

Second announcement
(updated 18 August 2006)

**Widening Participation and Opportunities
by e-Learning in Higher Education**

'Promoting Accessibility and improving the Quality of Lifelong Open and Flexible Learning'

23-24 November 2006
Hosted by EITF, Tallinn, Estonia



Universities aim at increasing their attractiveness to wider groups of students. This can only be achieved on the basis of new approaches to each of these groups.

Education has changed by the use of ICT. Students are demanding an ICT environment. Open and flexible learning creates a new approach to the attractiveness and competitiveness of European universities. Within the next five years, universities will evolve dramatically in this respect.

EADTU invites the Higher Education community to attend this event on:

- Open Educational Resources, Virtual Mobility and academic cooperation
- Quality assurance in e-learning: new benchmarking and assessment tools
- Responsive models of delivery: student recruitment, assessment and the changing role of study centres
- New business models and new funding structures
- New target groups:
 - profiling the lifelong learning student
 - focus on minority groups

New results from substantial research and development will be presented. Participants are invited to contribute also from their expertise in the fields mentioned.

The (preliminary) full programme is available at EADTU's website and at page [3](#) and [4](#) of this announcement.

In plenary sessions high-level keynotes will address the scope of the conference 'Widening participation and Opportunities by Lifelong Open and Flexible Learning in Higher Education' and the underlying themes.

In parallel sessions a total of five strands are scheduled dedicated to a specific subject.

Open Educational Resources (strand 1)

EADTU is taking a leading role in helping to increase and widen participation in lifelong open and flexible learning in higher education. In a keynote address by Fred Mulder (Rector Open Universiteit Nederland and member of the EADTU Executive Committee), a report is given on the results of a truly European initiative: Multilingual Open Resources for Independent Learning (MORIL). Moreover, included in the OER conference strand are presentations on the Open Content Initiative by the Open University of the United Kingdom, the OpenER initiative by the Open Universiteit Nederland, the e-Taster initiative by the North Hungarian Regional Distance Education Center, and the E2ngineering action by the Szent István University.

Academic Cooperation (strand 2)

In a separate session, conference participants are invited to join in a workshop on Academic Cooperation, reporting on the prospective piloting of international courses by EADTU consortia members and discussing best practices of international collaboration.

Quality assurance in e-learning (i.e., new benchmarking and assessment tools) (strand 3)

As quality assurance in e-learning is a priority issue for the higher education community as a whole, the Conference offers presentations and workshops of primary research and initiatives in this field. In a keynote, Paul Bacsich (*Benchmarking e-learning in a network of British universities*) will set the starting points for benchmarking in e-learning.

Certainly, one of the main highlights of the Conference will be the launch of the E-xcellence quality assessment tool for e-learning specific elements of your institution and programmes. This as a result of the EU-funded quality assurance and benchmarking project with involvement of e-learning experts from 12 different countries. At this event we will demonstrate the usability and

comprehensiveness of this E-xcellence tool for assessing your e-learning system on the threshold or excellence level and find guidance for further improvement.

New business models and new funding structures (strand 4)

In a dedicated Conference session, Rectors and financial experts interchange information on what kind of funding schemes are currently installed and what the prospects and concerns of these models are. An in-depth analyses is presented on the different business models and their funding opportunities. Institutions from accession and neighbouring countries are especially invited to join in with their vision on university business models and models for inter-university collaboration.

The strands' programme may incorporate different formats: regular presentations, projects' reports, interactive presentations, workshops, debates, brainstorming sessions and exhibition items.

Virtual Mobility (strand 5)

European higher education requires Virtual Mobility to enable easy access to education and training provisions throughout Europe. Virtual mobility will both increase the possibility to internationalise the curriculum and give access to an international experience for non-mobile students, whether studying in distance teaching (off-campus) or in conventional (on-campus) programmes, that are not covered by the current Erasmus programme.

State of the art initiatives on Virtual Mobility feature at the EADTU 2006 Annual Conference to show various concepts of organising Virtual Mobility. Frontrunner presentations, depicting new types of mobility are presented and discussed. Running activities in Virtual Mobility will be presented and demonstrated from amongst others the E-MOVE project.



Why should you attend

- Get in touch and interact with colleagues in your discipline and explore common fields of cooperation
- Open Content initiatives
- New business models
- Catch-up on the latest developments in e-learning
- Meet the experts in education related R&D
- Contribute to a culture of quality norms and standards
- Experience the new technological applications.
- Find guidance for further improving e-learning.



Call for Papers

Conference submissions (completed paper, research-in-progress paper, or position paper) are invited on the themes (though not limited to):

- Open Educational Resources
- Academic Cooperation
- Quality Assurance and e-Learning
- New Business Models and New Funding Models
- Virtual Mobility

Contributions should be submitted by abstract with accompanying title and keywords (see the [format specifications](#)). The Programme Committee subjects the programme and the abstracts to a process of review. Acceptance of your contribution is announced by web-publication of the finalised programme.

Deadlines:

- Submission of abstracts 15 September 2006
- Web publication of acceptance 22 September 2006
- Full paper deadline: 30 October 2006

Mind that on passing the deadlines, inclusion of the contribution in the 2006 conference's proceedings cannot be guaranteed. Authors are responsible that their material is not under publication consideration elsewhere. EADTU is allowed to publish the materials in the EADTU conference proceedings. Author(s) will retain the copyright ownership of the material(s) appearing in the conference proceedings.

You can submit your contributions to :

PapersTallinn2006@eadtu.nl

Preliminary Conference Programme

Thursday 23 November 2006

08.30 - 09.30 hrs. Registration

09.30 - 11.00 hrs. **Official Opening of the Conference**

David Vincent, President of EADTU, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Open University, United Kingdom

Rein Raud, Rector of Tallinn University
Welcome and opening remarks

Mailis Reps, Minister of Education and Research, Estonia

Jaak Aaviksoo, Board member of EUA, Rector of Tartu University
Open and flexible learning in mainstream European education : a European perspective of lifelong learning.

Linnar Viik, Estonian IT College

11.00 - 11.30 hrs. Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00 hrs. **David Vincent**, President of EADTU, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Open University, United Kingdom

Widening participation: Open Educational Resources, Virtual Mobility. Quality Assurance and Benchmarking as core areas: overview of recent developments.

Paul Bacsich, Managing Director, Matic Media Ltd, and Visiting Professor, Middlesex University, United Kingdom
Benchmarking e-learning in a network of British universities

The E-xcellence project group chaired by George Ubachs, EADTU, the Netherlands
Launch of the E-xcellence benchmarking and quality assessment tool.

Fred Mulder, EADTU Executive Committee member, Rector, Open Universiteit, the Netherlands

A plan for the development of a European open content initiative: results of the Hewlett Foundation MORIL project

The MORIL project group chaired by Kees-Jan van Dorp, EADTU, the Netherlands
Launch of the MORIL initiative and successive steps

14.30 - 16.15 hrs. **Parallel sessions**

Open Educational Resources	Academic Cooperation	Quality Assurance and e-learning	New Business Models and New Funding Models	Virtual Mobility
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16.15 - 16.45 hrs. Coffee break

16.45 - 18.30 hrs. **Parallel sessions**

Open Educational Resources	Academic Cooperation	Quality Assurance and e-learning	New Business Models and New Funding Models	Virtual Mobility
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20.00 hrs. **Dinner at the restaurant Karl Friedrich, Town Hall Square, Tallinn (more information will be provided in due time)**

Friday 24 November 2006

09.00 - 10.45 hrs. Parallel sessions

Open Educational Resources	Academic Cooperation	Quality Assurance and e-learning	New Business Models and New Funding Models	Virtual Mobility
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10.45 - 11.15 hrs. Coffee break

11.15 - 13.00 hrs. Parallel sessions

Open Educational Resources	Academic Cooperation	Quality Assurance and e-learning	New Business Models and New Funding Models	Virtual Mobility
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13.00 - 14.30 hrs. Lunch

14.30 - 15.30 hrs. Thematic workshops

E-assessment	How to increase participation	Mass individualisation
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15.30—16.00 hrs. Coffee break

16.00—18.00 hrs. Plenary session

EADTU Annual Conference 2006

Widening Participation in a Global Perspective: Lessons for Europe

Jean-Michel Lacroix, EADTU Executive Committee member, Rector of CNED, France
E-learning and international cooperation: a vision after visits to Canada

Frits Pannekoek, President of Athabasca University, Canada
The future of inter-continental cooperation: a comparative view on open and flexible learning

Luis Miguel Romero, Vice-President of AIESAD, Rector of UTPL, Loja, Ecuador *
Latin-American - European cooperation: experiences and prospects

Erno Lehtinen, Vice-rector of Turku University, Finland
A comparative view on open and flexible learning.

Vladimir Tikhomirov, Rector of MESI, Moscow, Russia
Open and flexible higher education as a tool for widening participation

David Vincent, President of EADTU, Pro-Vice Chancellor Open University, United Kingdom

Declaration of Tallinn

*) To be confirmed

Conference venue

The conference will be held in the new building of Tallinn University, located at Uus-Sadama 5, Tallinn 10120

Conference Partners



Conference fee

The fee, payable in advance of the event, includes conference attendance for two days, all printed materials, lunches, the dinner on Thursday and refreshments.

Rates

	Early bird Rate *	registration after 20 October 2006
EADTU members	€350	€400
Non-members	€400	€450

*) The early bird fee applies if registration is received before or on the 20th of October 2006 and your payment is received before or on the 9th of November 2006.

Please transfer the corresponding fee in Euros only. We cannot accept payments by cheque. Cash payments at the event are not possible. After receiving your online registration form you will be sent an invoice.

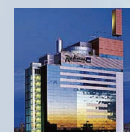
You can register online at the [online registration system](#).

Cancellation policy

Cancellations must be done in writing, addressed to the EADTU-office (full details on the next page). If notice of the cancellation is received before or on 2 November 2006, the conference fee minus an administration charge of 15% of the fee will be refunded. If notice of the cancellation is received after 2 November 2006 and/or participants fail to attend, the entire fee is payable. In the latter case we will accept representatives, provided that we have been informed of this change in writing or by email.

Hotel accommodation

Radisson SAS Hotel
www.tallinn.radissonsas.com



Best Western Hotel Tallink
<http://bwhotel.tallink.com/eng>



Reval Hotel Central
www.revalhotels.com/eng/central/



After you have registered for the conference and you wish to make a reservation at the **Reval Hotel Central**, you may contact the [EADTU secretariat](#) in order to obtain a code for the reservation of your hotel room. This code allows you to benefit from a special (conference) rate for your hotel reservation, but only applies to the Reval Hotel Central.

For more information on hotel accommodation please refer to our website under the tab "[accommodation](#)".

Information on Tallinn

More information on the city of Tallinn can be found at the [venue information](#) webpage.

Conference Programme Committee

The chair of the international programme committee is David Vincent, president of the EADTU. The programme committee consists of the following members:

- EADTU president, secretary-general and staff
 - Chairs of the academic networks
 - Rectors and principals of the EADTU Board
- For the full list of names, see the [next page](#).

EADTU office

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Programme Committee

EADTU

- Chair of the Programme Committee: David Vincent (UK), president EADTU
- Piet Henderikx (B), secretary-general EADTU
- George Ubachs (Academic Services Manager, EADTU)
- Kees-Jan van Dorp (Academic Services Manager, EADTU)

EADTU - Academic Networks and their chairs

- E-Learning and Teaching Academic Network: Ronnie Saunders (IRL) (OSCAIL)
- Libraries and Learning Support Working Group: Anna Zuñiga Ruiz (ES) (UOC)
- Educational Research & Technology: Chris Curran (IRL) (OSCAIL)
- Science & Technology: Jan Kusiak (AGH-University of Science and Technology)
- Humanities: Thomas Keutner (D) (FernUniversität in Hagen)
- Health & Social Care: Chair (André Vyt) (BE) (Arteveldehogeschool)

EADTU - Rectors, Principals of Board, Deans and Programme Directors

Country	Institute	Name
Austria	Zentrum für Fernstudien Universität Linz (ZFUL)	Franz Palank
Belgium	Studiecentrum Open Hoger Onderwijs (StOHO)	Piet Henderikx
Denmark	Danish Association of Open Universities (DAOU)	Jørgen Bang
Estonia	Estonian Information Technology Foundation (EITF)	Sirje Virkus
Finland	Finnish Association for Distance Education (FADE)	Pekka Kess
France	Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance (CNED)	Jean-Michel Lacroix
Germany	FernUniversität in Hagen	Helmut Hoyer
Hungary	National Council for Distance Education	István Szábo
Ireland	National Distance Education Centre (OSCAIL)	Ronnie Saunders
Italy	Network per l'Università Ovunque (Nettuno)	Maria Amata Garito
The Netherlands	Open Universiteit Nederland (OU)	Fred Mulder
Poland	Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza (AGH)	Jan Kusiak
Portugal	Universidade Aberta	Carlos Reis
Russia	Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics (MESI)	Vladimir Tikhomirov
Spain	Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)	Juan Gimeo Ulastres
Spain	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)	Imma Tubella
Sweden	Swedish Agency for Networks and Cooperation in Higher Education (NSHU)	Jan Erik Lundquist
Switzerland	Zentrum für Fernstudien Schweiz (FS)	Paul Volken
Turkey	Anadolu University	Fevzi Surmeli
United Kingdom	the Open University (UK OU)	David Vincent
United Kingdom	the Open Learning Foundation (OLF)	Suzanne Robertson

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