D3.3 / Shanghai Learning Mobility Report

OD&M - Shanghai Mobility

16-20 October 2017

Hosting organisation: Tongji University
Ref. Prof. Avril Accolla
Participants

• Debora Giorgi, University of Florence - Italy
• Irene Fiesoli, University of Florence - Italy
• Laura Martelloni, LAMA Agency - Italy
• Marco Tognetti, LAMA Agency - Italy
• Irene Burroni, Furniture and Furnishings Centre - Italy
• Matthew Malpass, University of the Arts London - UK
• Christopher Follows, University of the Arts London - UK
• Raul Tabares, Tecnalia - Spain
• Jorge Garcia Valbuena, Tecnalia - Spain
• Ewelina Widerska, University of Dabrowa Gornicza - Poland
• Joanna Kurowska-Pysz, University of Dabrowa Gornicza - Poland
• Maciej Witkowski, University of Dabrowa Gornicza - Poland
• Michel Bauwens, P2P Foundation - Netherlands
• Rodrigo Martinez, University of Deusto - Spain
• Szilard Kados, University of Deusto - Spain
• Krzysztof Piech, FabLab Lodz - Poland
• Grzegorz Belica, FabLab Lodz - Poland
• Jack Jixiang Jiang, University of Tongji - China
• Avril Accolla, University of Tongji - China
Day One – Monday 16th, October

The OD&M Alliance met at:

Tongji University – Design & Innovation College.

After a tour of the College, the group started an internal session facilitated by Avril Accolla, aimed at introducing the Alliance to the local context. The discussion particularly focused on key notions and insights about the Chinese culture, useful to prepare all participants to their interactions with the local environment. During the session, the group also discussed the proposal received by the Hackerspace Union of Hongzhou and the Industrial Technology Transformation Research Institute of Zhejiang University, Hackerspace Union of Qingshanhu Sci-tech city, related to the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the OD&M Alliance for the construction of common patterns of collaboration built on the OD&M project.

Laura Martelloni and Avril Accolla explained that such proposal came last-minute on Friday 13, making it impossible to duly inform all partners well in advance.

Avril also explained the meaning of such MoU within the Chinese culture. All participants agreed on the impossibility to sign the MoU on behalf of the whole Alliance, given the procedures needed across partners – Universities in particular – to take on such commitments. After a discussion, all partners agreed that LAMA – in its role of facilitator of the OD&M Alliance – would sign the MoU, ensuring that the relationship with the Chinese parties is managed in a transparent way, and that all partners are timely and adequately informed about any opportunities arising from it.

The morning continued with a visit to the Fablab Shanghai, founded by the D&I College of Tongji University.

Saverio Silli, Instructor at the Fablab, hosted the group.

Fablab-Shanghai aims to work as an interdisciplinary platform devoted to bridge the gap between humanity, technology and design.
Saverio presented the main activities run by the Fablab, the majority aimed at complementing higher education with more practical and learning by doing oriented approaches. Within this framework, Saverio also presented the connection of Fablab Shanghai with the international Fablab Academy. After lunch, the group visited the Mushroom Cloud Shanghai, a Makerspace recently founded thanks to a partnership between the local government and DF Robot. The Makerspace provides access to makers to experiment with 3D printers and other making facilities; nonetheless, Mushroom Cloud Shanghai is also relevant for its outstanding collaboration with businesses. The hosts presented some outstanding projects and products, such as LattePanda, a development board with build-in Arduino that runs desktop version of Windows, Linux and Android.
Day One – Monday 16th, October
Day Two – Tuesday 17th, October

Invited by Qingshanhu Sci-tech City and Hangzhou Dianzi University Information Engineering School, the group moved to Hangzhou for a day long visit.

Qingshanhu Sci-tech City is located in the western suburbs of Hangzhou, and it is an important part of scientific innovative corridor in the west of Hangzhou and National Independent Innovation Demonstration Area in Hangzhou. The Sci-tech City gathers 46 scientific research institutes, universities and business innovation centres, more than 2100 high-level personnel, including 15 academicians, 41 talents of the “Recruitment Program of Global Experts” of the state and Zhejiang province. The Sci-tech City has obtained the title of Top 10 Most Promising Cities in Zhejiang Province. Qingshanhu Sci-tech City is an important industrial platform in Lin’an, with 118 enterprises, including 50 national high-tech enterprises, about 31,000 industrial workers.
Day Two – Tuesday 17th, October

During the morning, the group visited the Hangzhou Dianzi University Information Engineering School, and in particular a number of labs such as FischerTechnik Machine Innovation Laboratory, Machine Vision Laboratory, CNC Central Laboratory and Mechatronics Laboratory. Hangzhou Dianzi University Information Engineering School is an independent school that aims to train advanced talents with knowledge structure and innovative application ability.

The school has 4 branches including engineering branch, economics management branch, school of foreign languages and basic teaching department and 12 departments including mechanical and automation department, computer department, electronic communication department, financial accounting and economics department, department of business administration, department of information management. The school enrolls students from 11 provinces and autonomous regions.
Day Two – Tuesday 17th, October

After lunch, the OD&M Alliance attended a conference organized by the Hackerspace Union of Hangzhou. During the conference, the OD&M Alliance had the opportunity to present the project, as well as some partners belonging to the Alliance. During the conference, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between LAMA and the Hackerspace Union of Hangzhou, aimed at building new patterns of collaboration and knowledge exchange in the domain of digital manufacturing and networks of makerspaces.

Grzegors Belica presenting the Fablab Lodz Foundation

Ewelina Widerska presenting the University of Dabrowa-Gornicza

Rodrigo Martinez presenting the University of Deusto
Day Two – Tuesday 17th, October

Presenting LAMA Agency

Jorge García Valbuena presenting Tecnalia

Presenting the Digital Maker Collective of the University of the Arts London

Christopher Follows presenting the Digital Maker Collective of the University of the Arts London
Day Three – Wednesday 18th, October

The morning was entirely dedicated to preparing the ground for the co-design phase foreseen by the project, the latter aimed at build a common training on Open Design and Manufacturing across the 4 EU Nodes of the Alliance. The session was organized in the form of workshop, and was facilitated by Matthew Malpass, of the University of the Arts London.

On the ground of a set of tools prepared by Matt, the group was divided into 3 sub-groups and asked to collaboratively work on three main dimensions:

- **Personas;** i.e. the ‘archetype’ of a specific learner in the context of the OD&M environment;
Day Three – Wednesday 18th, October

- **Requirements**: i.e. the set of tangible and intangible assets and elements that are needed in the environment from the point of view of the learner;
Day Three – Wednesday 18th, October

• The scenario; i.e. the User journey – the story – of the persona in the context of the OD&M learning environment.
Day Three – Wednesday 18th, October

Results of the work done in sub-groups were then shared and discussed together at the level of the whole group. Importantly, this preliminary work will inform the next steps of the co-design process; a more detailed report about this activity will be prepared and shared by UaL in the next weeks.

In the afternoon, the group visited the XinChenJian Lab, one of the most active and vibrant makerspace in Shanghai. During the visit, some makers presented a number of projects:

- Andy Garcia presented the Precious Plastic project, consisting in a machine for the recycling of plastic and correlated educational and awareness-raising activities realized in Shanghai with schools and educational institutions;
- Maciej of Squiggle Labs presented a number of installations realized across Canada and China, characterized by the innovative integration between arts, design and technology;
- Pascal presented a regenerative science project dealing with 3D printed models to study heart regeneration;
- Monique Bolli presented a recent research about the maker movement in China;
- Kin presented a simulation flight prototype built over six months, thanks to the collaboration with the maker community of the Lab.
Day Three – Wednesday 18th, October
Day Four – Thursday 19th, October

The OD&M Alliance moved to Suzhou for a day long visit, hosted by RockMaker, a makerspace in Suzhou connected to the Fablab network.

In the morning, the group visited XJTLU – Xi’an Jiaotong Liverpool University, a research-led international university in China and a Chinese university recognised internationally for its unique features in learning and teaching, research, social service, and education management. Prof. Yong Yue, Head of Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering made a presentation about the main research projects and higher education activities implemented by the University in the domain of big data, robotics and artificial intelligence. After lunch the group visited the Suzhou Industrial Park XianCheng District and the RockMaker space, and attended a conference at Xiaoyang community where main projects and activities on advanced manufacturing were presented by representatives of Changshu Institute of Technology, RockMaker and Suzhou Institute of Industrial Technology.
Day Four – Thursday 19th, October
Day Five – Friday 20th, October

The Alliance met at Tongji University – D&C College for the last session of the learning mobility. Part of the morning was dedicated to discuss collectively the next steps of the project after the release (upcoming) of the research report. Laura Martelloni outlined the main deadlines and deliverables for the next months, namely:

- Final round of peer review of the research report, expected to be finally published on Mid November;
- Annual reporting of the activities of the Alliance (December 2017);
- Co-design workshop in London (January 2018);
- Design and initial implementation of the OD&M Digital Platform (October 17 - onwards);
- Mid-term review of the European Commission (June 2017).
Day Five – Friday 20th, October

During the session, Debora Giorgi of the University of Florence stressed the need of a focused, timely conversation with all the Universities involved in the project, in order to identify all potential barriers and administrative procedures that may hamper the piloting of the training in 2018. The group also start a discussion about a tentative model of training, able not only to structurally connect all the nodes of the Alliance within an overall training process, but also to involve the different types of actors according to specific assets, expertise and learning resources. Debora presented the opportunity to exploit a training model existing within the University of Florence, which can be built and delivered jointly by Universities following a modular approach; such model may target different groups (also people with no academic degrees), therefore helping to include a relevant portion of users that our research has identified as particularly important.

The session ended at around 1 pm with the following agreement about the next steps:

- Report of the Shanghai learning mobility, supported by a copy of the MoU signed in Hongzhou and a list of contacts of all people met during the week in China – LAMA / TONGJI
- Sharing of all pictures and photos made during the week in the common project management tool – All Partners
- Report of the internal workshop held on Wednesday 18th – UAL
  Kick off the work on the digital platform, User Stories implementation – TECNALIA, LAMA, UAL in a first round
- Creation of an internal Slack Channel to facilitate focused conversations and exchange of materials and inspiration documents – LAMA
- Identification of a date in December for Universities to meet in Florence, and prepare the ground for the London co-design workshop – UAL / Unifi
- Final round of peer review of the research and final release – All partners.
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