SVEUČILIŠTE U DUBROVNIKU

UNIVERSITAS STUDIORUM RAGUSINA

Tempus JEP Project

EQIBELT
Education Quality Improvement by
E-Learning Technology

3rd Consortium meeting - Zagreb
Friday 04 April 2008

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
January 2007 – March 2008

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E-Learning at **University of Dubrovnik**
from its foundation in 2003 till EQIBELT
was at **ground ZERO**:

- **no knowledge** of what it is and could be

- **misconceptions** - percieved as distance or videoconferencing learning that would replace the taditional learning

- **IT literacy** between students and teachers unsatisfactory

- **low interest** of the academic community in events related to e- learning

EQIBELT slowly, but truly, moved the academic comunity toward understanding that e-learning could help students and teachers improve the process of learning and teaching.

<u>Activities performed January 2007 – March 2008</u>

April 2007 L. Leoni performed a study visit to the University of Edinburgh

June 2007 L. Leoni participated at the second inter-university meeting of Croatian universities held at University Computing Centre University of Zagreb

June 2007 ICT equipment required for implementation of e-learning at the University was purchased from the project and recorded in the inventory of the university.

October 2007 Tihi Bilas, sistem engineer, Nives Vidak and Lucijana Leoni, lecturers, participated at workshop „Pedagogical opportunities of e-learning" at University Computing Centre University of Zagreb

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November 2007 Mr Peter Gabko and Mrs Eva Obermueller from Technical University of Wien paid a monitoring visit to the University of Dubrovnik:

- meeting with Rector at the Rector's Office was arranged

- the Rector, Prof. Mateo Milković, PhD greeted the colleagues from the Technical University of Wien, thanked them on their visit and gave a brief presentation of the University of Dubrovnik with particular emphasis on the goal of the University to conduct its activities in an international millieu, and in accordance with the Bologna Declaration to support all forms of educational processes that will help obtain the students' and the teachers' mobility, and consequently e-learning as well.

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Working visit with Chief Secretary Mr Dalibor Ivušić and members of the e-learning workgroup was organized (see report of monitoring visit on Eqibelt web page)

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November 2007 a draft plan on starting a **pilot project** was set forth, relating to development of e-learning course for teacher training - **"E-learning technologies in language teaching and learning".**
Participants in the pilot project:
language teachers from the University of Dubrovnik in collaboration with experts from the Department for Information Sciences at the Faculty of Philosophy University of Zagreb under leadership of Doc. Sanja Seljan, PhD. Participants will develop and support the e-course during the pilot project. Support will be also given for and from the office for e-learning of UofD.

From the pilot project it is expected to develop language e-courses to be offered to academic comunity from autumn semester. One of the langauge courses will be croatian for foreigners.
Pilot was approved by consortium members, taken into consideration that also interuniversity co-operation between Croatian universities would be established, the same being one of the goals of the project,

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December 2007 consensus for establishing an Office for e-learning was given through a document "Statute of the University of Dubrovnik" (article 51.)
http://www.unidu.hr/opsirnije.php?clanak_id=502

It was decided that one person will be employed in the office as educational technologist for the duration of Eqibelt project. Technical support for e-learning will be given by sistem engineers of UofD. Office will organize presentations and workshops for e-learning implementation from mid April on.

Sustainability and stability of this office will depend partly on project results and services it will provide, but mostly on reliable lines of support for obtaining real resources for operations of the Office's team. Office's operational procedures and rules, service level agreements with users are planned to be developed till June 2008.

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December 2007 document containing mission and vision of e-learning at the University of Dubrovnik submitted to academic comunity for discussion and for proposal of final version of the document.

January 2008 Lucijana Leoni participated at third inter-university meeting of Croatian universities held at the University of Dubrovnik

February 2008 final document Mission and vision of e-learning at UofD accepted by university Senate. Positive review of the english translation of the document was given from experts Jan Thomas and Eva Obermueller.
E-learning strategy setting forth concrete steps for introduction of e-learning at the University of Dubrovnik will be elaborated and submitted to the Senate till June 2008.
link: http://www.unidu.hr/opsirnije.php?clanak_id=502

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February 2008 finished equipping of one classroom with ICT equipment required for implementation of e-learning at the University and purchased from the project

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- **February 2008** Lucijana Leoni and Maja Lauš, educational technologist in the Office for e-learning support at the University of Dubrovnik preformed Study visits to Vienna University and to Vienna University of Technology

- **February 2008** server for implementation and management of LMS was purchased and installed.

- **March 2008** LMS Moddle was installed –

  first trial workshop on Moodle was given. University teachers and students, language teachers involved in pilot project participated at workshop. Workshop was given in collaboration with Mr. Jasmin Klindžić, system engineer from Faculty of Philosophy of University of Zagreb.
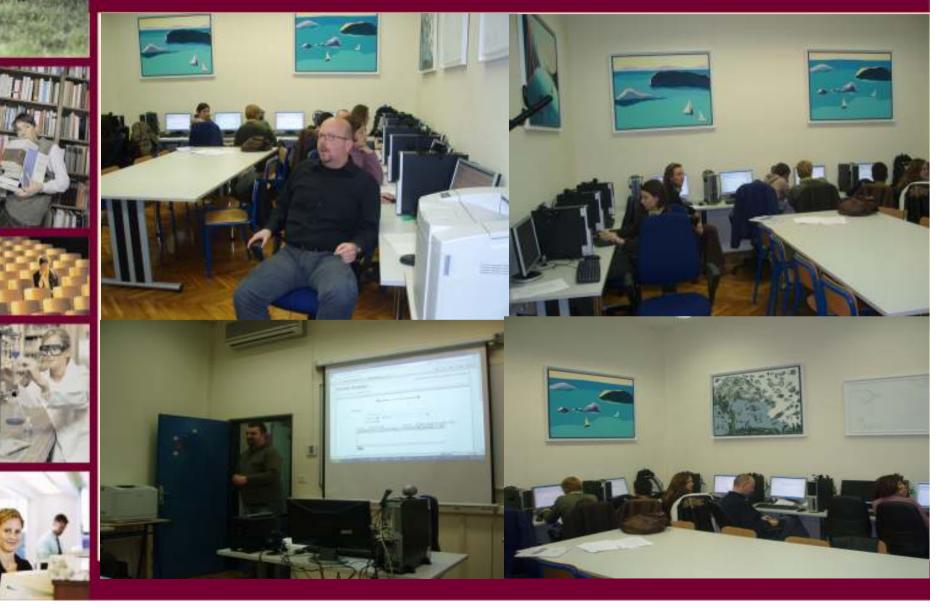
LMS Moodle
at the University of Dubrovnik

Sustav učenja na daljinu *Duel*

Learning management system
Dubrovnik University E-Learning

http://duel.unidu.hr/

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NOW and FUTURE

- Professors at Dubrovnik university are more and more entusiastic with the idea of implementing e-learning in their courses, and teachers from different departments are interested to learn how to implement e-learning.

- We think that a certain number of blended courses will be developed for the next academic year.

- This spring we plan to give support to teachers and students through workshops organised by the office for e-learnig support.

Discussion proposals

PROPOSALS FROM PAST CONSORTIUM MEETING

- **H. Hallantie** agrees with **W. Van Petegem** about the project progress and suggested reviewing PRO& CON's. He stated that it is important to ensure good support to those who would like to practice e-learning and not to push those who wouldn't. University management and teaching staff want to be sure that what they are doing is right so sometimes is long period of experimenting necessary. Developing an e-course is a long time process.

- **C. Ripoll Soler** pointed out that in the next period more communication and interaction should be present in a way of forums, on-line discussions, on-line workshops, etc. He finished discussion with statement that e-learning is expensive (time, money...) but eligible long term investment.

- **E. Tammeoru** - In her opinion, people with psychological and pedagogical skills should be elected for promoters of e-learning. Estonian Euniversity organizes yearly seminars for teaching staff as well as e-lunches with certain topics. Human contact is very important. Asking professors what they want and how to help them is crucial. For developing a good e-course up to five years is needed. She pointed out that goal of the management is implementation of good and quality process of learning, instead of implementation of e-learning.

- **J. Thomas** concluded that they had similar experience with organizing the workshops. Firstly, only about 10 people attended these workshops, but their presence was constant and today they forward their knowledge to others.

RESPONSABILITIES ??

Peter Gabko, project contractor, gave his overview about the project:

- huge project with 13 members project is going very well there is no current problem in the project progress all consortium members are participating in the project

- University managements and Ministry should be aware that allocation of human and other resources is not only obligation accepted by submission of project application, but also the crucial factor for the success of the project and overall implementation of e-learning at the universities.

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Thank you for your attention!