



INFOLETTER
EADTU
April 2004

Bimonthly letter on activities and progress on
EADTU related developments

INTRODUCTION

This Info-Letter is a bimonthly publication on the ongoing activities and developments in the EADTU-Network. We will report on our priority areas of the moment and give reflections on the various actions that have been carried out within the last months. This publication is presented to the member institutions of EADTU as well as some close contacts and interested parties. The information provided is often just a summary or a short introduction to get a broad audience acquainted with the activities of their international colleagues. For further information we always provide web links or contact numbers.

In this issue:

- [EADTU ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Heerlen \(NL\), 21-23 October 2004](#)
- [BOARD MEETING, Heerlen 20th of March 2004](#)
- [ASSOCIATION MEETING, Stockholm 16th -17th January 2004](#)
- [TASK FORCE MEETINGS](#)
 - Task Force on QA and Accreditation
 - Task Force on Virtual Mobility
- [EADTU-ELIG: Collaboration with the eLearning Industry Group](#)
- [EADTU-EU MEETING, Brussels 3rd and 4th of February 2004](#)
- [ACADEMIC NETWORKS: Health & Social Care and ER&T](#)
- [NEW EADTU MEMBER: Universitat Oberta de Catalunya \(UOC\)](#)
- [PROJECTS](#)
 - Update on the running projects:
UNIVe , Smallinc, SMART EDU and AVICENNA
 - New applications (Full proposals):
ODLAC, e-Taster and E2ngineering
- [EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES: new call on E-Content](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [PUBLICATIONS](#)

EADTU ANNUAL CONFERENCE: HEERLEN 21-23 OCTOBER AN EVENT DURING THE DUTCH PRESIDENCY

The annual EADTU conference will this year be hosted by the Open Universiteit of the Netherlands in Heerlen, 21- 23 October 2004. The Conference has been placed on the official calendar of events during Dutch chairmanship of the European Union in the second half of 2004. The OUNL is proud to host this event in their 20th Anniversary. We already have confirmation of State Secretary Nijs to be present at the opening session of the Conference.

The Conference addresses the EU broad topic of widening participation in higher education under the theme 'Mass-individualization of higher education for the knowledge-based society'. This includes also personalising higher education focusing on

the individual learning process of each student, since massification in itself can have negative aspects on the quality of education. Especially new forms of interaction between staff and students and between students have an innovative potential. They will influence deeply both on campus and off campus education. New learning models are a condition for successful massification in mainstream higher education, as well as for education from the work place and from home.

The EADTU conference will this year be broadened by including the Dutch Universities Association (VSNU) and Dutch Council of Universities for professional education (HBO-raad). This means that we expect the number of participants to grow to about 300. The outcomes of our conference will be presented as input for the yearly EUA-conference a week later in the nearby University of Maastricht.

Recently the Dutch Ministry of Education has suggested to communicate the main conclusions of the EADTU conference in October to EU ministers of Education in December in Maastricht that is organized under the Dutch EU presidency, especially with regard to access and virtual mobility. .

BOARD MEETING, Heerlen, 20th of March 2004

The OU-NL hosted the last board meeting.

Important items on the agenda were:

- Report back from the Task Forces Virtual Mobility and Quality Assurance and Accreditation, with recommendations how to move on.
- Report back from the EADTU-EU meeting on 3-4 February
- Meeting with the eLearning Industry Group on 19 March
- Report back from the Associations' meeting on 16-17 January with recommendations to the Board.

(For details we refer to the related paragraphs)

ASSOCIATION MEETING, Stockholm 16th -17th January 2004

The Associations within EADTU gathered in Stockholm on the 16th and 17th of January. Next to comparing the different Associations' models, approaches and priorities, the meeting focussed on the local and European developments in Higher Education and ODL and the possible European collaboration in relation to this. From a list of possible activities, more concretely the following actions are foreseen:

- Development of a comparative scheme of the Associations by EADTU, based on criteria like number of students, funding structure, business models etc.
- Identifying task forces on didactics of dual mode education. Organising an expert seminar on didactics in Linz.

- List conditions for Mass-production and the sharing of courses (content, joint courses curricula, certificates and degrees.). This will be worked out in a proposal to the board.

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

▪ TASK FORCE QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION

The first Task Force meeting, was hosted by the Open University Validation Services on the 9th of January in London. This resulted in some interesting elaborations on national systems of QA and views on European approaches and related constraints. The Task Force made an inventory of our existing national and institutional QA and Accreditation frameworks.

The second Task Force meeting in Brussels on the 10th of March, was used for making an inventory of the distinctive elements of e-learning and virtual learning on the institutional level, the programme level and the course level. They will always have to be situated in the broader context of a programme, including the learning concept, the pedagogical approach, and the blend between face to face learning and virtual learning. Specific criteria related to virtual learning/e-learning will function in addition to the "regular" quality assurance criteria, that are functioning in the context of regular quality management at the institutional and national level.

The TFQA proposed to the Board to continue the co-operation in the current setting and submit a project proposal to:

- develop criteria for excellence in ODL
- look for support to incorporate the QA criteria in ODL in our national systems
- look for a pilot project to develop a procedure to test the feasibility and usefulness of the new criteria; and the feasibility of an accreditation/recognition for excellence with regard to these distinctive quality criteria.
- to find financial support (funding) for a study on implementing the criteria

The Board gives a positive reaction to the results and agrees on continuing this task force. Also, this task force will further focus on both national and institutional level. Dr. Kate Clark will remain chair. The next meeting of the TF on QA is planned on May 11th.

▪ TASK FORCE ON VIRTUAL MOBILITY

The first Task Force meeting resulted in a position paper on issues and problems on Virtual Mobility that was further discussed in the second meeting on the 25th of February. In this second meeting the position paper was further discussed. After the Rectors have looked into the final report, the recommendations were presented to the board on the 20th

of March. The report includes a new approach to virtual mobility according to several dimensions. The Task Force prepared as well a SWOT analysis.

The Board agrees that this report is very useful as an input for project proposals. The paper will also be presented at the next EADTU conference, where also an inventory of existing collaboration will be made. The Board agrees on continuing this Task Force at both national and institutional level.

Prof. dr. Uwe Schimank will remain chair.

The next step of the Task Force is to:

- Refine the concepts of virtual mobility;
- Identify ongoing activities e.g.:
- Develop an action plan / work plan for the members;
- Discuss with deans and directors for concrete actions
- Explore market potentials
- Develop project proposal under the eLearning Programme call

Other initiatives taken by this Task Force is the participation and request for presentation at the Brain gain – Conference in the Hague (NL), 30 Sep 04.

EADTU-ELIG: Collaboration with the eLearning Industry Group

EADTU organized a meeting with eLIG on the 13th of February on the next steps to be taken in further collaboration. Activities foreseen are the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), organising a workshop on collaborative actions and the EADTU annual Conference.

The MoU will be developed in a written procedure between EADTU and eLIG based on the draft provided by EADTU.

The workshop needs to be prepared very well. It was decided to organise a smaller seminar to prepare the much broader workshop on EADTU-eLIG collaboration in May this year.

The seminar was organised by EADTU in Heerlen the day before the board meeting on March 19th. EADTU rectors and principals of the open and distance universities in Europe and principals of national consortia were present.

From eLIG we had representatives of various branches in the e-learning industry: (Walter Stepanek, IBM; Paul Lefrere, Microsoft; Ida Andersson, Nokia; Phillippe Trautman, SUN; Townsend Feehan, Microsoft; Philip van Bel, Cisco)

Also the European Commission was taking part in this seminar (DG EAC Ms M. Guiterrez, Mr B. Holmes; INFISO Mr W. Jansen).

The seminar was organised in the LEX-centre of the OU-NL.

LEX, the Learning EXperience is a new centre within a high-tech environment in which “group learning” (working together during learning processes) and “group decision making” is organised in a more efficient and effective way.

Within this setting we were able to determine in a most effective way the 12 topics of common interest that will now be further explored for the potential of collaborative actions between EADTU and deLIG. More information is available on the EADTU-Secretariat.

EADTU-EU MEETING 3rd and 4th of February 2004

The EADTU-secretariat organized a meeting with the European Commission on the 3rd and 4th of February 2004. It was a meeting on the strategic level with senior level participation of the European Commission (DG EAC, INFSO and CEDEFOP) and more than 20 EADTU rectors, vice-rectors and international officers.

The Workshop was related to the influence of e-learning with regard to on campus and off campus higher education in a lifelong learning context, and about the technological, pedagogical and organisational requirements to make European institutions excellent in this field and hence more competitive in the world. Themes discussed were higher education within e-Europe, strategic developments within institutions (mass higher and personalisation at the same time), continuing education and lifelong learning, and research and development in relation to these issues.

ACADEMIC NETWORKS

If you are interested in participating in one of the EADTU Academic Networks, please contact the secretariat@eadtu.nl

▪ HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

On the 24th of February the Health & Social Care Academic Network has met in London. It was decided to have Gill Young remaining Chair until 2005. Her successor is to be elected at the next annual EADTU conference in Heerlen.

The Network will hold two meetings per year. One an in-person meeting held during the autumn EADTU annual conference. Second to be a virtual meeting held annually in the spring. The Network will develop an annual work plan usually at the EADTU Conference meeting. The Network will use its website for further communication

In the London meeting the objectives of the Network were clarified as follows:

The main objective of the H&S Network is to promote the aims of the Bologna and Bruges process in health and social care.

- Provide a forum to identify, develop and share good practice, information and materials to reduce duplication, and develop strategies for quality teaching, learning and assessment.
- To promote partnerships between institution and collaboration to access EU and other funds to promote e-learning in health and social care.
- Provide an international peer review network for members.

In the meeting also the annual Work plan for Feb – Dec 2004 was developed and will be further discussed with EADTU programme staff. One point of attention is clearly, the possibility of bidding through the EADTU for a virtual campus in health and social care.

- **ER&T**

The next ER&T Academic Network meeting is hosted by CNED in Poitiers (F) in the beginning of June. As in the past, the meeting will be combined with a site visit. Interesting new development is the participation of the eLearnTN project partners in this meeting to look at possibilities for follow up actions on the project results: the research roadmap and the 21 research lines for the future.

- **Library and Student Support Working Group**

Next meeting will be at the Open University in Milton Keynes (UK), 13 – 14 May 2004. Some interesting initiatives are on the agenda like:

- European Library passport
- European Information Sharing

- **Humanities**

Next meeting will be at the Open Universiteit in Heerlen (NL), 10 – 11 June 2004. Important issue is the International Course Exchange and the supporting Website under the EADTU Website.

NEW EADTU MEMBER

We are very happy to welcome the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC). The UOC is a 100% virtual university with over 30.000 students and existing now for 8,5 years.

Taking advantage of the opportunities offered by information technologies, the UOC takes the lead in giving answers to the necessities of a society considered from a global perspective, and without limitations of age, activity, income, place of residence, or personal circumstances; and it facilitates the means whereby each person may attain his or her objectives and satisfy in a flexible manner his or her educational necessities.

Read more:

<http://www.uoc.edu/web/eng/>

PROJECTS

Running projects

- **THE UNIVe PROJECT "Creating network-based e-university model for the small countries in the context of e-learning in Europe"**

The project web-site of UNIVe has recently been launched. All the latest updates and developments can be viewed at: <http://htk.tpu.ee:8080/UNIVe/> and <http://www.e-uni.ee/Minerva/>.

- **SMALLINC (An Interactive Approach to Language and Culture)**

The main objective of the SMALLINC project is the development of multimedia language materials on CD roms to promote the teaching of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian languages and to increase the interest in the cultures to which these languages belong.

SMALLINC trains the four language skills, i.e. reading, listening, speaking and writing, as well as applied skills such as outlining, summarising, discussing. This is done through short video clips from actual current affairs programmes. The language learning materials for Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian is interactive and will be available on three levels (beginners, intermediate and advanced).

At present, the pedagogical partners are working on the intermediate level. The technical partners are implementing the materials in the software source, and the first tests will take place in Spring 2004. A demo will be available during the EADTU conference in October. EADTU is responsible for promoting the project.

Please visit the [SMALLINC](#) website at the Centre for Language & Speech

- **SMART EDU**

SMART EDU is a new e-Learning platform under the Leonardo programme, enabling you to provide training in a completely new way, integrating Live TV quality video, audio with live interactivity and web based discussion forums, uploads, tests, etc. Our colleagues from the Centre for Language and Speech of the University of Antwerp took part in this project.



We are pleased to introduce you to SMART EDU a new e-Learning platform

- the result of a 3 years project co-financed by EU Leonardo da Vinci program.

SMART EDU is new e-Learning platform enabling you to provide training in a completely new way integrating LIVE TV quality VIDEO, audio with live INTERACTIVITY and web

based tools like chat, discussion forums, uploads, tests etc.

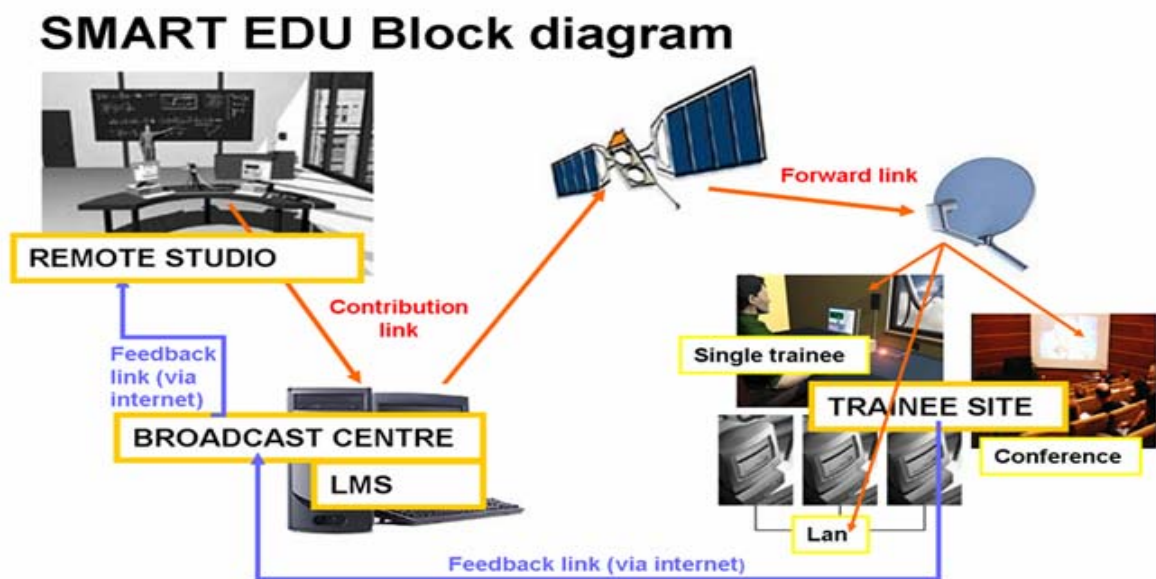
Thanks to the combination of video with live interactivity, frustration, common for distance training, does not occur in SMART EDU training.

SMART EDU helps you to easily overcome distances with satellite based video - audio interactive trainings.

In SMART EDU case satellite pays-off effectively as it gives you a strategic advantage by broadening up your current reach to geographically widely dispersed trainees at a low costs. (To understand why [see how smartedu does work](#))

SMART EDU as the most native way of distance training, revolutionary upgrades meaning of the distance learning and represents the new generation of learning.

By eliminating travel and accommodation costs as well as the waste of time caused by travelling, SMART EDU platform results in a significant costs savings either for you or your clients.



If you would like to know more about SMART EDU, we will be happy to send you SMART EDU CD which includes

- 1) Video explaining overall system architecture (200 MByte)
- 2) Trial software with sample Learning Object to work with
- 3) Methodology with guidelines for SMART EDU deployment.

You are welcome to [order free CD here](#) as well as get password for downloads

Meanwhile please feel free to download documents:

SMART EDU presentation:	EN		
SMART EDU data sheet:	EN	DE	IT
Examples of SMART EDU usage:	EN	DE	IT
SMART EDU Advantages:	EN	DE	IT
SMART EDU Pricelist:	EN		
SMART EDU Explanatory Video:	EN		
SMART EDU Methodology	EN	DE	IT

SMART EDU is suited for the most progressive private corporations, governments and virtual universities. In one package it provides effective communication tools and enhanced e-Learning platform.

SMART EDU would gain you competitive advantage and quick entrance to the new markets. Lets join SMART EDU the new generation of e-Learning!

▪ **AVICENNA VIRTUAL CAMPUS project
(UNESCO & European Commission)**

The UNESCO (SC/AP) and the European Commission initiated -in 2002 on 3 years- a large project called AVICENNA VIRTUAL CAMPUS within the framework of EUMEDIS initiative (Euro-Mediterranean Information Society Programme). The aim of the Avicenna project is to accelerate the adoption and use of ICT-assisted Open Distance Learning (ODL) in 15 Mediterranean universities.

The following institutions will host an Avicenna Knowledge Centre: ALGERIA (Université de la Formation Continue), CYPRUS (University of Cyprus), EGYPT (Faculty of Computer and Information), FRANCE (Université de la Méditerranée), ITALY (Network per l'Università Ovunque NETTUNO), JORDAN (Philadelphia University in Amman), LEBANON (Lebanese University), MALTA (Malta Council for Science and Technology), MOROCCO (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Informatique et d'Analyse des Systèmes), PALESTINE (Al Quds Open University), SPAIN (Universidad National de Educacion a Distancia-UNED), SYRIA (University of de Damascus), TUNISIA (Institut Supérieur de l'Education et de la Formation Continue in Tunis), TURKEY (Middle East Technical University), UNITED KINGDOM (Open University).

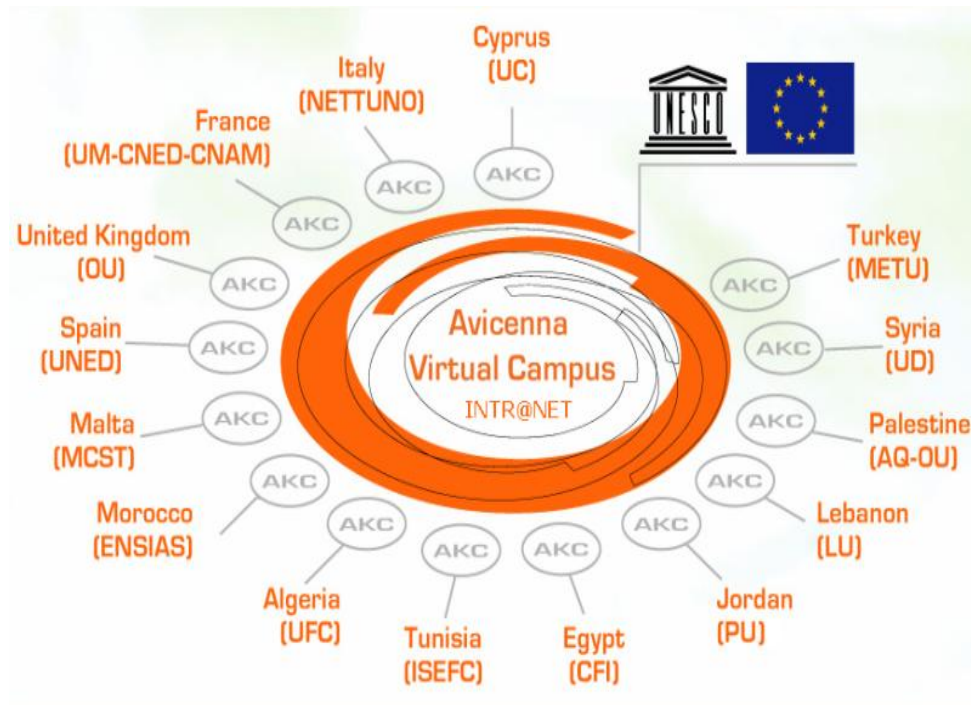


Figure 1. Avicenna Virtual Campus <<http://avicenna.unesco.org>>

The AVICENNA Virtual Campus

Involves 15 countries of Western Europe and North Africa.

UNESCO is the principal co-ordinator of the programme, to which the European Commission contributes € 3.7 million through its EUMEDIS programme.

Activities:

- Development Strategy and Policy.
- Organisation and equipment of the network.
- Training of the producers and tutors.
- Multimedia Courses Production.
- Setting up of Avicenna Virtual Library.
- Evaluation.

Demand for e-learning in the target Universities and societies are clearly identified, as ODL may bring wider access to University based initial and continuing education. The network organization will be stimulated and comforted by the engagement of some of the EU's leading Open Universities, under the aegis of UNESCO. The campus is named after Ibn Sina (981-1037 A.D.), the most famous physician, philosopher, encyclopedist, mathematician and astronomer of his time. Known in the West by the name of Avicenna, Ibn Sina is perhaps best remembered for his famous work in medical science, Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb, known as the Canon in the West.

The humanistic and intercultural dimension of cooperation are some strategic aspects of the project.

The Avicenna campus aims to build a network capable of transferring knowledge between entry points in each participating country known as Avicenna Knowledge Centres. This implies that all the Centres respect a common norm with regard to technology.

Students stand to benefit from the Avicenna network in some original ways. For example, Avicenna will include an educational virtual library. ‘Cross-fertilization’ of the different contents made available by participating universities will be encouraged. Students are also sure to appreciate the possibility of having credits gained from one Centre acknowledged by other participating universities.

Nor has Avicenna overlooked the staff-training component. Officers in charge of the knowledge centres will receive instruction in administration and in the pedagogy of e-learning, knowledge officers will be trained to interact with the media engineers and professors, while tutors will be shown how to interact with students for a given course.

Some activities have been developed at this stage:

- ✓ Definition of quality criteria of the courses, led by CNAM (France).
- ✓ Training Sessions for all key actors: directors, technical experts and educational experts, led by the CNED (France).
- ✓ Presentation of the project at various International Conferences on ODL and Higher Education

As a backbone of this project, the UNED (Spain) is in charge of creating a knowledge data base which will contain all educational and methodological materials required for developing educational modules and will be based on a Learning Object Metadata Repository for the benefits of all the partners involved. It is important to point out that other key factors would greatly influence the design and management of this repository, such as the blended learning method, under the coverage of different multicultural educational approaches.

At present, the selection of courses is being carried out in order to developed by AKCs teams. The shareable objects produced will be incorporated in the repository.

[New Applications \(Full Proposals\)](#)

▪ **ODLAC (Johannes Kepler Universität Linz)**

The ODLAC proposal of the Johannes Kepler Universität Linz under the Minerva programme was selected for the second round. So, before the 1st of March a full proposal was prepared and submitted.

The **overall objective** of the project is developing and disseminating an effective and innovative language learning concept (individualisation, social environment) and assuring the feasibility of its implementation in different institutional and social contexts (universities, adult education, secondary school education).

Specific objectives of the project are:

a) to evaluate the impact of current specific aspects of ODL applied to foreign language learning (essentially, *learning efficiency factors* and *the best conditions of implementation* of ICT and (e-)TANDEM®) in the context of academic and adult education, by means of studies concerning three **target groups** (language learners, language trainers/teachers/counsellors and institutions).

b) On the basis of the results of these studies, to formulate and disseminate three specific guides for the above mentioned target groups.

A policy for a more innovative practice in language learning in universities and in the adult education, with particular attention to opportunities of transferability and integration into similar and new educational contexts, is the long-time objective of the project **outputs**.

Partners

- Johannes Kepler Universität Linz(A)
- Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien(A)
- Universiteit Antwerpen(B)
- Goethe-Institut München(D)
- TANDEM FUNDAZIOA(E)
- Kennaraháskóli Íslands(IS)
- EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF DISTANCE TEACHING UNIVERSITIES (NL)
- Metodicko-pedagogické Centrum (SK)

▪ **E-Tasters and E2ngineering (University of Miskolc)**

In the last Info-letter we mentioned the 2 applications from the University of Miskolc called “e-Tasters” under the Minerva-programme and E2ngineering under the LEONARDO programme. Both proposals have been selected for sending in a full proposal in the second and final round. Hopefully they will be successful.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

▪ **New Calls**

E-Content

Fourth Call for proposals launched - closing date 14 May 2004.

The Commission launched the 4th Call for Proposals for the eContent programme on the 14th February 2004. The call seeks proposals for demonstration projects for Cross-border information services based on public sector information (Action line 1.1.) and strengthening the linguistic infrastructure (Action Line 2.2.).

ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/econtent/docs/call4_econtent_en.pdf

For the latest updates on new calls please consult our web-site under European Programmes. <http://www.eadtu.nl>

EVENTS

ONLINE EDUCA MADRID, 12-14 May 2004

The meeting point for European and Latin American E-Learning Professionals. Expected are 500 participants from over 30 countries from both sides of the Atlantic making it the meeting point between Europe and Latin America.

www.online-educa-madrid.com

ELLPROFT seminar. University of Tartu, Estonia, 3-5 JUNE 2004.

20 European organizations have pooled their skills and experiences together in order to create Ellproft, an European Adult Education Centre. Ellproft organizes 10 seminars for adult education and social action professionals in Europe.

Each seminar includes new knowledge, understanding and skills with presentations and case studies of best practice from different locations, settings and countries. Most of these professional development seminars also propose training workshops.

The sharing of their experience will be an important element of each seminar.

www.ellproft.org

PUBLICATIONS

- **Online Education and Learning Management Systems** - Global E-learning in a Scandinavian Perspective. The book comprises the following four parts:
 1. Online Education, Teaching and Learning
 2. Commercial and Self-developed LMS Systems
 3. Global E-learning in a Nordic Perspective
 4. Trends and Future Developments

Author: Morten Flate Paulsen

Web-site: www.studymentor.com

Publisher: NKI Forlaget

Pages: 337

ISBN 82 562 5894 2 (Printed version)

ISBN 82 562 6048 3 (PDF version)

ISBN 82 562 6049 1 (Microsoft Reader version)

- **Dokeos 1.5 beta is released.** Based on Claroline 1.4.2., this Open Source software includes many pedagogical improvements : online content creation, live conferencing, sound in quizzes...

Dokeos team can help you launch your e-Learning projects through teachers training, content management, LMS hosting, consulting...

Situated in Belgium, Dokeos is active worldwide. Its clients include :
ICHEC (Brussels), Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Spain), Instituto
Panamericano de Estudios Superiores (Argentina), Washington State Community
College (USA)...

Contact +32 (0)472.98.75.45 or info@dokeos.com

Thomas De Praetere
<http://www.dokeos.com>

CALENDAR

To see our past, present and future activities, please take a look at our website with the following link:

[Calendar](#)

CONTACT

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