

Deliverable 3.2: Development of a virtual research environment

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WP3 has four deliverables

- D3.1 Development of e-interuniversity networked system
- D3.2 Development of the virtual research environment
- D3.3 Training, lecturing and guest visits
- D3.4 Training of students

Key points raised at Bologna meeting regarding D3.2

- Create a virtual space for academics from all partner institutions to share their study and research knowledge
- Developed by January 2014
- Development to commence in April 2013
- Salford to confirm development plans in early 2013

Critical success factors of collaborative research

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Focus element	Success factors	Reference
Trust	Mutual respect and trust among partners, Good personal relationships, Simple collaborative agreement, Clear and honest understanding of each other's abilities	(Dodgson, 1996; Davenport et al., 1998; Mora-Valentin et al., 2004; Barnes et al., 2006; Mann, 2006)
Commitment Ability and Leadership	Top managerial commitment from all parties, Active participation on project team by all the parties, Adequate resources, Specialist and complementary knowledge and expertise of partners, One agreed project leader with required authorities	(Davenport et al., 1998; Barnes et al., 2006; Weck, 2006)
Transparency and clarity	Common goals with no hidden agendas, Clear understanding of each partner's responsibilities and tasks, Clearly defined objectives, Clearly defined responsibilities, Mutually agreed project plan, Realistic aims, Defined project milestones, Focused project scope	(Davenport et al., 1998; Mora-Valentin et al., 2004; Barnes et al., 2006; Weck, 2006)
Communication and monitoring	Effective communication, Communication and regular contacts with partners, Regular progress monitoring, and Ensuring collaborators deliver, Monitoring project's progress against agreed milestones	(Davenport et al., 1998; Mora-Valentin et al., 2004; Barnes et al., 2006; Weck, 2006)

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Typical objectives of VRE

- To **encourage collaborative research** by providing means to overcome barriers (e.g. geographically dispersed teams) and locate potential collaboration partners;
- To **manage research projects** effectively and efficiently as the research process becomes more transparent and visible, and to rapidly replicate successful research projects;
- To successfully **manage research data and information** that can be shared within and across research teams;
- To **increase networking capabilities** that are important to individual and group capacity to absorb and consolidate knowledge;

Typical objectives of VRE

- To effectively and efficiently **produce and use research instruments** (such as questionnaire surveys);
- To **create, manage, transfer information resources** within and across research teams/institutions;
- To **disseminate research outputs** more efficiently and widely;
- To **develop their core and complementary skills** and competencies, and thereby encourage cross-fertilisation of learning;
- To promote awareness and ownership towards **self-sustainability** within the user community; and
- To **share knowledge gained through testing** and developing the tool with other relevant developer/user groups.

EURASIA Partners

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Web: www.eurasia.buhu.salford.ac.uk



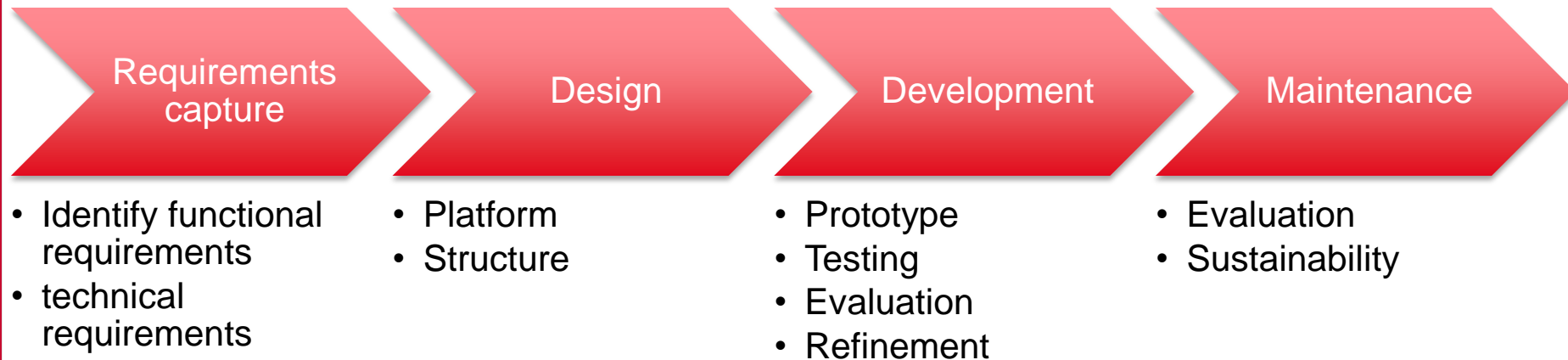
Virtual Environment for Built Environment Researchers (VEBER)

- Collaboration and communication support
- Information handling and exchange support
- Project management support
- Data collection and dissemination support
- Research training support

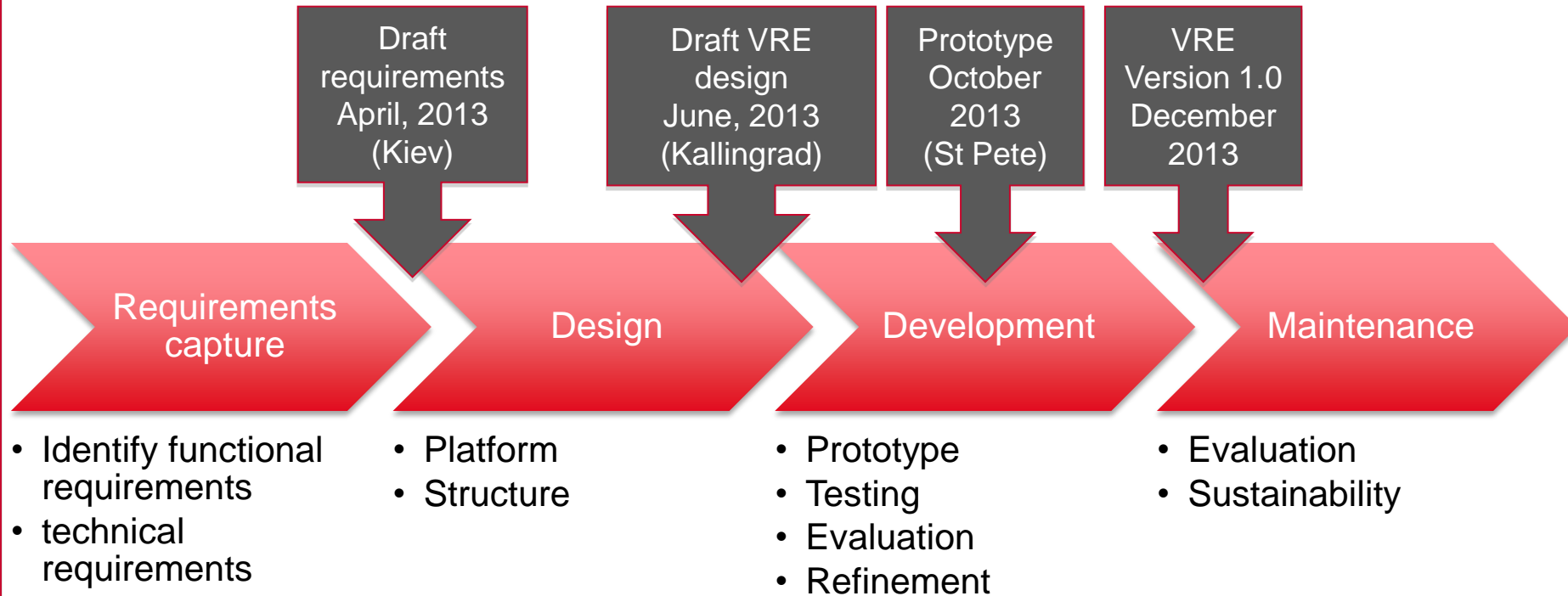


<http://veber.buhu.salford.ac.uk>

Development process



Proposed milestones



Proposed next step

- Salford to design and conduct a survey with CEN-EAST partners to establish functional requirements
- Develop technical requirements based on functional requirements
- Present results in Kiev (April 2013)