

EADTU Newsletter January 2009

Dear members, partners and interested,

EADTU wants to thank all valued members and contacts for their interest and involvement in our last year's activities.

Have a creative and innovative 2009 with success, hope and health!



The EADTU secretariat

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PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES



The [23rd ICDE World Conference on Open Learning and Distance Education](#), including the 2009 EADTU Annual Conference, will be held in Maastricht, The Netherlands on 7-10 June 2009. This conference is hosted by Open Universiteit Nederland.

Prof. Brenda Gourley, Vice Chancellor of the Open University, Prof. Barney Pityana, Vice Chancellor University of South Africa and Mr. Sam Pitroda, Chair of the National Knowledge Commission of India are among the keynote speakers.

Three reasons why you should attend the conference: (i) you are inspired by the theme of the conference; (ii) you are excited by the platform and network offered through the meeting; and (iii) you are attracted to the venue of the event.

Chance that these arguments all hold for the upcoming M-2009 event: the **23rd ICDE World Conference** on Open Learning and Distance Education including the **2009 EADTU Annual Conference**..

Registration is open on [Click here to register...](#)

EPICS for Virtual Erasmus

In Higher Education international student mobility has become increasingly important – for the learners as well as for the institutions. But today's mobility schemes are first and foremost aiming at physical mobility. This approach covers the majority of the students but does however not take into account the needs of the lifelong learners engaged in family or work life, being disabled or not having the financial means for going abroad during their academic education.

Recently the European Commission has approved the project application of EADTU on EPICS for Virtual Erasmus. It is a proposal to supplement the current physical mobility scheme of the Erasmus programme with a virtual mobility scheme. [Read more....](#)

Coordinator: [George Ubachs](#)



Guido Valentini (Uninettuno), Alda Pereira (Universidade Aberta), Sirje Virkus (Tallinn University), Damien Carron (Fernstudien Schweiz)



Trevor Herbert (Open University), Bieke Schreurs (EuroPACE-KU Leuven), Elif Toprak (Anadolu University)

The project was officially started with the kick-off meeting on the 10th and 11th of November in Leuven. This first meeting with the virtual mobility coordinators already showed great potential for a successful project.

USBM for Lifelong Learning

Delivering lifelong learning represents a fundamental challenge to the business models of conventional universities. Although LLL is as a concept broadly supported and strongly recognized by universities, governments and the EU, it is still in the starting phase of actually being implemented. [Read more.....](#)

Coordinator: [George Ubachs](#)

E-xcellence+

In our previous newsletters we informed you on our aim of introducing quality assurance in e-learning by using the E-xcellence benchmarks. A European seminar in Madrid has been held in June 2008, organized by EADTU in co-operation with ENQA to kick-off the local introduction of quality assurance in e-learning in thirteen countries. The 13 local seminars will now start in October 2008 and end by April 2009.

We will report on the progress in our coming newsletters and a give a full overview at the ICDE-EADTU world conference in Maastricht, June 2009. [Read more.....](#)

Coordinator: [George Ubachs](#)



First preparatory meeting for the Local Seminar in Flanders co-organized with the KU-Leuven and the quality assurance bodies of universities VLIR and higher vocational education VLHORA. About forty persons from 25 different HEI's participated in this preparatory meeting. The actual local seminar for Belgium is planned for the 3rd week of January 2009.

Progressing the framework partnership agreement



Lifelong Learning Programme

As part of the framework partnership agreement (2008-2010), the EADTU has set out the objective of the penetration of European lifelong learning policy. Its main aim is to stimulate participation of universities in LLL-schemes and -in particular- distance education and traditional universities in lifelong learning schemes.

EADTU devised a special working plan for 2008, and shall commence activating its outline for 2009 shortly. A short recapitulation of EADTU's long, middle and short term activities is presented next. A long term aim is the constitution of a European Learning Space (ELS) with open and flexible courses, easily accessible for adult students who want to study under a guided and independent regime, i.e. students who combine work and study or have special needs. This ELS, in line with the Bologna reform, is constituted by the higher education institutions which provide their courses at a distance, increasingly online. Apart from the accessibility, virtual mobility between institutions is a clear feature. Also the quality is assured like in the mainstream. Medium term objectives are the full implementation of open resources for independent learning and a portal facilitating

virtual Erasmus schemes with appropriate courses and services. Also, research on LLL in Europe should be catalogued in view of a better coordination and complementarity.

Short term objectives refer to the implementation of institutional strategies for OER's, the installment of basic technology linked to a distributed portal, the creation of open courseware and related services to students. Another (short term) objective is the construction of a portal for virtual Erasmus schemes including staff and student services. More information: [Kees-Jan van Dorp](#)

2nd Open Education Resources seminar successful in Louvain

On October 28-29 last, the EADTU held its second OER Seminar under the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Grant.



The OER seminar hosted by K.U. Leuven, aimed to facilitate knowledge transfer between regular universities and open and distance teaching universities whereas OER (best) practices are concerned; it succeeded in its mission by presentation of institutes leading in OER throughout Europe, including panel discussions with representatives of universities and the European Commission. The seminar lived up to the expectations of both regular universities and representatives of university associations. Click [here](#) for the overview of the full programme or the (presentation) [proceedings](#).

The third OER Seminar, the final one under the MORIL Grant of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, shall take place at UNESCO (Paris), in March 2009. For more information contact [Kees-Jan van Dorp](#), MORIL project manager.



Seminar 2008 Panel Session



Moderator Group sessions: Andy Lane



In between the sessions

EADTU's 2008 Open Educational Resources Seminar Series:

[Video recordings](#) from [OU UK](#), [Milton Keynes](#)

As part of a William and Flora Hewlett Foundation supplementary Grant, the EADTU allocated for 2008 an Open Educational Resources (OER) seminar series. The series consists of an OER Strategy Implementation Seminar (OU UK), an OER Strategy Development Seminar (KU Leuven), and an OER Capacity Building Seminar (UNESCO). The following video recordings provide an impression and some interviews, as captured during the May 2008 Seminar at the Open University (UK) in Milton Keynes. [Click here for Videos on YouTube from the Seminar](#)

Third consecutive all-partner CBVE meeting



Lifelong Learning Programme



On 5 and 6 November, the European Consortium of **Cross Border Virtual Entrepreneurship (CBVE)** held its third consecutive all-partner meeting at UNED in Madrid (Spain).

CBVE a multilateral European project, part of the Erasmus Programme under Lifelong Learning 2007-2013, having the objective to enhance the professional (entrepreneurial) competence of students by open and flexible, didactically-innovative and pedagogically-rich learning approaches. In lead of prestigious education and development, the different CBVE activities packages were evaluated on their progress. Rich interactive media content, as part of the four-language multilingual Master class on entrepreneurship for student starters, was **demonstrated live** by Università Telematica Internazionale UNINETTUNO. In the same meeting, UNED revealed operationalisation plans for the pilot run on business planning for students. Moreover, the progress on the overarching referatory portal, acting as pointer to regional entrepreneurial resources, was shown live by EADTU and the Estonian E-University . Integrated assessment approaches for evaluation of the referatory portal, the Master class and the virtual training support tools, were set out by Maria Curie Skłodowska University. In light of 2008/2009 developments, an (open) multi-stakeholder content demonstration and assessment workshop, is planned for invitation, to take place in February 2009 in Brussels. More information: [Kees-Jan van Dorp](#). For an impression of the meeting, [click here](#).

4th EU4ALL consortium meeting – participation in online survey



The fourth EU4All Consortium Meeting was held in York, 3-5 November. The project is making significant progress in the development of a support system of Virtual Learning Environments and Learning Management Systems for disabled and older students.

More information: [Christina Brey](#).

In order to develop this framework, and to better understand the needs of disabled and older learners and the professionals who support them the project partners would now like to **encourage students and staff from EADTU member institutions to participate in an online survey**.

The survey is available in English, French, German, Greek, Italian and Spanish at www.eu4all-project.eu/surveys.

Further information on the survey and the project can be found [here](#).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008



On 18 and 19 September 2008 the EADTU Annual Conference was held in Poitiers. With over 200 participants from more than 30 countries, it was proven to be very successful. A particular gratitude goes to the host and the conference committee for organizing such a constructive event.

EADTU wishes to specially express thanks to Jean-Michel Lacroix, Rector of CNED, for hosting this year's meeting.

Proceedings are available at:
[Click here for proceedings...](#)

Click [here](#) for the Message of Poitiers.



Prof. David Vincent, President of EADTU



Jean-Michel Lacroix, Recteur du CNED



More pictures at:
[Pictures EADTU Conference 2008 Poitiers](#)

PARTICIPATIONS

EUA Autumn Conference, 23-25 October 2008, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Inclusive and Responsive Universities ensuring Europe's competitiveness

At the EUA Autumn conference the new "European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning", was officially presented. It is a key EUA policy document, developed at the request of the French Prime Minister François Fillon. The publication is based around a series of ten commitments made by universities in addressing the development and implementation of lifelong learning strategies, with a set of matching commitments proposed for governments and regional partners.

EADTU contributed to the development of this charter and the Autumn conference. Prof. David Vincent gave a key-note on the work of the Open University and EADTU in this field.

George Ubachs presented the Quality Assurance in e-learning instrument "E-xcellence" as supporting tool in organizing lifelong learning programmes by increasing flexibility, interactiveness and accessibility.

EC Business Forum



Lifelong Learning Programme

In the framework of the University-Business Cooperation initiative, the European Commission organized a thematic forum on continuing education and lifelong learning in Brussels on the 30th of June 2008. The event was a follow-up to the University-Business forum that took place on 28-29 February and contributes to the development of a platform on European level for a structured dialogue between relevant stakeholders. On behalf of EADTU, Kees-Jan van Dorp delivered a Keynote presentation and was seated together with Piet Henderikx in different Panel Sessions.

More information can be found on the [Commission Site](#). Download the [EC](#)

[Business Forum presentations](#) and the [Report](#).

MEMBER NEWS

Sarah Frame new Chairman OLF

The Open Learning Foundation has recently introduced Ms Sarah Frame as its new Chairman. Ms Frame is currently Head of the School of Distance and E-Learning at the University of East London. Previous to her appointment she has held positions in the commercial sector and most recently with the International School of Correspondence based in Scotland.

www.olf.ac.uk

EduContact Project of the Month

eLearning Europa has announced EduContact as its Project of the Month. Special highlight was given to the fact that the project has recently made its services to European projects outside the EduContact partnership that have produced free distance, online self-supported tutorials and modules.

http://www.elearningeuropa.info/directory/index.php?page=doc&doc_id=7967&doclng=6

Results on project "The impact of new technologies on distance learning students"

The FernUniversität in Hagen has successfully finished its project "The Impact of New Technologies on Distance Learning Students". The project was conducted in cooperation with Ericsson, Sweden, Distance Education International, Ireland, Corvinno, Hungary, University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria and the University of Rome III, Italy.

The results and further information are available online.

http://www.ericsson.com/ericsson/corpi nfo/programs/the_impact_of_new_tehn ologies_on_distance_learning_students/

A summary of the results is also published in an e-book:

<http://www.exact.ie/ebook/technologyi mpact>

Invitation to join the Task Force Sustainable Development

In line with the ambition of 'Europe' to play a leading role, worldwide, in sustainable development, the EU and its member states as well as the European educational institutions and associations are urged to take on a leading role in the development of all learning, including lifelong learning, for sustainable development. The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development provides an excellent opportunity to show this leading role. In order to take it seriously and to bring it into implementation 'The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development', the EADTU Task Force on Sustainable Development, chaired by Jos Rikers (Open Universiteit), seeks members to join in, and work on position papers, projects and institutions, concerning climate change. Become a member: send an email to secretariat@eadtu.nl

Anniversary Universidade Aberta

On 2nd December 2008 Prof. Dr. Carlos Reis proudly presided an atmospheric meeting for rectors and guests in honor of the 20th anniversary of Universidade Aberta, Lisbon Portugal. We congratulate the rector and his team on this matter in particular, and in general on all their successful developments which were achieved in the past decennia.

CALENDAR

12-13 March 2009

UNESCO; twin seminar on OER and Quality Assurance in E-Learning, Paris, France

EUROPEAN BUSINESS

Call for Proposals 2009

The European Commission has published its Call for Proposals 2009 under the Lifelong Learning Programme. The total budget earmarked is estimated at € 961 million. Among others funds will be given to projects in relation to the modernization of higher education, virtual campuses, the co-operation between higher education institutions and enterprises, open educational resources and curriculum development.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm



European Year of Creativity and Innovation

The European Commission has proposed 2009 as the European Year of Creativity and Innovation in order to boost Europe's capacity for creativity and innovation for both social and economic reasons.

Ján Figel' Commissioner responsible for education, training, culture and youth, believes the Year is *"an effective way of helping to meet challenges by raising public awareness, disseminating information about good practices, stimulating education and research, creativity and innovation, and promoting policy debate and change. By combining action at Community, national, regional and local levels, it can generate synergies and help to focus policy debate on specific issues."*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/482>

Erasmus Mundus II approved by the European Parliament (October 2008)

The European Parliament has voted the Erasmus Mundus II programme (2009-2013). The first call of this new phase of Erasmus Mundus is expected in January 2009. Erasmus Mundus was already funding joint master degrees to attract international students, including third countries. Now, also joint doctoral degrees can be submitted for funding. Also new is the inclusion of the Erasmus Mundus mobility scheme for student (at all levels: from bachelor to postdoc) and staff mobility, focusing on specific countries selected by the Commission. See: http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc72_en.htm

The third edition of the Erasmus & Jean Monnet info-kit with up to date information on European activities in the field of higher education "Erasmus programme and Jean Monnet programme" is available under http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/erasmus/infokits_en.htm

Please pay special attention to the submission deadlines for the new 2009 call, and the Infodays that will take place on 16 January 2009 in Brussels and on 22 January 2009 in Warsaw.

PUBLICATIONS

Open Educational Resources for Management Education

eLearning Europa published a paper by Cécile Rébillard, Jean-Philippe Rennard and Marc Humbert from the Grenoble School of Management titled "Open Educational Resources for Management Education: Lessons from experience".

The authors show that Economics/Management faculties are usually

less advanced in their production and use of OER at in relation to other faculties.

http://www.elearningpapers.eu/index.php?page=doc&doc_id=12404&doclng=6&vol=10

Reflections on sustaining Open Educational Resources

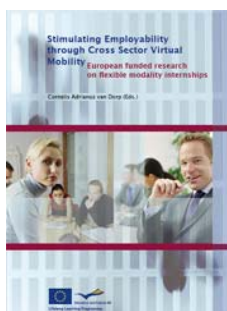


In his article "Reflections on sustaining Open Educational Resources: an institutional case study" Andy Lane, Director OpenLearn reviews some of the literature on the sustainability of OER and what it has to say about successful or sustainable open content projects on the internet.

http://www.elearningpapers.eu/index.php?page=doc&vol=10&doc_id=12405&doclng=6

Flexibilise education and training by flexible modality internship

[Click to look inside](#)



On the subject of employability and flexible modality internship, EADTU has released 'Stimulating Employability through Cross Sector Virtual Mobility; European funded research on flexible modality internships' (Eds. C.A. van Dorp). This publication, which is available from EADTU, contains some 42

European and non-European case references to flexible modality internships, and provides a first-hand look into 7 flexible modality internship projects, as conducted by leading CSVM project partners among which the Estonian e-University and the Open University of the Netherlands. Eligible for FREE order; ask our [secretariat](#) for the conditions.

Education for a Digital World

The Commonwealth of Learning co-edited a new book on "Education for a Digital World – Advice, Guidelines, and Effective Practice from Around the Globe."

<http://www.col.org/resources/publications/crsMaterials/Pages/edDigitalWorld.aspx>

Special Article on Cross Border Virtual Entrepreneurship



Dorp, C.A. van. Special Article on 'Cross Border Virtual Entrepreneurship', for the ONLINE Educa 2008 Edition of the CHECK.point eLearning Newsletter Berlin. Available as ONLINE educa 2008 congress documentation and at <http://www.checkpoint-elearning.com>, CHECKPOINT-elearning.com - European eLearning Newsletter. ISSN 1613-4710.

A Prospective Vision for Universities

"A Prospective Vision for Universities: The role of the technology transfer units and distance education" is the title of an essay by Luis Miguel Romero Fernández, Rector of EADTU's associate member Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, Ecuador. To download click this link:

[A Prospective Vision for Universities.pdf](#)

Evaluation of the pedagogical practices and the use of ICT on distance education

Researchers from EADTU's new member, the Hellenic Open University have published a report "Evaluation of the pedagogical practices and the use of ICT on distance education" in the latest issue of The International Review of Open and Distance Learning.

<http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/424>

Internationalisation of European Higher Education

Together with ACA the European University Association has launched a handbook titled "Internationalisation of European Higher Education". The book focuses on key issues of practical and operational interest in relation to European Higher Education and displays them in the context of global developments and overarching policy processes.

http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user_upload/files/Newsletter_new/Flyer_HB_Internat.pdf

E-learning: aspects and criteria for the evaluation of e-learning in higher education

The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education, a member of EADTU, has published a report on "E-learning: aspects and criteria for the evaluation of e-learning in higher education".

It is part of the association's attempt to improve awareness about quality in e-learning and how this can be evaluated within the framework of the national quality assurance system.

To order your free copy of this report, please send an e-mail with your name, address and telephone number to order@hsv.se. Do not forget to specify the title of the report *E-learning: aspects and criteria for the*

evaluation of e-learning in higher education (report 2008: 11 R) in your e-mail.



CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

1-6 February 2009: International Conference on Mobile, Hybrid, and On-line Learning (Part of DigitalWorld 2009). Cancun, Mexico

<http://www.iaria.org/conferences2009/eL&mL09.html>

18-21 March 2009: EUA Convention 2009. Prague, Czech Republic

<http://www.eua.be/eua-events/>

13-15 May 2009: ACA Annual Conference 2009 "Innovation through internationalisation". Warsaw, Poland

<http://www.aca-secretariat.be/08events/upcoming.htm>

27-29 May 2009: eLearning Africa 2009. Dakar, Senegal

<http://www.elearning-africa.com/conference.php>

7-10 June 2009:

[23rd ICDE World Conference on Open Learning and Distance Education](#), including the 2009 EADTU Annual Conference. Maastricht, The Netherlands.

10-13 Juni 2009:

[Eden Annual Conference 2009](#), Innovation in Learning Communities. Gdansk, Poland

23-24 June 2009: The Second International m-libraries Conference, Vancouver

<http://library.open.ac.uk/mLibraries>

6-8 July 2009: 2009 UNESCO World Conference: "The New Dynamics of Higher Education". Paris, France

<http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/>

22-25 September 2009: The 13th Cambridge International Conference on Open and Distance Learning 2009 "Supporting learning in the digital age: rethinking inclusion, pedagogy and quality". Cambridge, United Kingdom

<http://www2.open.ac.uk/r06/conference/>

30 September – 02 October 2009: ICL2009, International Conference on Interactive Computer Aided Learning (ICL). Villach/Austria

<http://www.icl-conference.org/>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Frans van Vught

Frans van Vught has been elected the most influential Dutch person in higher education. Van Vught is Chairman of the European Centre of Strategic Management of Universities (ESMU), CHEPS-founder and honorary professor as well as advisor of the president of the European Commission Barroso.

<http://www.scienceguide.nl/article.asp?articleid=105977#intro>

New EUA-project

The EUA has started a new project entitled "Access to Success: Fostering Trust and Exchange between Europe and Africa". It strives to deepen European cooperation with African university partners and is executed in partnership with five partners from Europe and Africa.

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/projects/action4/08access.pdf>

High quality funding HEFCE

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has announced an initial £5.7 million of funding for pilot projects that will open up existing high-quality education resources from higher education institutions to the world. The Higher Education Academy and JISC will work in partnership to deliver the 12-month pilot projects. These will run at institutional, subject and individual level along with accompanying support services. The projects will be formally launched in April 2009.

[For further information please contact:](#)

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