
E-URBS Conference – Urbino Nov 15-17, 2007

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

Suspended Room, Institute of Sociology, Nov. 16, 2007

dr. Antonio Cartelli - University of Cassino

***The “Promoting Best Practice in Virtual
Campuses (PBP-VC)” Project: Towards
New Strategies for Higher Education***

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

PBP-VC Promoting Best Practices in Virtual Campuses

Project reg. n. 2006-4808/001 - 001 ELE ELEB12

Partners



Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI) - Portugal



University of Paisley - United Kingdom *

School of Computing - ICT in Education Research group (ICTE)



University of Cassino - Italy

Laboratory for Teaching and Learning Technologies



Groupe des Ecoles des Télécommunications - France

Institut National des Télécommunications (GET/INT)



The University of Peloponnese - Greece

Department of Social and Educational Policy

* Project coordinator

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

PBP-VC



Promoting Best Practice in **Virtual Campuses**

- It is a 2 year EACEA co-financed project (March 2007 - February 2009)
- It aims at providing a deeper understanding of key issues and critical success factors underlying implementation of Virtual Campuses (VCs)

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

Introduction

- A Virtual Campus within the context of EACEA focuses on:
 - Cooperation between HEI in the field of eLearning
 - Design of joint curricula development by several universities
 - Agreements for evaluation, validation and recognition of acquired competencies

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

Background

- From the EACEA workshops held in 2004 and 2005 emerged the following weak elements:
 - General lack of awareness about other VCs
 - Lack of self-promotion/dissemination by VCs
 - Cross-cultural and linguistic barriers to communication

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

Background

- EACEA workshops recommendations for future projects (including PBP-VC):
 - Systematic critical review of the existing VC projects
 - Sharing of the know-how and of the practical issues
 - Assistance for VC projects in the area of self-evaluation
 - Dissemination of replicable solutions for establishing VCs

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

PBP-VC



Promoting Best Practice in **Virtual Campuses**

- It aims at providing:
 - A deeper understanding of key issues and success factors in EACEA funded VCs projects
 - A practical framework to help guide process of creating best practice in VCs
 - Examples of best practices, case studies
 - Raised awareness of how institutional transformation can be brought about

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

PBP-VC

Promoting Best Practice in **Virtual Campuses**

- It has to face the following difficulties:
 - Working with key stakeholders throughout EU and beyond
 - Collecting, analyzing and evaluating relevant amount of data and results from eLearning and VC projects, which are scattered
 - Avoiding the risk of seriously diminishing important issues and lessons from past experiences (also outside EACEA)
 - Urgent need of sharing the know-how in relation to eLearning experiences and VC projects

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

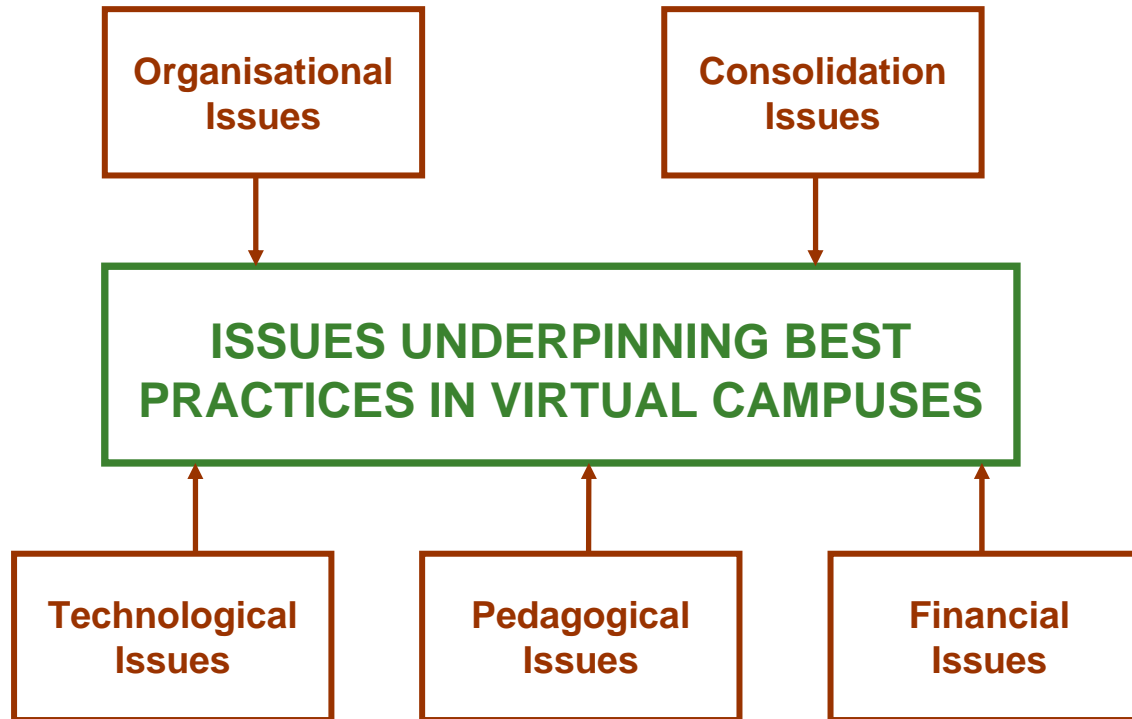
PBP-VC

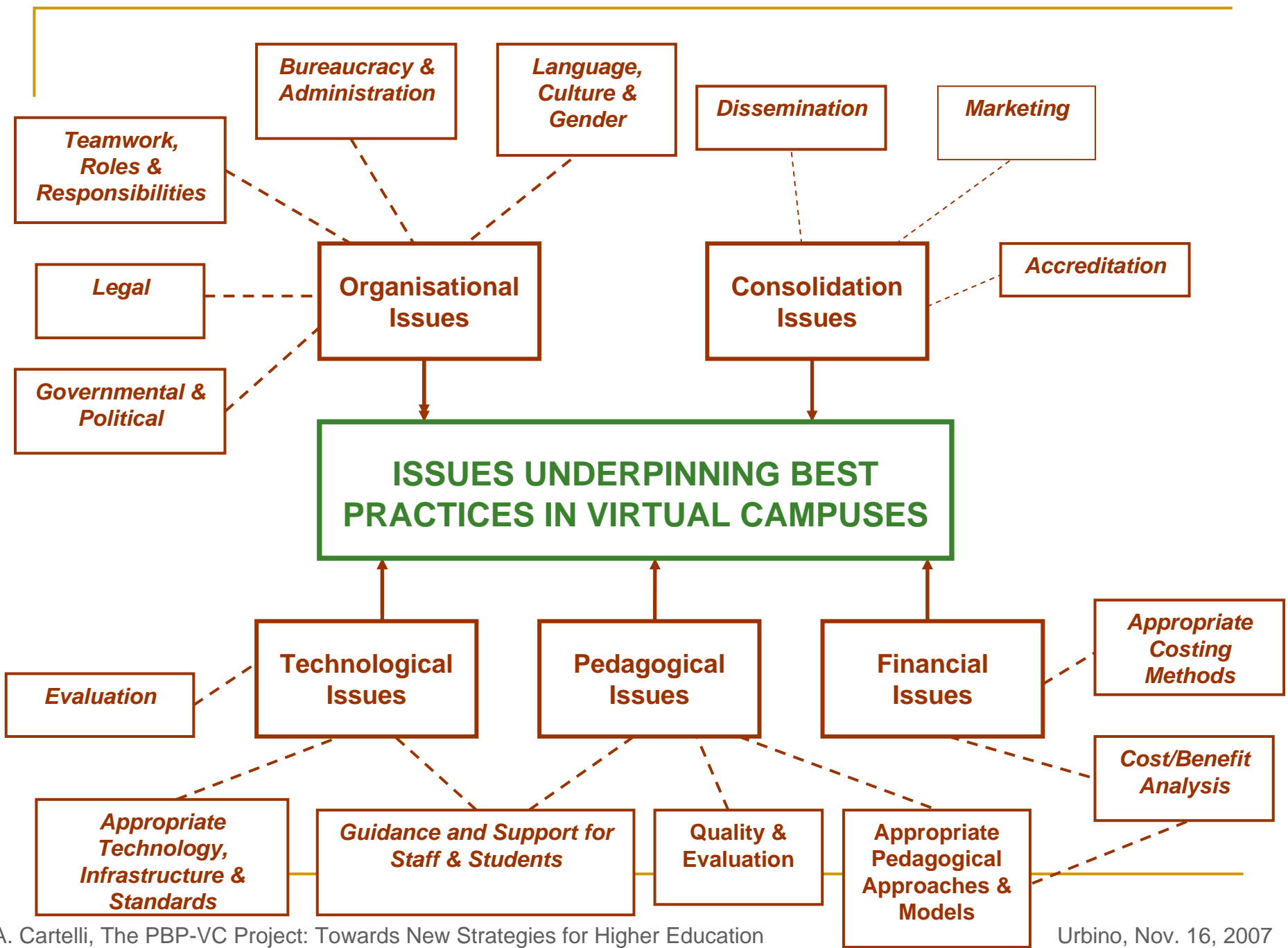


Promoting Best Practice in **Virtual Campuses**

- First step towards the development of a Framework for Best Practice
 - Investigation into papers, reports, web-based content of EACEA VC projects 2004-2006
 - Development of an initial tentative model of issues underpinning best practice in VCs as result
 - Proposal of a first model, based only on initial literature based investigation

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area





The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

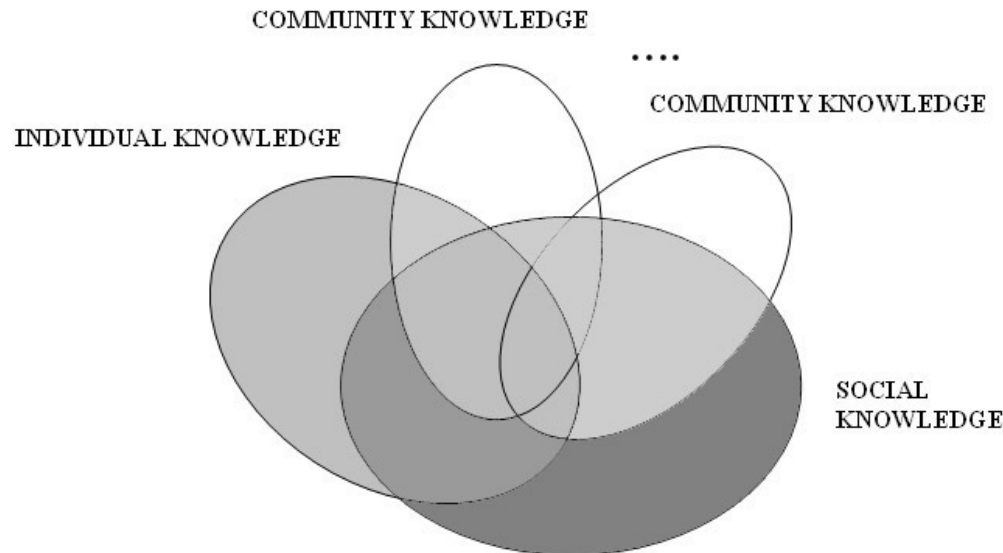
- Here I'll focus attention on the technological and pedagogical issues, for the changes today induced in education by ICT and Web technologies.
 - **First, it has to be remarked that new technologies modify all the educational contexts: formal, non formal and informal they are; with a relevant shift towards the last ones**
 - **School and HEI, while planning and building their curricula still manifest a gap between what they expect for students' entry competences and skills and what the students are really able to do with respect to those expectations,**

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

- Furthermore ICT and Web technologies entered in modifying knowledge construction strategies at all levels.
 - **Personal** strategies for knowledge construction and development are highly influenced from new technologies (much more than in the past),
 - **Communities** receive strong support from ICT and are sometimes built around suitable information systems,
 - **Social** networking gives new meaning and value to society, social participation, individual and community contribution to social events and wishes.

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

- The results from the author's experience agree with the above statements and lead to the hypothesis of a tri-partition for knowledge construction, which is drafted below *



* Cartelli, A. (2006). Teaching in the Knowledge Society: New Skills and >Instruments for Teachers. IGI – Global, Hershey (PA), USA.

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

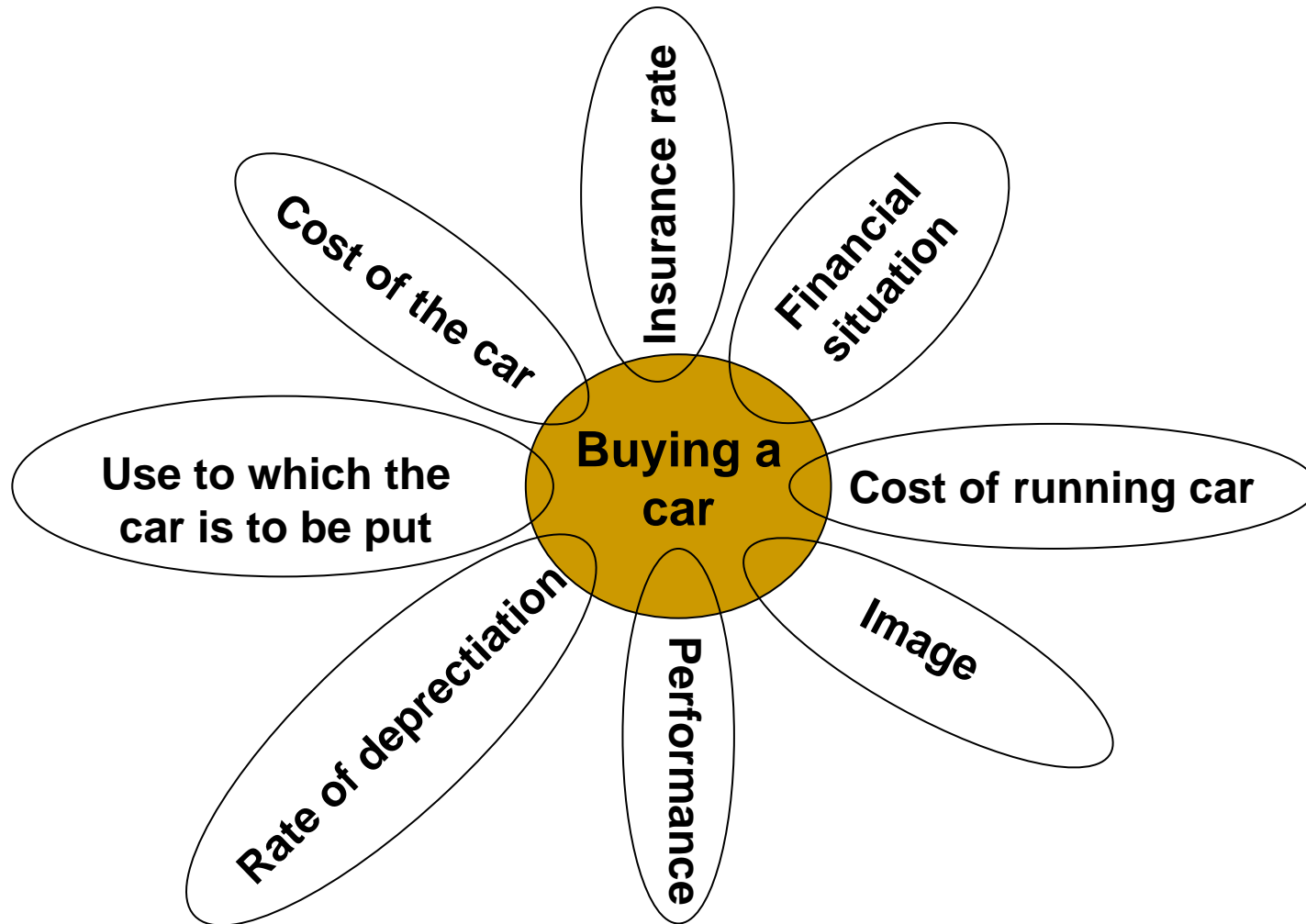
- The above perspective will be especially used here for the analysis of the technological and pedagogical issues of the EADTU projects in the more general panorama drafted at the beginning.
- The analysis will be based on the Appreciative Inquiry Method (AIM), which resulted from the effort of addressing the numerous criticisms against the process of Knowledge Elicitation (KE)

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

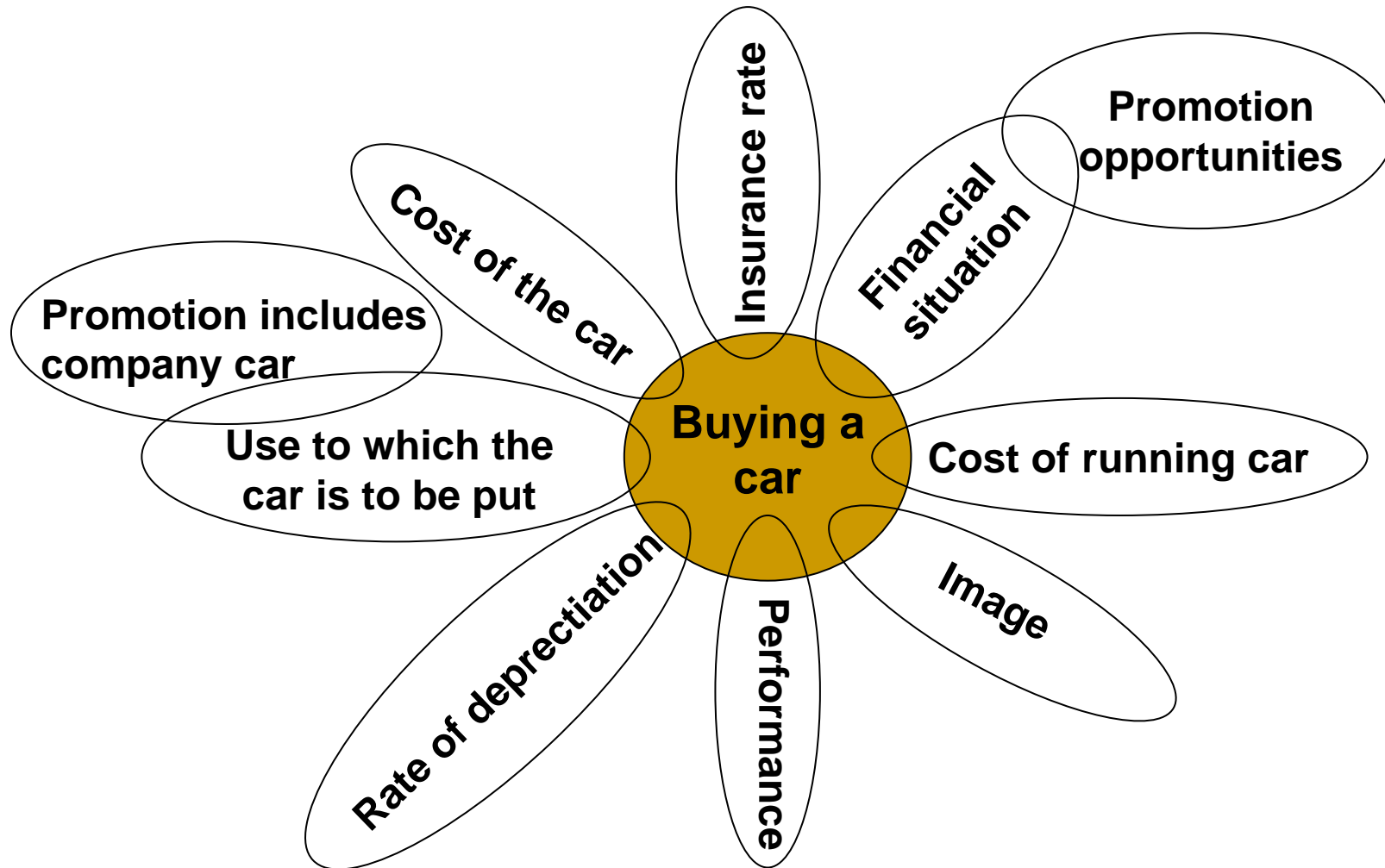
- As an example the situation of buying a car will be discussed here and its evolution will be drafted.



The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area



The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area



The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

- Those who will like it can draft on the sheets I'm giving an analogous scheme

**Technological
Issues**

**Pedagogical
Issues**

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

■ SUSTAINABILITY and NEXT STEPS

Meta Level Component

**** Key success factor across all issues ****

- Build upon literature based investigations through face-to-face research with VC projects
- Use combination of qualitative/interpretive research methods as well as quantitative questionnaire based research
- Through primary research develop, test and refine a detailed framework promoting best practice in VCs
- Develop best practice case studies and use case scenarios

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

■ NEXT STEPS

- ❑ Widely publicise results through conferences, workshops, books and papers
- ❑ PBP-VC team are confident that results will contribute to better understanding of best practice in VCs
- ❑ PBP-VC project is generating significant discussion and interest in VCs not only at EU level but globally

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

■ FORTHCOMING BOOK

- ❑ Forthcoming book on Virtual Campuses in 2008 to be Published by IGI Global
- ❑ ***Institutional Transformation through Best Practices in Virtual Campus Development: Advancing E-Learning Policies***
- ❑ Edited by Mark Stansfield and Thomas Connolly
- ❑ Contributions from authors from across Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, Indonesia

The Role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

■ PBP-VC TEAM

- ❑ **Mark Stansfield** – University of Paisley
- ❑ **Thomas Connolly** – University of Paisley
- ❑ **Antonio Cartelli** – University of Cassino
- ❑ **Athanassios Jimoyiannis** - University of Peloponnesse
- ❑ **Hugo Magalhães** - Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação
- ❑ **Andreas Meiszner** - Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação
- ❑ **Katherine Maillet** - Institut National des Telecommunications

Further information:

mark.stansfield@paisley.ac.uk

cartan@unicas.it