECOBELAC, networking, open access, scientific publication, topic maps

Öz: NECOBELAC halk sağlığı alanında bilimsel bilgi üretimini ve dağıtımını geliştirmeyi amaçlayan bir Avrupa projesidir. NECOBELAC Avrupa ve Latin Amerika-Karayip Ülkeleri Arasında İşbirliği Ağı'nın kısaltmasıdır. Projenin iş paketlerinden birisi bilimsel yayın süreci ve açık erişimle ilgili eğitim modülleri oluşturmayı içermektedir. Bu posterde bilgi yapılarını ve ilgili bilgi kaynaklarını tanımlayan bir ISO standardı olan konu haritalarına dayalı modülleri geliştirmek için uygulanan metodoloji açıklanmaktadır. Eğitim modülleri konulardan oluşmaktadır. Her konunun web siteleriyle ya da farklı yapıdaki dijital nesnelere ilişkilendirilebilen konu ve kaynak tanımlayıcıları içeren kendi özellikleri vardır.

Anahtar sözcükler: NECOBELAC, açık erişim, bilimsel yayın, konu haritaları

Introduction

NECOBELAC is a European project to improve the production and dissemination of scientific information in public health, coordinated by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Rome, and funded under the 7th Framework Program of the European Commission. NECOBELAC stands for a *Network of Collaboration Between Europe and Latin American-Caribbean Countries* and the project is to last three years, starting from 1st February 2009. All partners contribute to all the planned project activities, proportionally to their commitments in each working package, in order to guarantee awareness and collaboration among them during the different Project steps (see Figure 1).

Partners

The Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) Italy; the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) Spain; the University of Nottingham (UNOTT) United Kingdom; BIREME/PAHO, Brasil; the Instituto de Salud Pública (ISP)

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Colombia; the Universidade do Minho (UMINHO), Portugal. Key Perspectives Ltd., United Kingdom, and the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia de Madrid (UNED), Spain, are involved in the Project respectively for the evaluation of project activities and for the planning of training initiatives.

Project Aims

The NECOBELAC project aims to establish a network of collaboration between European countries (EU) and countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), to spread knowledge on the methods of scientific writing and publishing and on appropriate tools for the open access dissemination of information for the protection of public health. In this context, the project aims to implement a cultural change and not just establish an infrastructure for two-way exchange (EU-LAC / LAC-EU) of health information for both researchers and stakeholders.

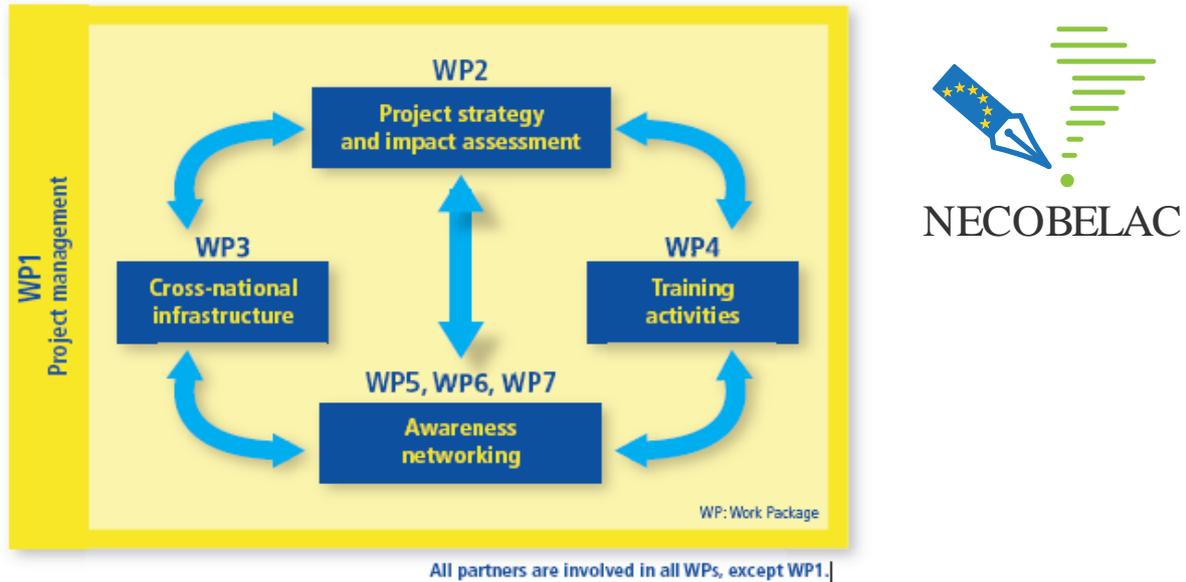


Figure 1. Scheme of the work packages within the NECOBELAC project (<http://www.necobelac.eu>).

Training Activities

One of its core activities will be to organize training activities to transmit and share knowledge about scientific writing in health sciences and open access to scholarly publications in LAC countries and Europe. To that end, the project has developed training modules whose features are modular, extensible, flexible, transportable and reusable in different contexts and applications.

The course structure rests on the concept of "topic maps" and Ontopia technology (www.Ontopia.net) based on topic maps and the semantic web. A topic map represents information using topics (representing any concept, from people, countries, and organizations to software modules, individual files, and events), associations (representing the relationships between topics) and occurrences (representing information resources relevant to a particular topic).

Scientific publication and open access related modules will be represented by topic maps which will graphically show the structure of both subjects and explicitly the relationships between their concepts. At the same time we will be able to provide a semantic search database, where the users will be able to send semantic queries to this knowledge structure.

The training modules will be accessible through the web, as a whole or as constituent parts. The ontology of the maps has been created partly with Dublin Core and Fedora ontologies adding some other association terms. Associations and role associations among topics, type of instances and their occurrences have been conceived taking into account the issues most involved in both fields.

This concept and its technology can represent (and provide a graphical display of) the structure of the topics within the modules (see example in Figure 2), developed for scientific publication and open access, and the relationships or associations among them.

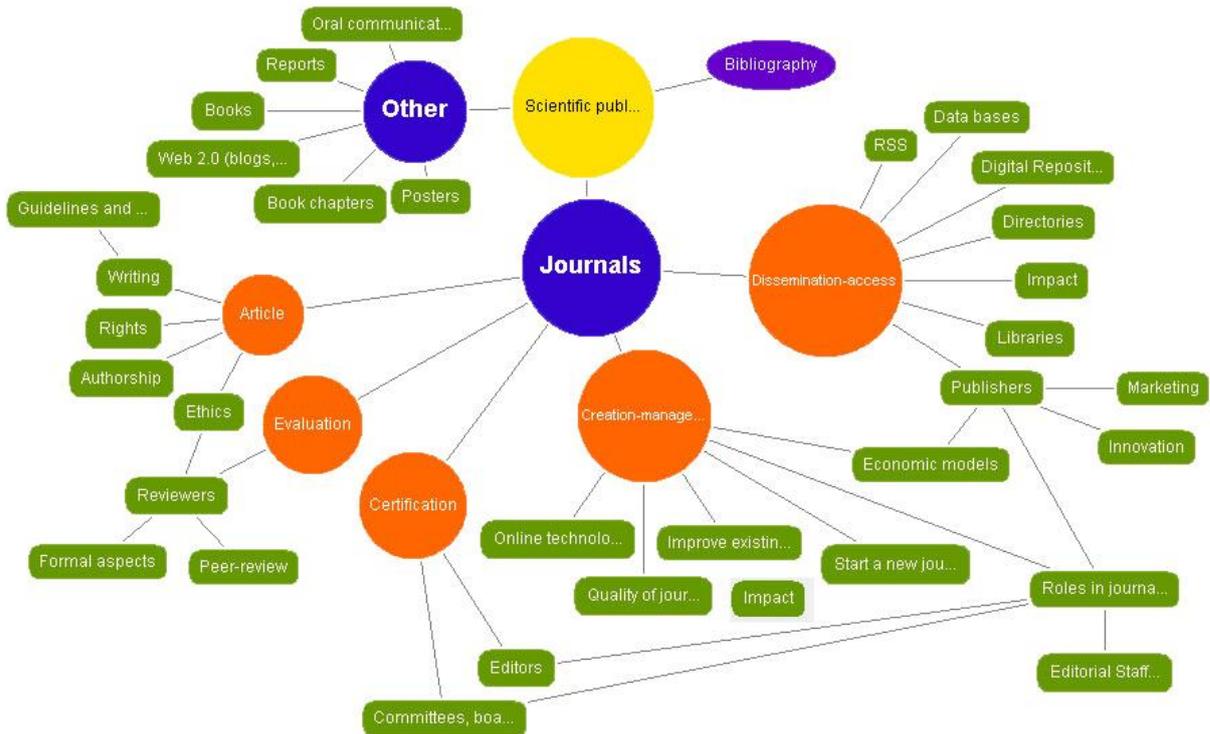


Figure 2. Example of the structure of topics for scientific publication topics

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