



Pre-Trial Briefing Document

Introduction

Thank you for your participation in the trial of S-CUBE. The purpose of this briefing document is to:

- Provide some background information on the S-CUBE project;
- Tell you about the trialling process and how it will work;
- Collect some data from you to enable us to assess the impact of the S-CUBE trialling activity;
- Tell you what will happen next.

About S-CUBE

S-CUBE is a project that has been funded by the EC to develop soft-skills training for social enterprises through online role-play. Participants are given characters to play, represented by avatars, and they act out a scenario using the online e-learning platform. When you participate in the role play, you will be playing with three to four other players, each of whom will take on a different role.

The aim of S-CUBE is to provide an engaging training experience through which participants are able to reflect on their soft skills development needs, particularly those relating to communication and relationship building. The S-CUBE e-learning platform is easy to use and an on-line User Manual is provided.

After the trialling period, S-CUBE will be freely available for trialling participants to use in their organisations. New scenarios can be developed tailored to your own training and development needs.

About the Trialling Process

S-CUBE is a training product under development, so we need your feedback to make it as useful to social enterprises as possible. Between now and Spring 2013, we will be undertaking trials with various social enterprises and social enterprise stakeholders in the UK, Ireland and Germany. The trial will be in two phases. After the first trial we will ask for your feedback (via a short online survey) so that we can make improvements to the software. Two to three months later, we will ask you to trial S-CUBE for a second time before asking for your final feedback on the enhanced version. Each trial (when you will be playing the on-line role-play) will last for approximately one hour. Including the time you give to complete the feedback surveys, we expect that the total amount of time you will spend on this project will be around 3 hours across a period of 4 - 5 months.

Assessing the effectiveness of S-CUBE

To evaluate the impact of S-CUBE, we are asking participants to complete some questionnaires. Some will focus on your views about the S-CUBE software and others relate to your perceptions about certain soft-skills. To start the evaluation, we ask you to complete the survey appended to this briefing document. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete and all responses will be held in the strictest confidence.

What's next?

Once you have read this document and completed the survey, you are ready to participate in the first trial. If arrangements have not yet been made, we will be in contact with you soon to schedule the trialling session (communication may come via a nominated contact person in your organisation).

IMPORTANT – if you are participating in the trial from your own home or work PC/laptop, you will need to download the S-CUBE software and check that it works **BEFORE** the trial date. Where you do not have administrator rights, you may need the assistance of your IT administrator to set things up. If you encounter any problems, please email jonathan.moizer@plymouth.ac.uk (UK), Paul.Walsh@cit.ie (Ireland) or anna.sturm@gepros.com (Germany).

To download S-CUBE, please follow these instructions:

- 1) Go to <http://eutopia.unina.it/scube/>
- 2) Download the S-CUBE Client. There are two versions: normal (with setup) and portable (without setup, just with the executable file). The first is suggested, the second is for people that don't like installing too many applications on their computer. Note that you can also download the *Draft User Manual* from this location.
- 3) Run the S-CUBE Client. Notice: on Windows Vista and 7 operating systems, it could be necessary to open the program with Windows XP SP3 compatibility, or alternatively as Administrators (right click on the program icon and then press "Run as administrator").

Thank you once again for participating in this trial. We hope that you enjoy the S-CUBE experience!

Now please complete the attached survey form.