

E-LEARNING IN HUNGARIAN AND FOREIGN EDUCATION

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Why we need it?

We use ever more electronic instruments. The computer, phone, radio, TV, and all our gadgets are electronic. The education should not lag behind to teach these skills. Business needs better-trained people. If our children do not familiarize themselves with the electronic skills they will start their life as unemployables.

The conditions of e-learning

Hardware

There is no e-learning possible without electronic equipment. The schools require computers, network, projectors, CD and DVD readers and writers.

Software

The tools helping teaching, that is: CD-s, DVD-s, electronic curricula are crucial for e-learning. Let us not forget the old audio and videocassettes either.

We have to secure the needed computer safety technology, firewalls, virus killers, spam filters. These are extremely important for safe functioning.

If we use expensive electronic tools, we have to defend them from abuse, burglary. We need monitors, too.

The commitment of educational governance, necessity of clear concepts

A school can not start e-courses lonely, because it becomes isolated. Their students would live in a different and segregated world. The start of e-learning needs the same central commitment of the educational governance as the initiation of the National Fundamental Curriculum did. The governance must co-finance the courses with both hardware and software and networked electronic curricula. It has to balance the level of schools. The continuity of seamlessly proceeding to higher and higher courses is important. It is the only way to guarantee high levels of knowledge.

Knowledge of the teachers

The teachers have to learn how to use and exploit the internet, electronic tools, electronic curricula. This means pedagogical and methodological study, too. The libraries, at first the school libraries can help them here.

Electronic administration

If the school administration is already electronic, the approach of the teachers will be more open, conducive and friendly to e-learning.

The situation abroad

The present position of Hungary in this respect is not bad if we compare it with other countries. As it turned out on an international school library conference (Riga, September 2005) some leading EU countries have still less resources and plans at the high-school level.

The countries of EU have to think ahead jointly about how to fit their educational methodology and technique to the new possibilities, offered by e-learning. Only this may lead to good cooperation. This necessitates common concepts, intellectual and technical proceedings.