

Proposal by the University of Jyväskylä and Niilo Mäki Foundation

## **Declaration on establishing a Language/Literacy Network of Excellence GraphoWORLD (Working Group on Reading and Language Development - NoE)**

### **Mission:**

Technology enhanced *support of spoken and written language development among typical and atypical learners.*

*This includes both research and implementation of new knowledge and technology providing the support.*

### **Vision:**

Our vision is a network among universities with the most well informed experts of spoken and written language development to accomplish the Mission.

The objective of the GraphoWORLD NoE is to provide technology enhanced support as widely as possible to all learners globally, however, with a special emphasis on countries where access to literacy education is limited.

### **Means:**

In order to achieve the objective, research on learning will involve theory-based appropriately controlled efficacy studies. In addition, to offer support on learning in a sustainable way will need the development and research on a technology-enhanced learning and assessment environment. Only evidence-based support on learning will be offered to learners beyond experimental studies.

### **Benefits for universities:**

GraphoWORLD NoE will benefit the participating universities in enabling high quality research due to a collaboration between appropriate multidisciplinary groups of experts representing researchers of cross-cultural and –linguistic issues and brain researchers interested in language learning.

A second benefit results from the availability of the Graphogame (GG) research environment (owned by the University of Jyväskylä and the Niilo Mäki Foundation) supporting not only assessment and individually adaptive intervention but also detailed online examination, feedback and basic analysis of the data. The training component of GG has been shown to be efficient in

instructing children's literacy skills in some languages, and similar results are foreseen in additional languages and possibly this can be applied more widely in helping children to acquire language skills. A further noteworthy background issue is the availability of an extensive database and experts of the Jyväskylä Longitudinal study of Dyslexia (JLD). A significant benefit resulting from the aimed collaboration results from the added value for collecting research funding and knowledge concerning actual research among members.

This network will also provide a significant contribution to the mobility and training of researchers (summer schools, lab visits, etc.).

*Organisation of the preparational efforts towards establishing the GraphoWORLD NoE:*

Steering Committee (SC), Secretariat (S), Advisory Group (AG), Global Responsibility Council (GRC).

SC:

Composition: 3-6 representatives elected by the participants of the GraphoWORLD NoE's kick-off meeting.

Mandate: to plan the structure and functions of the GraphoWORLD NoE, general management, funding issues, further development of the network, appointment of new members.

S:

Composition: staff members of the University of Jyväskylä for 2011-12

Mandate: tasks given by SC

AG:

Composition: to be decided by the participants of the GraphoWORLD NoE's kick-off meeting

Mandate: to provide scientific assistance and co-ordination

GRC:

Composition: members to be invited by SC

Mandate: supports via its authority reaching of the main goal especially in the developing world

Signature page:

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Usha Goswami, Cambridge University



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