

## International workshop on Visual Fractions

From 28 June to 2 July 2004 a key event for our project happened in Budapest. International federation IFIP WG 3.5 organized and run there an international conference titled *Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: What really matters?*, see <http://matchsz.inf.elte.hu/ifip2004/>. More than 50 prominent educators from all over the world have been invited by the program committee. As far as this event was mostly organized and realized by two of the CoLabs partners – ELTE-HU and CUB-SK – we decided to take this opportunity and present the results of our project to the most prestigious society of researchers in integrating ICT into modern education (see also our overview to Output 15 on Dissemination).

One of several important events for us and CoLabs project was the international workshop **Visual Fractions – new approach to tangible mathematics education** which Ivan Kalas and Brigitta Rethy-Prikkel offered to the participants of the conference. The detailed announcement and specification of the workshop can be found in the [Visual Fractions – new approach to tangible mathematics education.DOC](#) within this folder.

For us this workshop has been key international evaluation event. Some ten leading educators, researchers and professors from Australia, Germany, Portugal and other countries participated and were introduced to the concepts of Visual Fractions microworld. We had pre-developed several activities for them and we had prepared a kind of script for the participants to discover some features and functionality of the microworld. During the workshop we had excellent and most exciting discussions with our colleagues. The main conclusions for us were:

- ⊕ Some small inconsistencies and bugs were found in the way how some of the visual interactive building blocks were designed. We managed to modify and fix most of these within the days following the workshop.
- ⊕ The idea of building our Visual Fractions independent on national mathematics curricula proved to be very useful and feasible. As far as Visual Fractions is built as a kind of open set for developing any approach to teaching/learning fractions, all international educators and teacher trainers present at the workshop were able and more than willing to develop their own activities/material on fractions.
- ⊕ The key idea of Visual Fractions evoked considerable interest among the participants. Activities pre-developed by Brigitta Rethy-Prikkel were clear and productive as far as they motivated all participants for exploratory work and discussions.
- ⊕ Several participants showed clear interest to demonstrate our output and idea at other conferences and project meetings outside Europe, which we found very positive reaction and result of that evaluation.