

TOWARDS A BOLOGNA COMPATIBLE VIRTUAL CAMPUS

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In 2005 Leiden University joined the e-LERU project supported by the eLearning programme of the European Commission. During two years eight research intensive European universities, which are members of LERU (League of European Research Universities) worked together in order to set up an online campus allowing students from one university to take courses provided either by other partner universities or developed in collaboration with one or more partner universities. The campus is enriched with video taped lectures and presentations given by top scientists employed in the participating universities.

The e-LERU virtual campus project is an initiative intended to contribute to the realisation of some of the educational goals defined in Bologna and Lisbon. Most importantly, it emphasises the importance of the European dimension.

Making courses available on the Internet is not new. Well-known examples include Merlot and MIT's OpenCourseWare. However, the e-LERU campus stands out in several respects. A European initiative, the e-LERU campus offers e-modules that assign ECTS credits to students successfully finishing those modules. Moreover, the idea behind e-LERU is that modules developed in one university are not made available on its portal until they have received positive evaluation from at least one partner university. This process of peer reviewing is aimed at assuring a high quality level for the modules that can be signed up for.

The presentation will focus on the development and the outcomes of the project. More specifically, it will address the main results as well as the main obstacles. The following issues will be looked into:

- a quantitative survey of the available educational materials
- the complexity of the project and its impact on management
- the role and impact of cultural differences
- bridging the gap between a top-down and a bottom-up approach
- future expectations.