

## D2.4 Guidance and assessment tutorial: Inquiry Guidance and Assessment Tutorial

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# weSPOT

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## 1. Executive Summary

The weSPOT project aims at propagating scientific inquiry as the approach for science learning and teaching in combination with today's curricula and teaching practices. It lowers the threshold for linking everyday life with science teaching in schools by technology. weSPOT supports the meaningful contextualization of scientific concepts by relating them to personal curiosity, experiences, and reasoning. weSPOT addresses several challenges in the area of science learning and technology support for building personal conceptual knowledge. The project focuses on inquiry-based learning with a theoretically sound and technology supported personal inquiry approach.

The project is focused on three main development aspects: (a) define a reference model for inquiry-based learning skills, (b) create a diagnostic instrument for measuring inquiry skills, and (c) implement a working environment that allows the easy linking of inquiry activities with school curricula and legacy systems. The foreseen weSPOT Toolkit gives smart support for personal scientific inquiry to address a lack of scientific inquiry skills in an age group of 12-25.

The current deliverable, D2.4, outlines the inquiry guidance and assessment tutorial, to support teachers in their quest for scientific inquiry. The inquiry guidance tutorial includes several items that will introduce the weSPOT IBL model to the teachers, provide them with examples of how to use it in practice, describe the available tools and show them how they work.

This diagnostic tutorial is focused on the diagnostic instrument which will look at the entire inquiry life cycle which may start with the formulation of a research question and may end with the valorisation of the results and it will cover the four different complexities of inquiry, from confirmation inquiry to open, self-directed inquiry. The second part of the deliverable focuses on the diagnostic framework describing the adopted approach. The weSPOT diagnostic instrument for inquiry skills and competences aimed at a) to establish a European baseline of the current level of inquiry skills in the target group and b) to demonstrate the potential of the weSPOT-technology for STEM-learning in general.

## 2. Introduction

weSPOT is a project supported by the European Commission aiming at propagating scientific inquiry as the approach for science learning and teaching in combination with today's curricula and teaching practices. It lowers the threshold for linking everyday life with science teaching in schools by technology. weSPOT supports the meaningful contextualization of scientific concepts by relating them to personal curiosity, experiences, and reasoning. weSPOT addresses several challenges in the area of science learning and technology support for building personal conceptual knowledge. The project focuses on inquiry-based learning with a theoretically sound and technology supported personal inquiry approach. In inquiry based-learning learners take the role of an explorer and scientist and are motivated by their personal curiosity, guided by self-reflection, and develop knowledge personal and collaborative sense-making and reasoning.

### 2.1 The Structure of the Deliverable

The remainder of this deliverable is structured as follows: first, we present the inquiry diagnostic tutorial and then the assessment tutorial. The inquiry diagnostic tutorial includes a number of documents that explain how the weSPOT IBL model and the developed tools can be use in educational settings. It contains the following documents: Inquiry-based Learning Brief, weSPOT IBL Model, weSPOT IBL Model Example, Levels of Inquiry, weSPOT Toolset, The use of weSPOT IBL Model and its Toolset.

The assessment tutorial explains how to use the weSPOT IBL taxonomy and the assessment components in educational settings.

## 3. Inquiry Guidance Tutorial

The inquiry guidance tutorial presents to the teachers all the necessary information in order to use the weSPOT IBL model and tools successfully. The first part of the inquiry guidance tutorial includes an introduction on the inquiry-based learning approach in a simplified manner, description of the weSPOT IBL mode (presented in D2.3.1) accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, an example using the weSPOT IBL model, different levels of inquiry with examples and the weSPOT toolset with post casts and videos. The aim of this section is provide to the teachers a comprehensive introduction and tutorial to all available material. All the material will be available to the teachers and students via the projects website (<http://portal.ou.nl/web/wespot/teachers>) and the projects YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ProjectWeSPOT>).

To avoid repetition, since some of the material have been introduced in other deliverables (e.g. D2.3.1), a short description of the material will be provided and the reference to the website when the material have been uploaded.

### 3.1 Inquiry-based learning (IBL) brief

The Inquiry-based learning brief is a document that introduces IBL to the teachers by providing a short introduction describing inquiry-based learning based on existing research. Then the document explains the key characteristics of the learning method and describes the different inquiry-based learning types accepted by the research and learning community. Further, the inquiry-based learning brief describes the weSPOT approach, the use of IBL with technology and in



the end describes the skills involved in an inquiry according to the weSPOT approach. The aim of the document is to introduce IBL to the teachers whom might not know and introduce the weSPOT approach. The inquiry-based learning brief is available on the projects website (<http://portal.ou.nl/en/web/wespot>) at the teachers section (<http://portal.ou.nl/web/wespot/teachers>).

## 4. weSPOT IBL model

The next document of the inquiry guidance tutorial focuses on the weSPOT IBL model described in D2.3.1 Pedagogic and Diagnostic Framework. The document introduces the IBL model, giving an overview of all its phases and sub phases. The teachers can find this description as a separate document on the projects website, at teachers section (<http://portal.ou.nl/web/wespot/teachers>). Along with the weSPOT model documents the teachers can find a PowerPoint presentation. Furthermore, these documents will be used by the weSPOT consortium at the planned workshops with the teachers to introduce and explain the model to them.

## 5. weSPOT IBL model example

This section focuses on an example developed by the weSPOT team (Mikroyannidis, Okada et al. 2013). The scenario used to show case the weSPOT IBL model is a scenario within a secondary education context, about microclimates. Microclimates are areas where the normal temperature and conditions are slightly different from the surrounding areas. The aim of this scenario is to find the best place to have a bench at the school.

The aim of this example is to show how the teachers can use the weSPOT IBL model in practice and transfer it to their own scenario. Furthermore, the scenario will be use during the workshops with the teachers, so it can be evaluated and updated if needed. The example is available to the teachers at the projects website, at the teachers section (<http://portal.ou.nl/web/wespot/teachers>).

## 6. Levels of inquiry

As it has been mentioned before, four types inquiry-based learning are recognized based on the level of student autonomy in the process. The simplest level is the **confirmation inquiry** in which students are provided with the question and procedure (method) as well as the results, which are known in advance. The next level is called **structured inquiry**. The learning goal here is to introduce students to the experience of conducting investigations or practicing a specific inquiry skill, such as collecting and analysing data. The third level of inquiry is called **guided inquiry**. In this inquiry the question and procedure are still provided by the teacher. The most demanding level of inquiry is the **open inquiry**. In an open inquiry students have the opportunity to act like scientists, deriving questions, designing and carrying out investigations as well as communicating their results.

To describe how teachers can apply the different types of inquiry in the classroom we again used the microclimate scenario to create four different documents, one for every level of inquiry. Teachers can find the microclimate example in the four different types of inquiry on the teachers section on the project's website <http://portal.ou.nl/web/wespot/teachers>).

## 7. weSPOT TOOL SET

The weSPOT tool set includes a number of tools to assist the teachers and students in their inquiries. For the inquiry guidance tutorial a YouTube channel has been created with all the screencasts and videos explaining the tools. The YouTube channel can be found at the following url: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ProjectWeSPOT>

## 7.1 Inquiry workflow engine -Elgg

The inquiry flow engine (Figure 8) based on the open source software called Elgg (<http://inquiry.wespot.net/>) is the base of the weSPOT inquiries. In the inquiry flow engine teachers and students need to register either by using a social network account or by registering on the platform. After registration, they gain access to the environment and they can start their inquiry. The weSPOT inquiry flow engine allows teachers and students to set up an inquiry and structure it according to their needs, to upload files (pictures, docs, values etc.), communicate with each other etc.

Teachers and students can find a screencast tutorial on the project's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ProjectWeSPOT>), where it explains all the aspects of the software and its uses, such as how to set up an inquiry ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R8yxdiH5t8&list=UUoy04HtVkunK\\_cuVJgovTsQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R8yxdiH5t8&list=UUoy04HtVkunK_cuVJgovTsQ)), and performing an inquiry ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbMSTvqAC6k&list=UUoy04HtVkunK\\_cuVJgovTsQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbMSTvqAC6k&list=UUoy04HtVkunK_cuVJgovTsQ)).

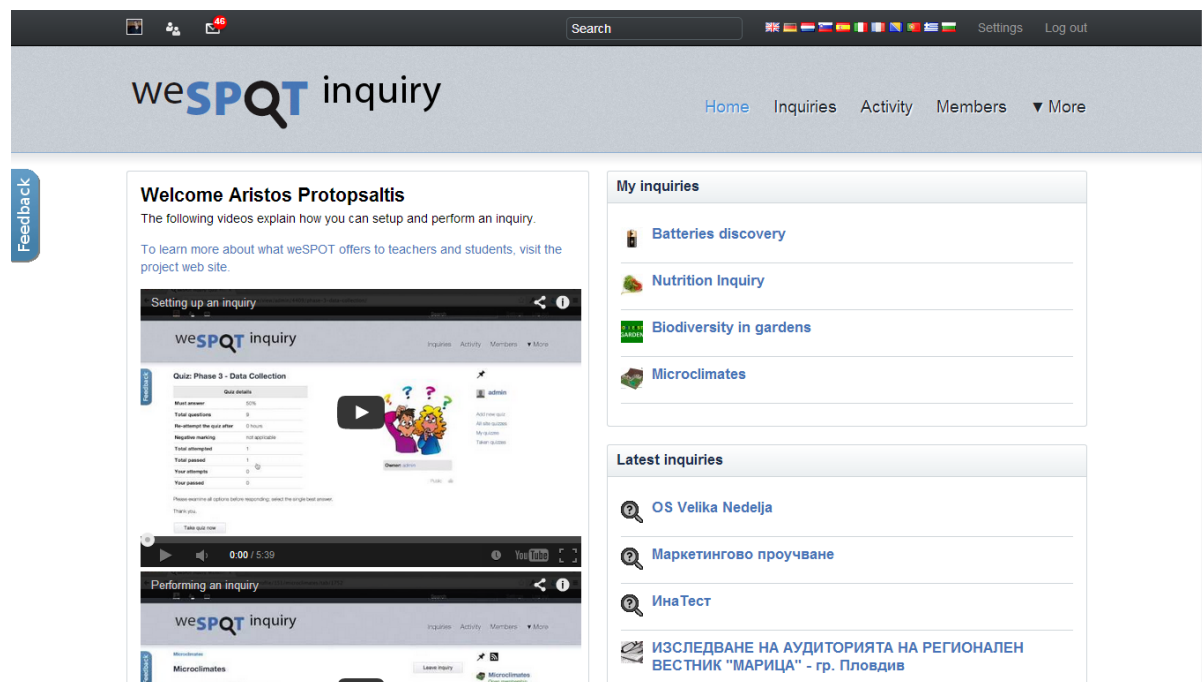


Figure 8: weSPOT Inquiry flow Engine

## 7.2 Personal inquiry manager

The Personal Inquiry Manager (PIM) is a mobile application to support the inquiry process and gives students mobile access to their inquiries. With the PIM students can create inquiries, join existing inquiries, add friends, displaying badges achieved and collect data for their inquiries. Via the PIM, users receive data collection tasks and through the PIM students can collect data for these tasks. Currently there are three versions under development: (1) Android, (2) iOS and (3) Google Glass.

The screencast tutorial can be found on the following url <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoYB5ScHDx0>.

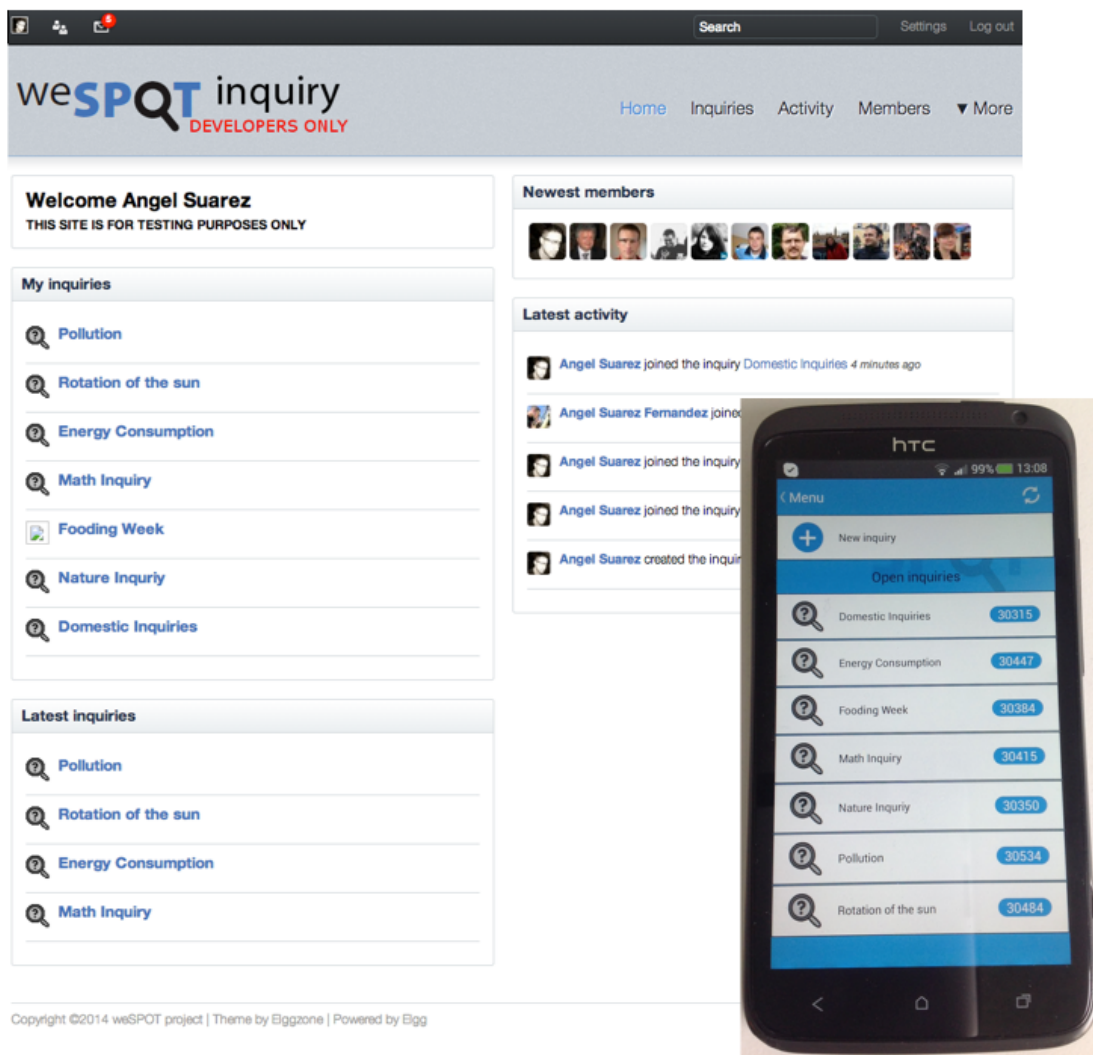


Figure 9: Personal Inquiry Manager (PIM)

### 7.3 Mobile Inquiry Coordination Interface (MICI)

The Inquiry coordination interface will give inquiry coordinators access to the current on-going inquiries and the contributions of all participants. It will allow central dispatching of messages and management of tasks and data. Envisaged main functionalities:

- To track students during an inquiry
- To broadcast messages to the inquiry participants
- To show data collected by inquiry participants
- Badges' awarding

MICI is under development and due by month 24 of the project.

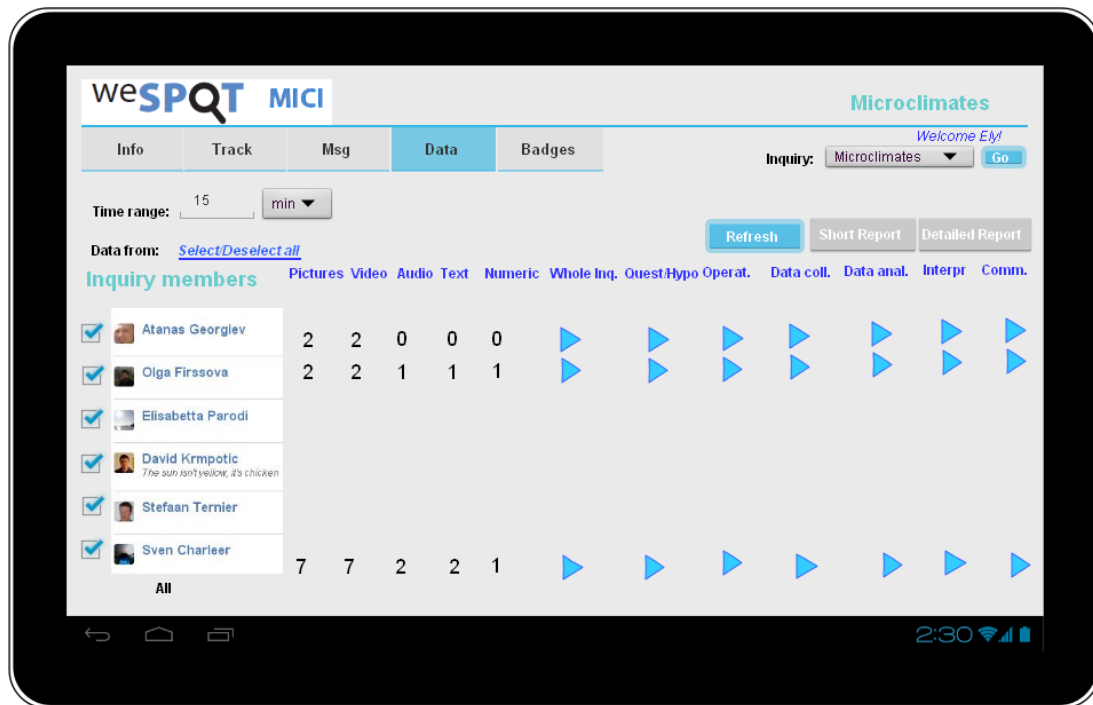


Figure 10: Mobile Inquiry Coordination Interface

#### 7.4 Domain Modelling and Resource Recommendations

To model a content domain, the Formal Concept Analysis plugin can be found within the Elgg system. It provides teachers with an interface to model a content domain in terms of objects and attributes. The instructor can then assign learning resources to objects and attributes. The resulting concept graph forms the basis for our learner model that will be updated according to a learner's performance in questionnaires and additionally by considering a learner's interaction with the system (log data). Learning resources will be recommended that are tailored to the learner's learning progress.

The tutorial for the FCA tool can be found at the following address: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrjsM\\_X0u5s&list=UUoy04HtVkunK\\_cuVJgovTsQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrjsM_X0u5s&list=UUoy04HtVkunK_cuVJgovTsQ).

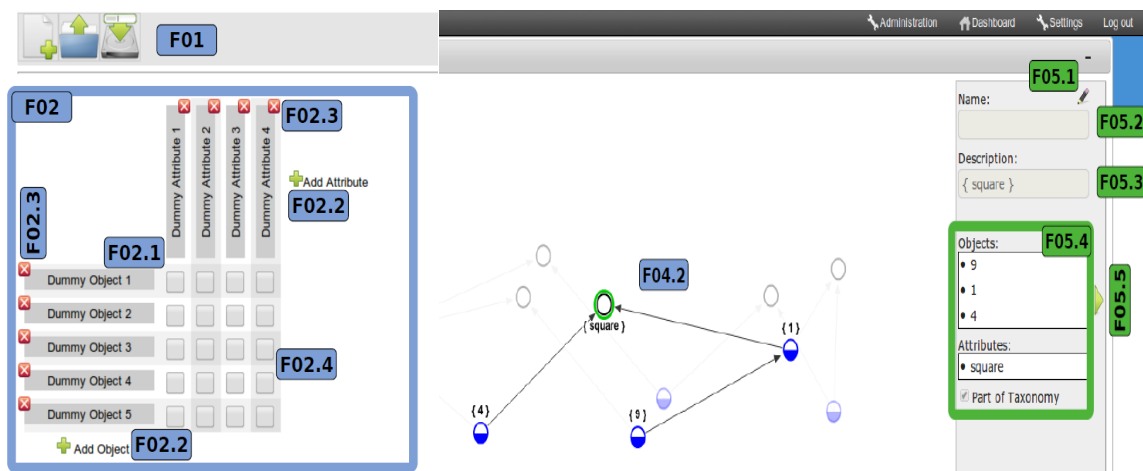


Figure 11: Formal Concept Analysis tool

## 7.5 Analytics StepUp, Navi, LARAE

Supplementary, the learner model, visualized as a graph is provided for a learner to reflect on. This application is not assigned to a phase but available throughout the entire inquiry.

To assist students in getting a better understanding of their learning behaviors and that of their peers, StepUp, Navi and LARAE (<http://ariadne.cs.kuleuven.be/wespot/inquiryDashboard>) provide dashboards that visualize the student's learning activities, using mobile devices, desktop computers, interactive tabletops and large displays. Every action on a widget in Elgg that a student performs can be tracked, stored and used to provide interesting visualizations, not only to students but also to teachers. These visualizations give a better insight into their learning process e.g. what and how widgets are used, how they move from one phase to another etc. Students can get a better understanding of their own activities but also of their peers. This can provide them with new ideas on how to tackle problems.

A quick example: Using his mobile phone, a student notices more activity in a specific phase by his fellow students. More specifically, their data collection activities are much higher. He invites some students around an interactive table top where they dig deeper into the analytics data, go through their collected data and discuss their progress. He concludes that his data collection is lacking and should spend more time on this.

A comprehensive tutorial about the use of LARAE is available the following url: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UPaRyHF\\_FM&list=UUoy04HtVkunK\\_cuVJgovTsQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UPaRyHF_FM&list=UUoy04HtVkunK_cuVJgovTsQ).

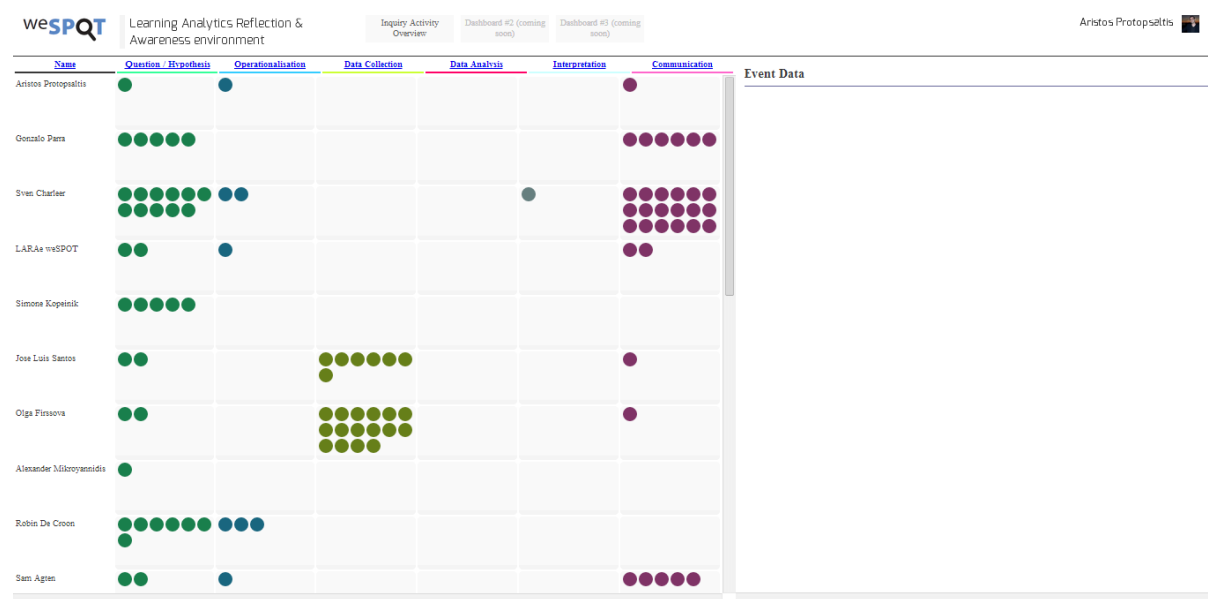


Figure 12: LARAE environment

## 8. The use of weSPOT IBL toolkit

To show case the weSPOT IBL model and the weSPOT tool-set the same microclimate scenario is used. The document shows how to use the weSPOT IBL model with the developed tools and how these tools can be utilised in the classroom. The teachers can find this description as a separate

document on the projects website, at teachers section (<http://portal.ou.nl/web/wespot/teachers>). This document will be best use by the teachers together with the screen casts and video tutorials (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ProjectWeSPOT>) that explain the functionalities of the tools.

## 9. weSPOT diagnostic assessment guidance

The diagnostic instrument will provide a questionnaire version for creating a baseline assessment as also a non-invasive continuous tracking tool, which collects and processes the relevant indicators, which are able to measure the impact of the weSpot approach. This will also lead to an Inquiry Guidance and Assessment Tutorial, which will be used by students and teachers in order to work with the weSPOT diagnostic tools and procedures. The assessment tutorial shows how to use the taxonomy (see D2.3.1), and the assessment components in educational settings.

### 9.1 weSPOT Inquiry Skills Taxonomy

The IBL Model consists of 45 specific tasks (e.g. *Systematic Observation*) which are assigned to more generic IBL phases (e.g. *Data collection*). To carry out these IBL tasks, a student requires certain skills (e.g. *Computer / Technical skills* such as the ability to apply search engines or word processing software). A skill – as a psychological construct - is not directly observable. However, we can infer about a student’s skills when observing the student’s performance while carrying out a task or by evaluating the outcome of a task for which certain skills are required. In this sense, the associations between the IBL tasks and a set of skills may serve as valuable input for assessment purposes in an educational setting. In weSPOT, students are encouraged to engage in and complete their own inquiries, or in other words: weSPOT favors a “learning by doing” approach where *students learn IBL skills by doing IBL tasks*. This is how the associations between IBL tasks and IBL skills provide guidance on how to train certain skills.

The following table provides the set of IBL tasks from the weSPOT IBL model, a set of skills and the associations between them (indicated by the grey cells). The set of skills and their associations to the tasks have been defined by pedagogical experts of the weSPOT consortium. The table can be read from both perspectives, i.e. an “assessment” and a “guidance” perspective, respectively. As an example, a student who has shown that he or she is able to carry out *information foraging* has (at least to some extent) *Learning skills*, *Computer / Technical skills* and *Research skills*. From a guidance or instructional perspective, if we would like to teach a student *Research skills*, we can suggest him or her to engage with *information foraging tasks* (e.g. searching through the web for articles and pictures for a particular domain).

IBL-skills, IBL-tasks and associations between them, can also be represented in a graphical way. Table 3 shows a graphical representation of a so called lattice that is a labeled line-diagram in which combinations of IBL-tasks and IBL-skills are shown as nodes. Hierarchical dependencies between these combinations are indicated by connected lines.

The weSPOT IBL lattice (Table 3) can be “read” as follows: The labels of the IBL-tasks are in white boxes, the labels for the IBL-skills are in grey boxes. Let’s look at the node with the label “Writing Skills” (highlighted in red) at the left-hand side of the lattice. When “collecting” all labels in the white boxes from descending paths of this node, we know all the IBL-tasks, which are associated to *Writing skills*. In this case the associated IBL-tasks are *Writing up*, *Dissemination* and *Documentation*. On the other hand, we can see all IBL-skills, which are associated to a particular IBL-task when identifying all labels in the grey boxes from ascending paths of the node. As an example, look at the node labeled as “Language / definitions” (highlighted in green) just right of the “Writing skills node”: The IBL-skills in the ascending paths are *Language skills*, *Learning skills*, and *Comprehension skills*.

		Skills																									
IBL Phases	IBL Tasks	Critical thinking skills	Comprehension skills	Observation skills	Learning skills	Metacognitive skills	Language skills	Analytical skills	Inferring skills	Search skills	Evaluation Skills	Computer / Technical Skills	Research Skills	Experimentation Skills	Problem Solving Skills	Writing Skills	Quantitative analysis skills	Statistics Skills	Mathematical Skills	Qualitative analysis skills	Existing Knowledge	Classification	Planning Skills	Organisation Skills	Presentation Skills	Communication Skills	
		Question/Hypothesis	Embedding																								
Context																											
Existing knowledge																											
Mental representation																											
Language/definitions																											
Field of research																											
Empirical meaning																											
Reflection (Question)																											
Operationalisation	Indicators																										
Predictions																											
Resources																											
Methodology																											
Ethics																											
Reflection (Operationalization)																											
data collection	Information foraging																										
Systematic observation																											
Experimentation																											
Tools (Data Collection)																											
Simulation																											
Data storage																											
Data security																											
Documentation																											
Classification																											
Reflection (Data Collection)																											
Data Analysis	Quantitative analysis																										
Qualitative analysis																											
Tools (Data Analysis)																											
Visualisation																											
Noise reduction																											
Reflection (Data Analysis)																											
Interpretation	Embedding																										
Confirmation/falsification																											
Significance																											
Relevance																											
Threshold																											
Exhaustion																											
Reflection (Interpretation)																											
Communication	Writing up																										
Strategy																											
Audience																											
Tools (Communication)																											
Dissemination																											
Discussion																											
Feedback (Receiving and Reacting)																											
Reflection (Communication)																											

Table 3: IBL-Tasks, IBL-Skills and how they are associated



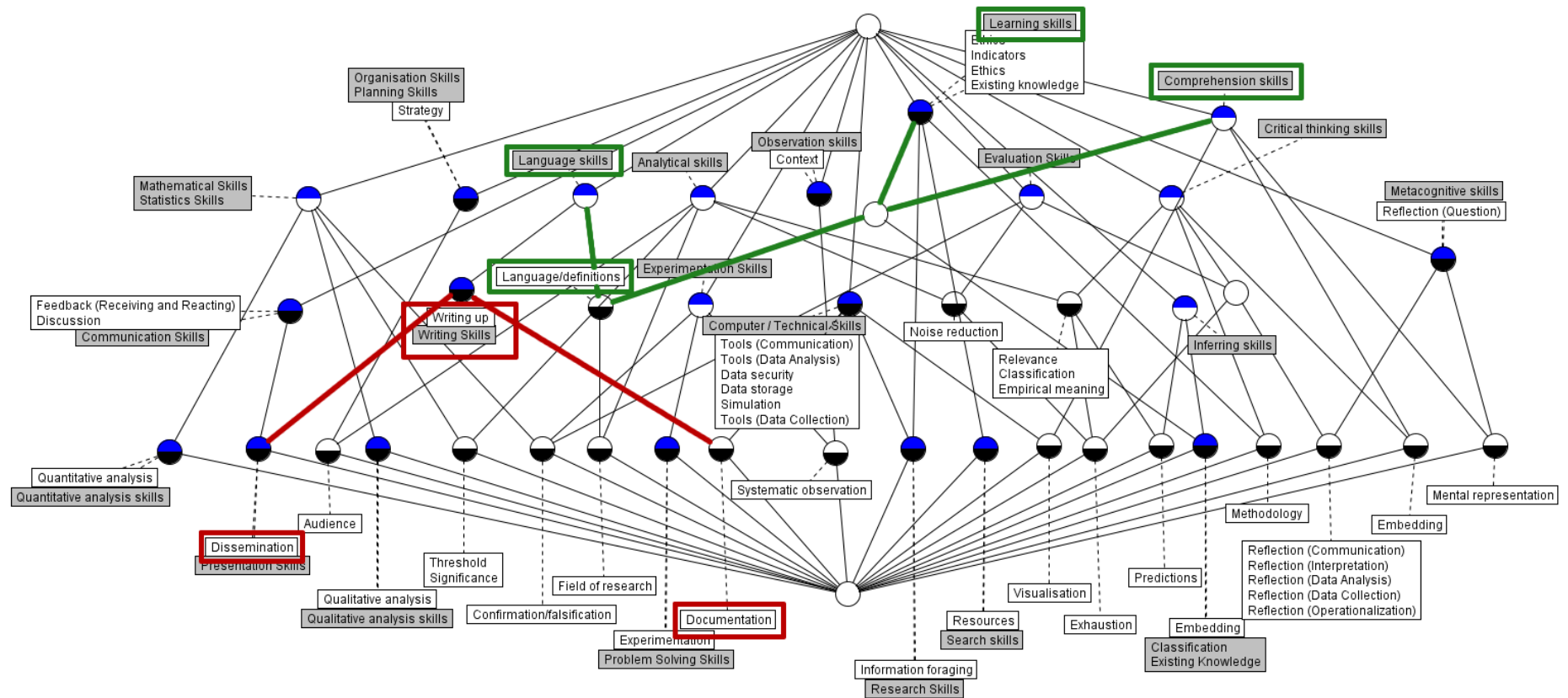


Figure 13: weSPOT IBL lattice



This graphical representation provides additional information such as hierarchical dependencies between IBL-skills and IBL-tasks that are often hard to read from the matrix representation. Skills which are located above others (connected by lines) are more “complex”, because they are associated to more IBL-tasks. As an example, let’s go back to the node labeled with “Writing Skills”. This node is located above, and thus is “more complex” than, *Presentation skills*. As elaborated on in the previous paragraph, *Writing Skills* are associated to the IBL-tasks *Writing up*, *Dissemination* and *Documentation*, whereas *Presentation skills* are only associated to *Dissemination*. We find another example looking at *Writing Skills* that are “less complex” than *Language Skills*, which node is located above: *Language Skills* are additionally associated to the IBL-tasks *Language / definitions* and *Field of Research*. The hierarchical dependencies between skills are the focus of Figure14 which doesn’t include the labels of the IBL-tasks.

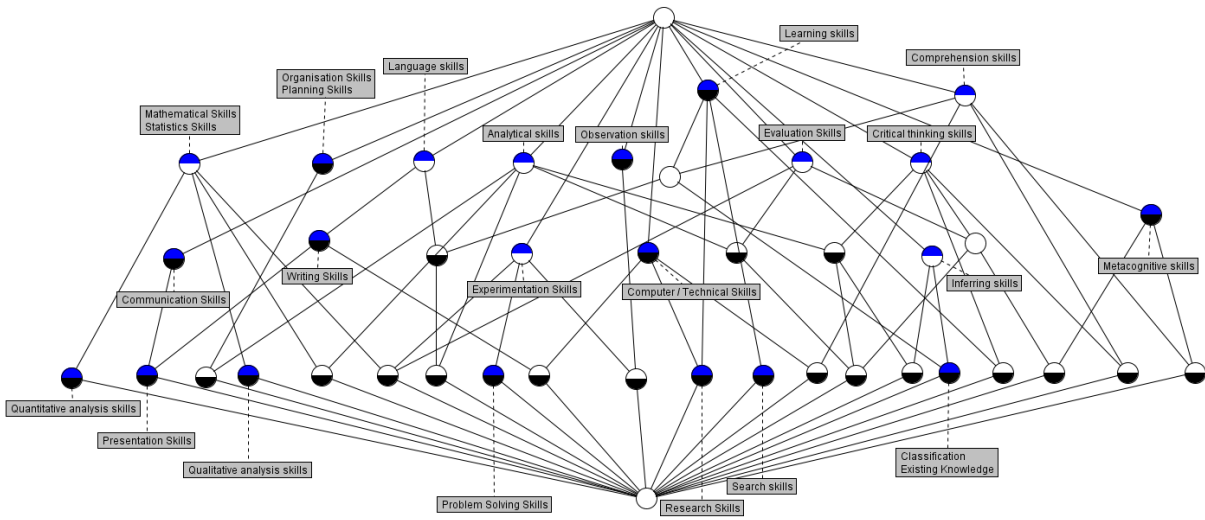


Figure 14: weSPOT IBL-skills lattice

If you are only interested in hierarchical dependencies between skills we recommend using the following Figure15. This weSPOT IBL skills taxonomy brings some valuable insights on how to guide students through inquiry projects: less complex skills should be taught, trained or learned before complex ones.

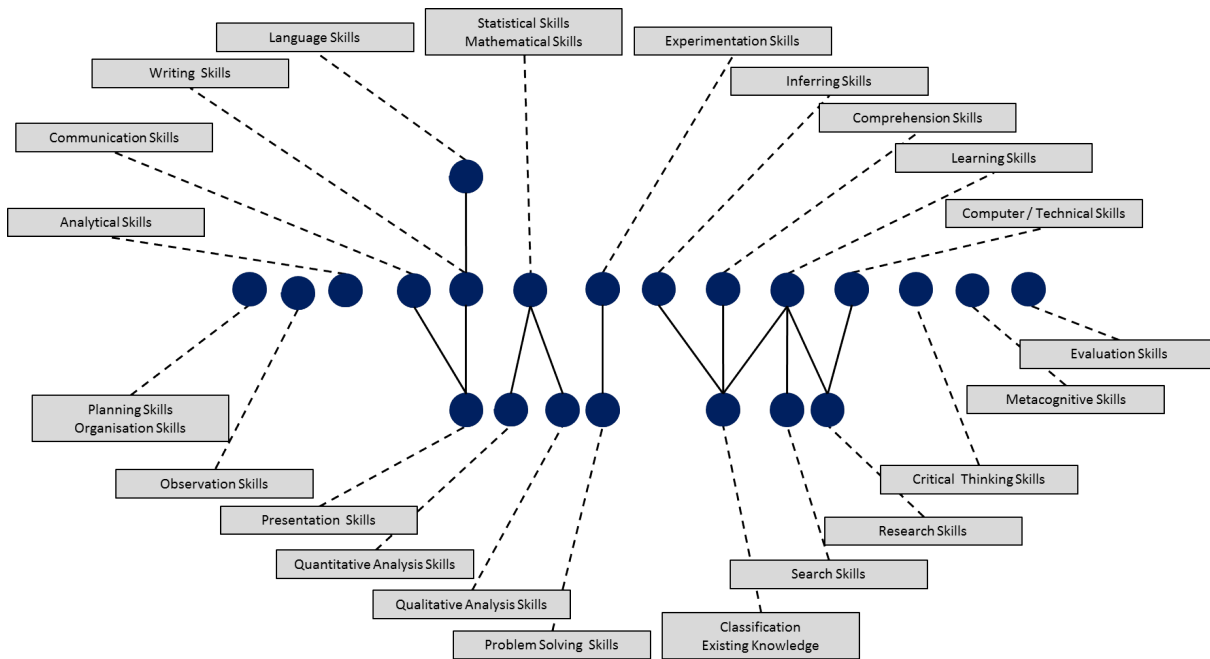


Figure 15: weSPOT IBL-skills taxonomy

## 6. Conclusions

Deliverable D2.4 has introduced the guidance and assessment tutorials of the weSPOT project.

The aim of the inquiry guidance tutorial framework is to provide all the necessary guidance to the teachers to use the weSPOT IBL model and the tools and support them in their quest to assist "young researchers" in exploring "scientifically" specific aspects of their physical environment. The inquiry guidance tutorial describes the weSPOT IBL model and explains its use with examples. Additionally provide thorough tutorials of all the developed tools.

The assessment tutorial explains the associations between the weSPOT IBL tasks and a set of skills that may serve as valuable input for assessment purposes in an educational setting. The set of skills and their associations to the tasks will allow teachers to assess the required skills for a given task.

The theoretical framework for the pedagogical diagnosis is tailored to the ambitious aim of inferring students' inquiry and meta-cognitive skills as well as domain-specific knowledge from observational data tracked within the weSPOT environment.

This deliverable is strongly related to the technical design and development WPs (3, 4, and 5) to the integration and piloting in different test-beds WP (6), and the evaluation framework WP (7).

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