

EDEN 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

New Learning Cultures

How Do We Learn?
Where Do We Learn?

EDEN 2008 Annual Conference

Belém Cultural Centre
Lisbon, Portugal

11-14 June, 2008

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Edited by

Alan Tait and András Szűcs
on behalf of the European Distance and E-Learning Network

European Distance and E-Learning Network

EDEN 2008 Annual Conference Lisbon, Portugal

Published by the European Distance and E-Learning Network

Editors:

Alan Tait
András Szűcs

Editorial co-ordination:

Anna Wagner

The EDEN Secretariat mailing address

EDEN Secretariat
Budapest University of Technology and Economics
H-1111 Budapest, Egry J. u. 1, Hungary
Tel: (36) 1 463 1628, 463 2537
Fax: (36) 1 463 1858
E-mail: secretariat@eden-online.org
<http://www.eden-online.org>

Principal Conference Sponsor



EDEN thanks

Universidade Aberta
the most valued support and collaboration in the conference organisation

Copyright © 2008 European Distance and E-Learning Network and the Authors

All Rights Reserved

No part of the material protected by this copyright may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the copyright owners.

ISBN 978-963-06-5132-5

INTERNATIONAL E-LEARNING PROJECTS IN THE EXPERIENCE OF POLITECNICO DI MILANO

Susanna Sancassani, Simona Azzali, Alessandra Tomasini, Centro METID - Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Introduction

There are lots of international projects that give evidence of the effectiveness of e-learning and digital communication in supporting collaborative working. Especially in educational intercultural contexts, e-learning has the undeniable potential of overcome multicultural, linguistic and geographical differences and stimulate collaborative working. The focus of this paper consists in analyzing two international projects of Politecnico di Milano, as case studies on the use of e-learning and digital communication at extra-European level, in order to identify relevant models of application of these methodological approaches in intercultural educational contexts.

Case studies: IAOL and DAIDO projects

One of the priorities of Politecnico di Milano is improving intercontinental exchange. In particular two are the most interesting e-learning projects on this field that we would like to share: IAOL (Interior Architecture OnLine - <http://eproject.metid.polimi.it/iaol>), with China and DAIDO (<http://131.175.10.208:8080/daido/client/client.html>) with Japan.

These projects were carried out with special attention to the valorisation of intercultural exchange dimension related to the involvement of several international subjects in the project. In this way the subjects involved in the project had the opportunity to give their own contribution in the field of internationalization of e-learning and digital communication, focusing in particular on best practices that can be used for further exploitation.

The partnerships created included educational institutions and subjects belonging to different contexts: international companies, Institutes for Foreign Trade, international consulting groups, etc., to promote projects characterised by a high level of formative value (assured by universities and other traditional educational institutions), but also by a positive impact at entrepreneurial and economic level.

The local identity is a concept based on the idea of the social and cultural value of the historical heritage. The urban historic environment represents one of the main long-term concrete expressions of the local identity. In China and even more than in the other Asian countries, a strong increase of the investments in building and urban development is driving the progressive loss of the local urban identity. These projects aimed to create the basis for an intercultural approach to the preservation of the traditional urban environment through the adoption of modern techniques and methodologies. They will allow to develop strategies of reuse of the traditional areas compliant with the local identities preservation and to create the conditions for the dissemination of the results achieved for fostering the real impact on the architecture and landscape policies.

Conclusion

The main added value of these actions is the intercultural approach based on the development of learning activities really integrated in the local contexts. The selected design themes applied to the local exigencies will be the basis for assuring a strong connection with the local situation by a deep comprehension of the local needs and the local administrations actions. These projects intend also to develop the relations among the involved countries through the online sharing of experiences and didactic material: being the contents and the tools available online, the community will be potentially open to the higher possible number of people also not directly involved in the project.