EADTU

Annual Conference 2008

18-19 September, Poitiers, France

Lifelong learning in higher education: networked teaching and learning in a knowledge society

Programme

Hosted by
Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance (CNED), Poitiers, France

CNED
Se former tout au long de la vie

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CSVM CROSS SECTOR VIRTUAL MOBILITY

MORIL

Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

ELIMINATING LANGUAGE BARRIERS IN EUROPEAN PRISONS

e-jump 2.0

E-xcellence

CBVE CROSS BORDER VIRTUAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EU4ALL European Unified Approach for Accessible Lifelong Learning

EduContact European Distance Universities Contact

EADTU Conference 2008

Venue: **École d'ingénierie de la formation à distance (CNED- Éifad)**
Téléport 2 - Futuroscope Chasseneuil
Poitiers
France

Local organising committee

- Dany Coineau, CNED
- Sylvie Courtin, CNED
- Elisabeth Delannoy, CNED
- Michel Devaux, CNED
- François Mahieux, CNED

Conference organisation

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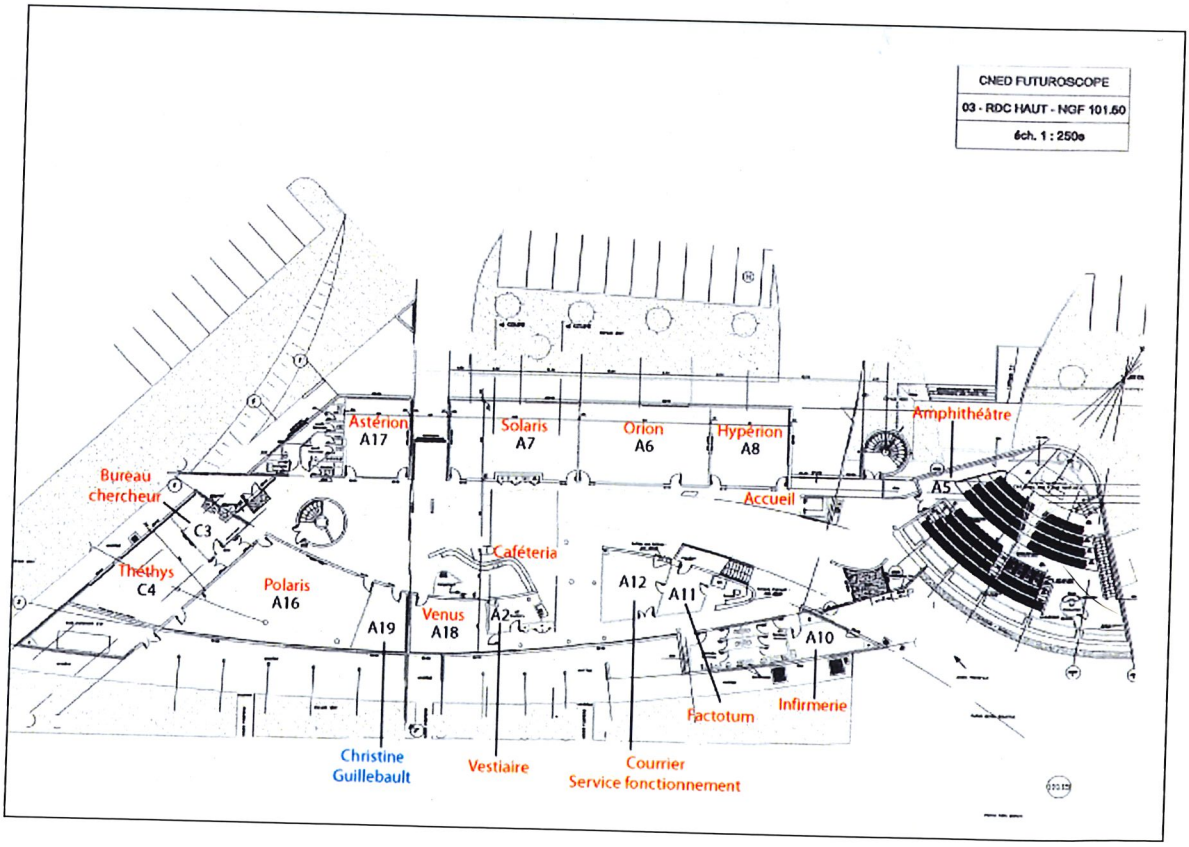
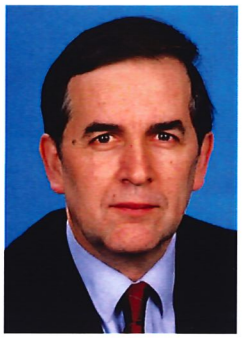


Dear Conference Participant

It is my pleasure to welcome you and other colleagues of the European Higher Education community, and visitors from sister institutions elsewhere in the world.

The 2008 EADTU conference is hosted by Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance and is taking place at the ecole d'ingénerie de la formation à distance, Futuroscope Chasseneuil, Poitiers. I am pleased to acknowledge the CNED's support in organising this event.

The conference title is 'Lifelong learning in higher education: networked teaching and learning in a knowledge society'. It has attracted a strong programme of keynote and session speakers and provides the opportunity to reshape the agenda of higher education across the life course. The conference will be concerned with the unique contribution that open and flexible learning can make to meeting learning needs of students of all ages and backgrounds across Europe. Its particular concern will be the application of education technologies to the creation of new types of learning communities both within higher education and between universities and employers. We will be examining fresh thinking about partnerships, business models, open educational resources, research into lifelong learning, quality assurance and virtual mobility.



We are meeting in Poitiers to share the ideas and practices of the participating institutions and to bring into focus plans for further innovation. As organisers of the conference, we hope you will use this opportunity to deepen your own networks for future collaboration.

Professor David Vincent
President EADTU

Welcome to the EADTU Conference in Poitiers

In the name of CNED (Centre National d'enseignement à distance) it is my great pleasure to welcome all participants from the European Higher Education community, but also from other parts of the world because of our very strong international commitment, more particularly under the French EU presidency 2008.
As promoters of distance learning and teaching we have no limits and equality of access to all, from anywhere in the world, remains a fundamental element in our mission statement.
The fact that CNED has been chosen this year to host the annual conference of EADTU is considered by all its members as a great honour but also as the recognition of our achievement in the field of lifelong learning.
Even though it is not exclusively dedicated to the advancement of higher education, our institution pretends to offer its long-standing expertise in addressing adults.
The theme we have chosen to discuss will certainly provide an excellent opportunity for us to envisage the future of « traditional » universities i. e. to find the way to diversify their public.
Still insufficiently recognized, distance learning is not exotic or at the periphery ; it certainly contains immense potentialities which will constitute a fundamental key, in the near future, to build the society of knowledge we are all looking for.
Before the conference starts, let me wish you a productive meeting and let me express my gratitude for all those who have supported us, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the Ministry of Education and all the local authorities, le Conseil régional Poitou-Charentes, le Conseil général de la Vienne, la Cité des savoirs et la Mairie de Poitiers.

Jean-Michel Lacroix
Recteur
Directeur général du Cned

The main theme of the conference is **"Lifelong learning in higher education: networked teaching and learning in a knowledge society"**.
Moving from an information society towards a knowledge society requires facing the challenge of lifelong learning as a continuum from initial education to higher education and adult continuing education. Conventional universities have difficulties in effectively responding to the lifelong learning paradigm. What can be the strategy to reach a vast number of potential lifelong learners having different backgrounds, origins, education, professional training and experience?

From the conference scope six leading conference themes are derived: Open Educational Resources, Virtual Mobility, Quality Assurance and Benchmarking, University Strategies and Business Models, Research and Employability.

Open educational resources in a lifelong learning context

This strand will foremost report on the recent Open Educational Resources (OER) experiences in Europe and on the developments within the "Multilingual Open Resources for Independent Learning" (MORIL) Consortium made possible under consecutive grants of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Reports will be given on the progress of the different open universities, as well as progress made by traditional universities. Integral OER cases shall be demonstrated, designated to: OER institutional strategies, sustainability, technology, intellectual property, curriculum, academic participation, quality, and organisational structures. Experience and expectation on three major issues are addressed: OER strategy implementation (targeting European open universities on an advanced level), OER strategy development (targeting mainstream universities and associations of traditional universities, and knowledge transfer with open universities), and OER capacity building (to set the stage for OER capacity building on various continents by raising awareness and gathering different points of view, strategies and priorities).

From virtual mobility towards virtual Erasmus

The EU Lifelong Learning Programme includes the essential but also ambitious objective of having three million individual participants in student mobility by 2012. The statistics and the research do however emphasise the limits of what can be achieved through the current mechanism. Only by supplementing the current physical mobility schemes with institutionalised virtual mobility schemes can the opportunities of achieving the goals set in student mobility be approached.
Virtual Mobility improves accessibility to other university courses European wide and enables students to individualise and specialise their study programmes. In this conference strand we want to show examples of student mobility by Virtual Mobility programmes and expand existing and build new networks of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between universities in organising international exchange of students.

Quality assurance and benchmarking for online and distance learning

Recently, EADTU and 11 European partners created the E-xcellence instrument. It supplements existing systems of quality assurance with e-learning specific issues and offers a European-wide set of benchmarks, independent of particular institutional or national systems, and with guidance to educational improvement. The instrument directly addresses the higher and adult education sector at the European, national and institutional level including stakeholders as the assessment and accreditation bodies.
E-xcellence+ is a follow up project in which E-xcellence is further introduced on the local level European wide with the support of ENQA. This exercise involves universities and quality accreditation agencies working together in supplementing the e-learning specific criteria to their quality systems.
Further, quality assurance for online and distance learning will be presented in a global context in cooperation with UNESCO. Building on both their experiences, UNESCO and EADTU will cooperate in this field by combining the experiences of EADTU in the Europe Region and UNESCO's work with ODL in developing countries.

University strategies and business models for lifelong learning

Lifelong Learning (LLL) is about developing structures for continuing education that can fit the realities of professional life and help complete the knowledge that people acquire during their careers and renew or develop their existing knowledge. It is about "unlocking the knowledge of universities" and "making university education responsive to the needs of business". Although LLL is as a concept broadly supported and strongly recognised by universities, governments and the EU, it is still in the starting phase of actually being implemented. LLL is not yet organised sufficiently at most universities, which can easily be explained when looking at their principle task and target groups. In general universities are bound to their conventional business models focussing on research and innovation and educational programming in the BA/MA structure. This is the right strategy for the target group of traditional students. Entering the field of the LLL-student means developing new strategies and business models and, consequently, entering a partly unknown area. This explains for the bigger part the hesitation of most universities to take the next step in organising LLL.

On the other hand we clearly see that there are many European universities that already fulfil conditions for a successful implementation of these new approaches. Also, they have built comprehensive learning environments comprising interactive software and features for guided independent learning.

Research in lifelong learning

Lifelong learning is a key instrument in policies directed to assure employability and integration. In policy papers developed by OECD countries, lifelong learning takes a central position. The learning of adults during their professional and social life is not only considered to offer a major contribution in the enhancement of social inclusion, but is also meant to offer solutions in the context of enhancement of employability of young employees and especially in the updating of competencies of older workers. Research on major lifelong learning questions however is quite difficult and lacks integration due to the complexity of the domain: it requires multidisciplinary approaches. In this strand different themes will be addressed accordingly, aiming to make the domain more transparent: What will the European society and the European workplace look like five years from now? How can education contribute to the knowledge society? How to articulate viable business models for lifelong learning (new educational market places)? What role should competencies, certification and accreditation play? How can we empower learners in pull-based environments? What should lifelong learning look like?

Employability and online learning

Modernisation of Europe's universities is a core condition for success of the Lisbon strategy: it is a condition for the wider move towards an increasingly global and knowledge-based economy. Universities have an enormous potential which they should put to work to effectively underpin Europe 's drive for more growth and more jobs. This strand accordingly has the core objective to identify, develop and review new opportunities for enhancement of employability opportunities by means of different modalities. Innovative approaches for addressing, developing, extending and expanding learners' professional skills will be showcased in this strand. EADTU has already launched two consecutive European projects in this area: Cross Border Virtual Mobility (dealing with remote internships and work placements), and Cross Border Virtual Entrepreneurship (dealing with the training of students' entrepreneurial skills so as to promote self-employment).

Programme of Thursday 18 September 2008	
08.30-09.30 hrs.	**Registration**
09.30-11.00 hrs. *Amphitheatre*	**Opening session - Chair: David Vincent,** President of EADTU, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Open University, United Kingdom
	David Vincent, President of EADTU, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Open University, United Kingdom *Official opening of the Conference* **Jean-Michel Lacroix,** Rector of CNED, France *Welcome and address: Lifelong learning in France and the role of CNED* **Valérie Pécresse,** Minister of Higher Education and Research, France *The French EU presidency and lifelong learning* **Odile Quintin,** Director General for Education and Culture, the European Commission, Belgium *To which Europe can lifelong learning contribute?*
11.00-11.30 hrs.	**Coffee break**
11.30-12.30 hrs. *Amphitheatre*	**Plenary session – Chair: Jean-Michel Lacroix, Rector of CNED**
Lifelong learning policies	**David Vincent,** President of EADTU, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Open University, United Kingdom *Presidential address* **Frans Leijnse,** University Professor in Education and the labour market, Open Universiteit Nederland, The Netherlands *Lifelong learning as a challenge for a knowledge society: what's the role of the universities?* **Michel Roger,** Inspector-General National Education, Conseil général de la Vienne *Public politics, territories and lifelong apprenticeship*
12.30-13.30 hrs.	**Lunch**
13.30-15.00 hrs. *Amphitheatre*	**Plenary session - Chair: Louise Bertrand, Director General of TÉLUQ, Canada**
Research of lifelong learning	**Peter Sloep,** Director Technology Enhanced Learning, Educational Technology Expertise Centre (OTEC) and Netherlands Laboratory for Lifelong Learning (NELL), Open Universiteit, The Netherlands *A European research agenda for lifelong learning* **Raymond Morel,** Head of the Educational Prospective Department at Service Ecoles-Medias (SEM), Switzerland and special consultant at the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) *Highlights of the IFIP initiative on Lifelong Learning* **Bernard Cornu,** Director of Éifad-CNED, France *Needs for lifelong learning in the knowledge society for the five years to come* **Begoña Gros,** Vice-Rector of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), Spain *Research based innovative networking in teaching and learning in Catalonia*

15.00-16.00 hrs	Parallel sessions		
Employability and online learning Chair: **Jørgen Bang** DAOU *Room: Solaris*	**Quality assurance and benchmarking for online and distance learning** Chair: **Jo Boon** Open Universiteit Nederland *Room: Amphihteatre*	**Networked teaching and learning in a knowledge society** Chair: **Jos Rikers** Open Universiteit Nederland *Room: Orion*	**From virtual mobility towards virtual Erasmus** Chair: **Fred Nickolmann** FernUniversität in Hagen *Room: Asterion*
Ebba Ossiannilsson, Lund University, Sweden, and **Hilding Sponberg,** Gjøvik University College, Norway *eGis - Flexible learning models within geographical information systems*	**George Ubachs,** EADTU, The Netherlands *Introduction to the E-xcellence+ projects*	**Maria José Araújo,** Universidade do Porto, Portugal *The usability's evaluation of educational websites*	**Christina Brey,** EADTU, The Netherlands *The European portal of international courses and services (EPICS)*
Ilaria Mascitti and **Federica Funghi,** For. Co. Formazione per la Comunicazione, Italy *TIPS-T-Learning to improve professional skills for intercultural dialogue*	**Raimondo Sepe,** UNINETTUNO, Italy *Application of the E-xcellence model to the QA system of UNINETTUNO*	**Vitor Rocio, José Coelho** and **Alda Pereira,** Universidade Aberta, Portugal *Implementation of a learning card in Moodle*	**Trevor Herbert,** Open University, United Kingdom *Virtual Erasmus in the field of Humanities – present and future*
	Pekka Kess, University of Oulu, Finland *Using the E-xcellence methodology to improve the quality of e-learning courses*	**Jos Rikers,** Open Universiteit Nederland, The Netherlands *Academic network initiative sustainable development*	
16.00-16.30 hrs.	**Coffee break**		

16.30-18.00 hrs.	Parallel sessions		
Employability and online learning Chair: **Martine Vidal,** CNED *Room: Solaris*	**Quality assurance and benchmarking for online and distance learning** Chair: **Keith Williams,** Open University of the United Kingdom *Room: Amphitheatre*	**Networked teaching and learning in a knowledge society** Chair: **Jos Rikers,** Open Universiteit Nederland *Room: Orion*	**From virtual mobility towards virtual Erasmus** Chair: **Fred Nickolmann,** FernUniversität in Hagen *Room: Asterion*
Bodil Ask, University of Agder, and Harald Haugen, TISIP & Stord Haugesund University College, Norway *Qualifying frontline employees in parastatel organisations for tomorrow's practical tasks – exemplified by the Norwegian Public Roads Administration*	**Malcolm Bell,** Northumbria University, United Kingdom Benchmarking e-learning - outcomes and next steps **Pekka Kess,** University of Oulu, Finland *TQM challenges in changing universities into e-universities*	**Andrei Gaitanaru,** National University for Political and Administrative Studies, Romania *Reshaping school in the context of the new ICT*	**Bieke Schreurs,** EuroPACE, Belgium *Redefining and reviewing virtual campuses*
Giuditta Alessandrini, Università degli Studi Roma TRE, Italy *Post Lauream training in e-learning: the GESCOM master project*	**Paul Bacsich,** consultant to Higher Education Academy, United Kingdom *The national UK universities benchmarking e-learning programme*	**Øystein Lund,** Bodø University College, Norway and Tobias Rahm, Leuphana University, Germany *Improving practice on demand in schools*	**Katrin Bijnens,** EuroPACE, Belgium *VM-Base - Home and away: coaching exchange students from a distance*
Martine Vidal, CNED, France *What EduContact can do for lifelong learning*	**Andre Vyt,** Arteveldehogeschool University College and Ghent University, Belgium *Assuring and benchmarking interprofessional learning from a distance*	**Peter Mortimer,** CNED-Éifad, France *The challenges to networked teaching and learning in prison*	**Andrei Bursuc,** BEST, Romania *Technical students on virtual mobility*
19.30 hrs.	**Reception and conference dinner – Palais de Justice, Poitiers**		

Programme of Friday 19 September 2008

09.00-10.30 hrs.	Parallel sessions			
Networked teaching and learning in a knowledge society Chair: **Mehmet Kesim,** Anadolu University *Room: Asterion*	**New media technologies and lifelong learning** Chair: **Stéphanie Pannatier,** Fernuni Schweiz *Room: Hyperion*	**Research in lifelong learning** Chair: **Peter Sloep,** Open Universiteit Nederland *Room: Solaris*	**Open educational resources in a lifelong learning context** Chair: **Fred Truyen,** KU Leuven *Room: Orion*	**University strategies and business models for lifelong learning** Chair: **Colin Harrison,** Open Learning Foundation *Room: Amphitheatre*
António Martins, Universidade Aberta, Portugal *The debate forums in the e-learning regime*	**Billy Khokhar,** The Open University, United Kingdom *New Media Technologies: Can they make lifelong learning a feasible option for educationally excluded learners?*	**Daniel Schulte,** FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany *Empirical study of the impact of new technologies on distance learning students*	**Giselle Ferreira,** The Open University, United Kingdom *What about the teacher - OER et al*	**Pekka Kess,** University of Oulu, Finland *Strategic management challenges in changing universities into e-universities*
Mehmet Kesim, Anadolu University, Turkey *Connectivist approach and restructuring of lifelong learning*	**Paul Walker,** Drake Kryterion, United Kingdom *On-demand examinations – How technology enablers are improving learner empowerment and inclusion for global education*	**Ulf Hedestig and Mikael Soderstrom,** Umeå University, Sweden *Technology affordances as precondition for networked learning environments*	**Marco Vélez Barreiro,** Escola Oficial de Idiomas da Coruña, Spain *Free tools for networked language teaching and learning in higher education*	**Valentina Comba,** CELAB, University of Bologna, Italy *Finding the balance: the University of Bologna E-Learning Centre strategy for lifelong learning in a complex environment*
Valérie Brard-Trigo, CNED, France *Designing web resources for learning Chinese language and culture*	**Marie-Madeleine Bernard,** PACE et al, France / Canada *International intergenerational telementoring programmes*	**Christine Redecker,** European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Spain *Learning 2.0 – the use of social computing to enhance lifelong learning*	**Dominique Chantrel,** UNCTAD – TrainForTrade, Switzerland *Hybrid learning2 in UNCTAD / TrainForTrade*	**Frank de Langen,** Open Universiteit Nederland, The Netherlands *Strategic tensions and strategy development in an e-learning environment*
			Fred Truyen, KU Leuven, Belgium *EIFIR: The importance of the authentic document and image for humanities research and education*	
10.30-11.00 hrs.	**Coffee break**			

11.00-12.30 hrs.	Parallel sessions			
Employability and online learning Chair: **Ansje Löhr,** Open Universiteit Nederland *Room: Asterion*	**New media technologies and lifelong learning** Chair: **Per Bergamin,** IFEL *Room: Hyperion*	**Research in lifelong learning** Chair: **Pekka Kess,** OULU *Room: Solaris*	**Open educational resources in a lifelong learning context** Chair: **Alexis Gizikis** e-ISOTIS *Room: Orion*	**University strategies and business models for lifelong learning** Chair: **Janerik Lundquist,** NSHU *Room: Amphitheatre*
Kees-Jan van Dorp, EADTU, the Netherlands *Masterclass entrepreneurship and international business planning training for a new population of learners*	**Danguole Rutkauskiene and Aleksandras Targamadze,** Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania *Advanced online tools for increasing study effectiveness in the Lithuanian Distance Education Network*	**Jean Claude Callens,** KATHO, Belgium *Digital storytelling, a vehicle for reflection?*	**EU4ALL workshop** Alejandro Rodríguez-Ascaso, UNED, Spain *Design and use of an online community for students with disabilities-the UNED experience*	**Ulf Hedestig and Mikael Soderstrom,** Umeå University, Sweden *One-Stop Shops as a Means for student centred strategic development of higher education*
Ansje Löhr and Angelique Lansu, Open Universiteit Nederland, the Netherlands *Effectiveness of virtual internship models in e-learning*	**Pablo Cancelo,** Universidade de Coruña, Spain *Behaviours, interactions and outcomes: A case study of Spanish rheumatology specialists in online training courses*	**Pedro Borges de Araújo and Maria José Araújo,** Universidade do Porto, Portugal *The place of place in lifelong learning*	**Helen Petrie,** University of York, United Kingdom *Supporting students with disabilities and older students in higher education through virtual communities*	**Hervé Didiot-Cook,** London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom, and **Michel Herreria,** *Lycée François Magendie, France* *From visual art to urban ghettos*
Edit Lukás, University of Miskolc, Hungary *Developing entrepreneurial activities and abilities via international virtual programmes*	**M.Mar Desco and J. Carlos Antoranz,** UNED, Spain *First distance learning master on medical physics at UNED-an example of lifelong learning*	**Christian Caron,** CNED, France *The virtual classroom-a new approach of networked teaching learning for academic recognition of work experience*	**Alexis Gizikis,** e-ISOTIS, Greece *Instruments for advancing participation in the open education environment*	**Angélica Monteiro,** Instituto Piaget, Portugal *An on-line project in a higher education institution*
12.30-13.30 hrs.	**Lunch**			

13.30-15.00 hrs.	Parallel sessions		
Employability and online learning Chair: **Maria Kocsis Baan,** University of Miscolc *Room: Asterion*	**Research in lifelong learning** Chair: **Michael Klebl,** FernUniversität in Hagen *Room: Solaris*	**From virtual mobility towards virtual Erasmus** *Room: Venus*	**University strategies and business models for lifelong learning** Chair: **Janerik Lundquist,** NSHU *Room: Amphitheatre*
Andy Nelson, Open University, United Kingdom *Meeting the needs of employers- Opportunities, challenges and dangers*	**Rory McGreal,** Athabasca University, Canada *Elearning in Canada*	**World Café** *Priorities and challenges in virtual Erasmus*	**Miek Rijsbosch and Joke Verschaeren,** University of Antwerp, Belgium *The challenge of combining work and study in an L3 society*
Maria Kocsis Baan, University of Miscolc, Hungary *Synergy of international projects for improved efficiency and sustainablility*	**Paul Kirschner,** Open Universiteit Nederland, the Netherlands *Netherlands Laboratory for Lifelong Learning - NeLLL*		**Judith Billingham and Judith Davies,** the Open University in Wales, United Kingdom *Working with employers to provide the BA (Hons) Social Work, Wales*
Alfonso Herrero de Egaña y Espinosa, UNED, Spain *Professional experience by the click of a mouse*	**Sue Dumbleton and Tina Miller,** The Open University in Scotland and Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom *Using the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework to support advanced entry to social work education*		**Herman Kiesel,** Open Universiteit Nederland, The Netherlands *Old wine in new bottles, maybe not such a bad alternative.*

15.00-15.30 hrs.	**Coffee break**
15.30-17.15 hrs. *Amphitheatre*	**Plenary session - Chair: Fred Mulder, Rector Open Universiteit**
Lifelong learning as a challenge for European universities	**Eric Espéret,** General Delegate of the "Conférence des Présidents d'université", France *French Universities and lifelong learning policies* **Carlos Reis,** Rector Universidade Aberta, Portugal *Institutional strategies and business models for lifelong learning for European universities* **Tapio Koskinen,** Head of R&D, Lifelong Learning Institute Dipoli, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland *Lifelong Learning services at the Finnish Innovation University*
	Plenary session - Chair: Mercedes Boixareu, First Vice-Rector, UNED (representing Juan Gimeno Ullastres, Rector, UNED)
Open educational resources	**Andy Lane,** Director OpenLearn, The Open University, United Kingdom: *Open educational resources and social learning*
Quality assurance in lifelong learning	**George Ubachs,** Managing Director, EADTU, The Netherlands *Quality assurance for Lifelong Learning in Higher Education*
17.15-17.30 hrs.	**Coffee break**
17.30-18.30 hrs. *Amphitheatre*	**Closing session - Chair: Jean-Michel Lacroix, rector CNED**
	Fred Barasa, Executive Director, African Council for Distance Education (ACDE), Kenya *Distance education in Africa, a mode of teaching and learning for development.* **Fred Mulder,** Rector of the Open Universiteit Nederland, The Netherlands: *Presentation of the joint ICDE-EADTU conference 2009* **David Vincent,** President of EADTU, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Open University, United Kingdom *Message of Poitiers and closing address*

The key-note speakers

Fred BARASA is the founding Executive Director of the African Council for Distance Education (ACDE). He a PhD in Education from the University of Natal (South Africa), with specialization in Comparative and International Education. He is also an alumnus of Kenyatta University (Kenya) where he obtained his first two degrees: a Bachelor of Education and Master of Education in Comparative and Sociology of Education. Barasa was also the founding Director of the College of Distance Education at Egerton University, where he also served as Dean of the Faculty of Education and Human Resources and Head of Educational Foundations Department. At the African Virtual University (AVU), Dr Barasa served as Manager for Academic Program Development and Management, while on an extended sabbatical leave, during which time he spearheaded a continental Teacher Education Initiative and Consortium in ten African countries, funded by the African Development Bank. He is the Chief Editor of the African Journal of Distance Education, and a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Education (an accredited Journal published by the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Journal of Education and Sciences.

Bernard CORNU is Professor at "University Joseph Fourier", Grenoble, France. He presently acts as the Director of Training Programmes at the French National Centre for Distance Education (CBED), and the Director of CNED-EIFAD, the Open and Distance Learning Institute.
From 1990 to 2000 Bernard Cornu has been the Director of the University Institute for Teacher Education (IUFM) in Grenoble, France. Until 1994, Bernard Cornu was the Chairman of the Directors of the 29 IUFMs in France. He has been (2000-2002) an Advisor for Teacher Education at the French Ministry of Education.
Bernard Cornu is a Member of the French National Commission for UNESCO, and vice-chair of the Education Committee. Furthermore he is vice-chair of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies and Education in Moscow, Bernard Cornu is one of the co-authors of the Common European Principles for Teachers Competences and Qualifications.

Eric ESPÉRET is General Delegate of the "Conférence des Présidents d'Université", France. Before his appointment in 2004 he held several positions at the University of Poitiers, which he joined as Professor in Psycholingisitics in 1984. Before becoming the university's President for five years in 1998 Eric Esperét was Director of the Humanities Department at the University of Poitiers.

Begoña GROS holds a Ph.D. in Pedagogy from the University of Barcelona where she has been full-time professor since 1988. Currently, she is Vice-Rector of Innovation at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. Begoña Gros is a member of several scientific committees of national and international journals (International Journal of Web Based Communities, Educational Research and Development, etc.) and has published a number of papers on virtual learning environment design and materials for university teaching.
She is currently the primary researcher of the research group set up by the Catalan Regional Government "Environments and materials for learning (EMA)". Her specialisation focuses on studying the integration of information and communication technologies in education and learning.

Jean-Michel LACROIX is Recteur and General Manager of the French National Centre for Distance Education (CNED) since July 2005. Prior to this appointment, he was successively Recteur de l'Académie de Besançon (1995-1999), Président de l'Université Paris 3 Sorbonne (2001-2002), Recteur de l'Académie dAix-Marseille (2002-2004) and Recteur de l'Académie d'Orléans-Tours (2004-2005).
Born in 1944, he graduated at Bordeaux university; agrégé d'anglais, he holds a Doctorat d'Etat from the Sorbonne. Jean-Michel Lacroix is also Full Professor (Chair of North American Studies) at the university of Paris3/Sorbonne and the director of the Centre for Research on the English Speaking World (CREW). He has published 20 books and over 100 articles on Canada and the United States. He is presently the President of the French Association for Canadian Studies (AFEC).

Tapio KOSKINEN is Head of Research and Development at the Lifelong Learning Institute Dipoli, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland. Since 1995 he has been participating in the work of several European R&D and training projects as a project manager or a management team member. His recent works include NoE Prolearn roadmapping (FP6) and Time2Learn roadmapping (FP5). During 1998-2001 he worked as a Distance Learning Expert in the Valencia Technical University. As an eLearning Consultant he has been working with several organizations (e.g. Hewlett Packard, Hellenic Open University, MoE Bahrain, and UNESCO). From 2000-2002 he was managing the national eLearning cluster development programme in Finland. Tapio Koskinen has been the chairman of IACEE (International Association for Continuing Engineering Education) , Working Group for New Learning Technologies, secretary to the SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education) Working Group for Continuing Engineering Education. He currently is a member of the Board of Directors in the MENON Network EEIG and Executive Committee Member of European Distance and e-Learning Network –

Andy LANE is Director of the OpenLearn Initiative of the Open University of the United Kingdom (OU) since 2006. He has been at he Open University since 1983 and held various offices in the former Technology Faculty (now Faculty of Maths, Computing and Technology) including being Head of the Systems Department, Sub Dean (Courses) and from 2000 to 2006 Dean of the Technology Faculty. He was promoted to Professor of Environmental Systems in 2005. Andy Lane has authored or co-authored many teaching texts and research papers dealing with systems and environmental management and also the use of diagramming to aid systems thinking and study, including The Sciences Good Study Guide. He has personally used systems diagrams to assist development and change within the complex organisations and projects he has led and has now extended his interests to the development and use of Open Educational Resources.

Frans LEIJNSE is professor in Education and the Labour Market at the Open Universiteit Nederland (OUNL). His focus is on Life Long Learning. He is also professor at Utrecht University of Applied Science and Member of the Senate (upper House) for the Dutch Labour Party. Frans Leijnse furthermore holds a number of administrative and supervisory positions in business and the public sector. He is a former member of the House of Commons in the Dutch Parliament, special Advisor to the Queen and Dean of the Rotterdam School of Management at Erasmus University.

Raymond MOREL is head of the Educational Prospective Department at SEM (Service Ecoles – Medias) and chairman of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences' ICT Committee.
From 1987-2004 he has been Director of The Geneva Educational Technology Centre (CPTIC).After studies of mathematics, astronomy and mathematical statistics at the University of Geneva, Raymond Morel taught during 25 years at the College of Geneva after being certified by Etudes pédagogiques of DIP. For more than 20 years Raymond Morel is an acting expert and Swiss representative in international organizations such as IFIP, OECD and UNESCO. He is advisor member for EENet (The European Experts' Network for educational technology) and Vice-president of the Worls Digital Solidarity Agency in Lyon.

Fred MULDER is Rector of Open Universiteit Nederland (OUNL) since September 2000. He has a chair as Professor in Informatics Education at OUNL since 1991. From 1993 till 1996 he was Dean of the School of Engineering. In 1998 he left OUNL for the Business School of Universiteit Twente (until Sept. 2000).
Fred Mulder holds degrees in Chemical Engineering (BSc), Applied Mathematics (MSc Engineering) and Theoretical Chemistry (PhD). In 1979-1980 he worked as a Postdoc at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. In 1997-1998 he was for a five-month Sabbatical Leave at the College of Computing of Georgia Tech (Atlanta, Georgia, USA).
Fred Mulder is on the Executive Committee of the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU) since 2002, and leads a National Initiative on Lifelong Learning since 2005. In the academic year 2007/2008 he was the Chair of the Dutch University Rector's Conference. Currently he is chairing two international Task Forces on Open Educational Resources (OER), one of the EADTU and the other one of the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) as well as the Program Committee for the 2009 ICDE/EADTU World Conference.

Valérie PÉCRESSE is the French Minister of Higher Education and Research. At just 41, she is the youngest minister in the government. She received her diploma from HEC in 1998 and then from the European School of Governance (ÉNA), where she finished second in her class. In 1998, she joined the presidential staff and, in 2002, became assistant secretary of the UMP and their official spokesperson in 2004. She is also a conseillère régionale for Île-de-France. Pécresse's first priority has been to get the new French university programme properly launched which main aim is to give the universities and their heads greater autonomy.

Odile QUINTIN is Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities at the European Commission. She officially joined the Commission in 1971. Prior to her current appointment she was amongst others Principal Administrator at the Directorate General for Foreign Affairs, Director of Employment and Labour Market, Director of Social Dialogue, Social Rights and questions of Equality and Acting Deputy Director-General of the Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs. Odile Quintin is a member of the Board of Directors of three Agencies: European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions, Dublin - European Agency for Safety and Health at work, Bilbao - European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, Vienna.

Carlos REIS was born in 1950 in the Azores. He is the Rector of The Universidade Aberta in Lisbon, and professor at the University of Coimbra. From 1998 to 2002 he was the director of the National Library in Lisbon. He is the author of 15 books and over 70 articles published in Portugal, Brazil, Spain, the United States and Germany, and has taught at several universities in Europe, the United States and Brazil.

Michel ROGER is Inspector-General working for the Ministry of National Education, Conseil général de la Vienne.

Peter B. SLOEP is the Programme Director of the CELSTEC (Centre for Learning Sciences & Technologies) Research and Technology Development programme on Learning Networks in the Netherlands. Until 2007 Dr. Sloep was also professor in Educational Functions of ICT at the Fontys University of Professional Education. From its inception in 2001, Sloep has chaired the Technical Committee Learning Technology of the Dutch Standards Organisation (NEN). He serves on the editorial board of ALT-J, frequently reviews papers and book proposals for various journals and conferences in the e-learning field, and has reviewed proposals for the Canadian, US and Dutch research bodies. He supervises several doctoral students.

George UBACHS is Managing Director at the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU). Before joining EADTU in 2002, George Ubachs has been working on various European projects in the public and private sector (MAECON/EAM Consultants) in the field of regional economic development and social improvement. Further, he was coordinator of the European Network of E2C-Europe (Cities for Second Chance Schools). George Ubachs graduated at the State University of Leiden and Erasmus University Rotterdam on Public Administration with specialisation in European Integration.

David VINCENT is Professor of Social History and Pro Vice-Chancellor for Strategy Planning and External Affairs at The Open University (UK). He holds responsibilities for funding council and governmental liaison, the University's strategic development, for liaison with national funding bodies and for international policy. Prior to this appointment he was successively lecturer, senior lecturer and professor in history, Dean of Humanities and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Keele University. From 1994 to 2003 he had responsibility for the University's academic strategy.
He is a Visiting Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford and President of the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities.
David Vincent is the author or editor of fifteen books and numerous articles on British and European social history.

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