Identifying and Promoting Best Practice in Virtual Campuses and E-Learning

Dr Antonio Cartelli
University of Cassino
Italy

Dr Katherine Maillet
Institut National des Telecommunications
France

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Introduction

PBP-VC Promoting Best Practice in Virtual Campuses

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

Involves 5 partners:

- University of the West of Scotland (UK)
- University of Cassino (Italy)
- University of Peloponnese (Greece)
- Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (Portugal)
- Institut National des Télécommunications (France)
Introduction

A Virtual Campus within context of EACEA focuses on:

- Cooperation between HEI in field of eLearning
- Design of joint curricula development by several universities
- Agreements for evaluation, validation and recognition of acquired competencies
Background

As a result of EACEA workshops in 2004 and 2005 found there was a:

- General lack of awareness about other virtual campuses
- Lack of self-promotion/dissemination by virtual campuses
- Cross-cultural and linguistic barriers to communication
EACEA workshops recommended:

- A systematic critical review of existing virtual campus projects be carried out
- Sharing of know-how and practical issues
- Assistance for virtual campus projects in area of self-evaluation
- Dissemination of replicable solutions for establishing virtual campuses
PBP-VC project aimed at providing:

- A deeper understanding of key issues and success factors in virtual campuses
- A practical framework to help guide process of creating best practice in virtual campuses
- Examples of best practice, case studies
- Raised awareness of how institutional transformation can be brought about
PBP-VC

- Involves working with key stakeholders throughout EU and beyond
- Much of relevant data and results from eLearning and virtual campus projects is scattered
- Important issues and lessons might be seriously diminished
- Urgent need to sharing of know-how in relation to eLearning and virtual campuses
First step towards development of Best Practice Framework

- Investigation into papers, reports, web-based content of EACEA virtual campus projects 2004-2006
- As result an initial tentative model of issues underpinning best practice in virtual campuses has been developed
- Initial model based only on initial literature based investigation
A number of initial key issues identified:

- Economic
- Pedagogic
- Technological
- Social/Management/Political
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUSES
Organisational Issues

ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUSES
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUS

- Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities
- Bureaucracy & Administration
- Language, Culture & Gender
- Legal
- Governmental & Political

Organisational Issues
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUS

- Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities
- Bureaucracy & Administration
- Language, Culture & Gender
- Legal
- Governmental & Political
- Organisational Issues
- Technological Issues
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUS

- Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities
- Legal
- Bureaucracy & Administration
- Language, Culture & Gender
- Governmental & Political

Evaluation
- Appropriate Technology, Infrastructure & Standards
- Guidance and Support for Staff & Students
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUS

Organisational Issues

- Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities
- Legal
- Governmental & Political

Technological Issues

- Bureaucracy & Administration
- Language, Culture & Gender

Evaluation

Pedagogical Issues

- Appropriate Technology, Infrastructure & Standards
- Guidance and Support for Staff & Students
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUSSES

Organisational Issues

- Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities
- Legal
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Technological Issues

- Evaluation
- Appropriate Technology, Infrastructure & Standards

Pedagogical Issues

- Bureaucracy & Administration
- Language, Culture & Gender

Guidance and Support for Staff & Students
- Quality & Evaluation
- Appropriate Pedagogical Approaches & Models
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUSES

Organisational Issues

Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities

Legal

Governmental & Political

Bureaucracy & Administration

Language, Culture & Gender

Technological Issues

Pedagogical Issues

Evaluation

Appropriate Technology, Infrastructure & Standards

Guidance and Support for Staff & Students

Quality & Evaluation

Appropriate Pedagogical Approaches & Models

Financial Issues
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUSES

Organisational Issues

- Bureaucracy & Administration
- Language, Culture & Gender
- Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities
- Legal
- Governmental & Political

Technological Issues
- Appropriate Technology, Infrastructure & Standards
- Evaluation

Pedagogical Issues
- Guidance and Support for Staff & Students
- Quality & Evaluation

Financial Issues
- Appropriate Pedagogical Approaches & Models
- Appropriate Costing Methods
- Cost/Benefit Analysis
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUSES

Organisational Issues

Legal
Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities
Bureaucracy & Administration
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Technological Issues
Evaluation
Appropriate Technology, Infrastructure & Standards

Pedagogical Issues
Guidance and Support for Staff & Students
Quality & Evaluation
Appropriate Pedagogical Approaches & Models

Financial Issues
Cost/Benefit Analysis
Appropriate Costing Methods

Consolidation Issues
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUSES

Organisational Issues

Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities

Legal

Governmental & Political

Bureaucracy & Administration

Language, Culture & Gender

Dissemination

Marketing

Consolidation Issues

Accreditation

Financial Issues

Technological Issues

Pedagogical Issues

Evaluation

Appropriate Technology, Infrastructure & Standards

Guidance and Support for Staff & Students

Quality & Evaluation

Appropriate Pedagogical Approaches & Models

Appropriate Costing Methods

Cost/Benefit Analysis
ISSUES UNDERPINNING BEST PRACTICE IN VIRTUAL CAMPUSES

Organisational Issues
- Bureaucracy & Administration
- Language, Culture & Gender
- Dissemination

Consolidation Issues
- Marketing
- Accreditation

Technological Issues
- Appropriate Technology, Infrastructure & Standards
- Evaluation

Pedagogical Issues
- Guidance and Support for Staff & Students
- Quality & Evaluation
- Appropriate Pedagogical Approaches & Models

Financial Issues
- Appropriate Costing Methods
- Cost/Benefit Analysis

Teamwork, Roles & Responsibilities
- Legal
- Governmental & Political

Evaluation

Issues underpinning best practice in virtual campuses include organisational, technological, pedagogical, and financial issues. Each of these categories has specific subtopics that contribute to the overall success of virtual campuses.
Towards a Tentative Model of Best Practice

- Detailed investigations took place with virtual campus projects such as the eLene Network and E-Move

- Initial model expanded to include additional key issues
Additional Issues

Organisational Issues

- Clear vision & effective strategies
- Evaluation and peer review
- Effective partnerships with all stakeholders
Additional Issues

- **Organisational Issues**
  - Clear vision & effective strategies
  - Evaluation and peer review
  - Effective partnerships with all stakeholders

- **Technological Issues**
  - Embracing innovation
Additional Issues

Student/ User Issues

- Clear & effective communication
- Enhancing learning using appropriate technology
- Detailed & continues needs analysis
Additional Issues

**Student/ User Issues**
- Clear & effective communication
- Enhancing learning using appropriate technology
- Detailed & continued needs analysis

**Consolidation Issues**
- Identifying new trends and meeting real needs
- Identifying good practices
- Planning for sustainability

PBP-VC
Promoting Best Practice in Virtual Campuses
Next Steps

- Through primary research develop, test and refine a detailed framework identifying & promoting best practice
- Develop best practice case studies and use case scenarios
- Widely publicise results through conferences, workshops and papers
Next Steps

- PBP-VC team are confident that results will contribute to better understanding of best practice in virtual campuses.
- PBP-VC project is generating significant discussion and interest in virtual campuses not only at EU level but globally.
PBP-VC Project Team

- **Antonio Cartelli** - University of Cassino
- **Mark Stansfield** - University of the West of Scotland
- **Thomas Connolly** - University of the West of Scotland
- **Athanassios Jimoyiannis** - University of Peloponnese
- **Hugo Magalhães** - Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação
- **Andreas Meiszner** - Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação
- **Katherine Maillet** - Institut National des Telecommunications

Further Information:  
[mark.stansfield@uws.ac.uk](mailto:mark.stansfield@uws.ac.uk)