

E-BOLOGNA - E-LEARNING DEVELOPMENT IN EU PROJECTS

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E-learning has become the mainstream of education in the majority of EU countries and shows dynamic development in Central-East European countries as well. Several EU programs and projects supported initiatives for enhanced cooperation of HEIs in this field, however long term impact and sustainability realised by these projects are relatively poor – several barriers have been recognised and analysed. Flexible e-learning methodology may offer the most suitable tool for overcoming these barriers, enhancing educational networking. Moreover, ODL methodology and multi-lingual on-line delivery may increase the accessibility of continuously developing training programs at a cost effective way. Using advanced and standardised authoring tools and formats, learning elements can be re-integrated into different textual environment, course developers may freely decide, which of these elements may be helpful or which of them will be replaced by their own, special ones. If training materials are available in a wide range of relevant topics, course providers may tailor different courses based on them, according to actual needs - without duplicating cost demanding material development – consequently fast response to labour market needs may be realised. Elaboration and operation of a system for continuous upgrading of the content and common fundamentals of quality assurance, clear IP right policy and marketing strategy should be the responsibility of international consortia.

University of Miskolc introduced complex and coherent e-learning methodology, implementing blended learning approach since 2003, at all Faculties, offering free access to an advanced e-learning environment for all university staff and full-time learners. Initiating and participating in several successful e-learning development projects for multilingual course development and delivery, University of Miskolc takes active part in networking, building bridges between EU and CEE ODL study centres. Experiences and results of two recent EU projects will be presented as follows:

„e2ngineering” Leonardo project aims at developing a new methodology of advanced, multilevel and multilingual, transnational vocational training programs in the field of engineering. Technology transfer in industry, implementation the recent results of both fundamental and applied research, widespread application of ICT as well as new competencies required by international scientific networking – all key factors for improving economical competitiveness, and especially important challenges for the new EU member CEE countries. Focusing on advanced engineering topics and effective, latest generation of e-learning methodology our project wishes to face with these challenges.

“eTaster” Socrates/Minerva project’s consortium covers wide range of ODL actors from EU and CEE countries, represented by two of their international networks, EADTU and e-Collegium. Following an innovative approach for enhancing international networking joint development and delivery of 12 non-accredited, short self-standing “taster” e-learning courses in multilingual format are aimed. e-Taster courses are bite-sized learning programmes, offered free of charge for the general public. Three models of piloting are also expected to provide valuable lessons to be learnt: fully autonomous learners will use multilingual versions, partners will launch local groups using native language tutoring support, moreover international learners groups will follow collaborative learning methodology.