

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Usage

Initial Report - GR

National context

The development and application of Electronic Learning Systems in the Greek Higher Education Institutions is in a preliminary stage. Some courses are offered electronically in various undergraduate or graduate curricula, while the number of those offered in the frames of Initial Teachers Training is very small.

The situation, at a National level, with respect to Electronic Learning Systems can be summarised as follows:

1. The Greek Open University

The basic organization of open distance learning in both undergraduate and graduate levels as well as in vocational training is the Greek Open University (GOU) funded by the "Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training".

Founded in 1992 GOU started offering its first courses in 1998. Today 106 courses in 22 curricula, leading to degrees, diplomas and certificates in six different levels i.e. Bachelor's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma of Specialisation (Master's Degree), Doctorate, Certificate of Undergraduate Professional Training, Certificate of Postgraduate Professional Training and Certificate of Course Attendance, are offered to 8251 undergraduate and 4436 postgraduate students.

GOU employs a hybrid knowledge transmission system using mainly conventional educational processes e.g. printed books, labs etc and the Internet for tutoring and pedagogical support through e-mail.

2. Higher Institution of Pedagogical and Technological Education (ASPATE)

Founded in June 2002, ASPATE does not employ Electronic Learning as an educational method.

3. Distance Education System (DES)

Included in action 3.1.d.2 (Distance Learning Curricula) of the "Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training", DES uses computer networks and hypermedia systems technologies and aims at the modernisation of conventional undergraduate curricula of the Greek Higher Education Institutions, importing distance learning as a complementary educational method. The main partners in this system are the National Technical University, the Kapodistriako University of Athens, the University of Patras, the University of Ioannina and the University of Crete.

The System is based on the Web and uses a central server for the storage of educational material in hypermedia format. It is accessed by multimedia client computers through the Internet. Educational material can be utilized using well known browsers such as Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer etc through a single interface for all required operations e.g. writing, editing and utilisation of educational material, registration, log-in etc

4. Greek Universities Network (GUNet)

GUNet has been founded on the 12th of September 2000 in Athens as a non profit company by the Greek Higher Education Institutions (19 Universities and 14 Technological Educational Institutions). It is included to and funded by the "Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training" (EPEAEK) of the Ministry of Education. The company's aims are determined by the wider network needs and objectives of the Greek academic community with respect to re-

search and education in the frames of “Information Society”.

Many institutions have developed electronic learning applications in the frames of GUNet i.e. Kapodistriako University of Athens, Economic University of Athens, Aristotelion University of Thessalonica, National Technical University, University of Patras, University of Thessaly, University of Ioannina, University of Crete, University of Macedonia, TEI of Piraeus, TEI of Western Macedonia, TEI of Crete.

Many of these institutions have developed their own VLE platforms, other use proprietary ones (**WEB CT** is used most) in order to achieve uniformity and standardisation. GUNet has also developed and proposes its own platform, **e-class**, which constitutes a comprehensive system of Asynchronous Electronic Learning in the Greek Academic Community.

Details on the use of Electronic Learning in various Greek Higher Education Institutions follow.

Institution
<u>University of Crete</u>
School/division/faculty
Ifigenia Program
Current VLE
WebCT
Any other VLEs in use
Selection and Implementation history
Funding arrangements
"Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training" (EPEAEK)
Hardware
Technical Support
Technical support is provided by the University's Computing Services Department.

Extent of Usage
IFIGENIA's courses are addressed to professionals who want to get training on recent realisations and tendencies of science and/or new attractive teaching methods e.g multimedia, WWW
Courses Offered
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lasers and Applications 2. Multimedia Technologies 3. Numerical Methods and Modern Applications 4. Linear Algebra I 5. Introduction to Numerical Analysis 6. Introduction to Educational Research 7. Introduction to Programming with C και C++ 8. Quantum Physics for Teachers 9. Learning Difficulties 10. New Technologies in Positive Sciences Education 11. Derivative Financial Products 12. Advanced Subjects on Digital Systems Designing 13. Statistical Methods and Data Analysis 14. Systems of Intelligence and Behaviour 15. Modern Physics for Teachers 16. Artificial Neuronal Networks 17. Hygiene and Safety of Foods 18. Computational Mathematics 19. Internet as an Educational Tool for teachers in primary and secondary education
Integration with student records
Not applicable yet
User authentication
All users have unique usernames and passwords. This allows the system to identify each individual using the system and tailor the workspace to their personal configuration. Once logged on, users are given a list of all courses they are enrolled on, and they can enter each course space with a single click. Users can move from one course to another without having to undergo a reauthentication process.
Hardware and software requirements for users
Users do not need to download or install additional software to use the system. The synchronous chat facility requires the download of a JAVA based applet, but all other functions are realised through HTML and can be supported in most common browsers.
Uploading of content
In HTML form and most common image and sound formats (gif, jpeg, wav), Microsoft Office Applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint) and media assets (Flash, Shockwave, Authorware)

Pedagogical Support
Pedagogical support is provided by the instructive personnel of each course
Usage within the faculty / school / department
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Computers Science 2. Medicine 3. Mathematics 4. Economics 5. Pedagogic Science 6. Physics
Staff Development
No information available
Student induction
The induction of students and training in using the system is devolved to each individual course using the system.
Quality control
Quality control of material on the system and the regulation of content are decided at school level. No university wide recommendations on quality are currently in place and each course sets its own criteria for quality and can carry out inspections and audits as necessary.
Policy
The University's policy is to extend the use of the system offering more courses to professionals while gradually include its use in both undergraduate and postgraduate curricula in various schools and departments.
Support for assessment (formative and summative)
Summary of usage within Vocational Initial Teacher Training
Courses Offered in the frames of Vocational teacher Training <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Educational Research 2. Quantum Physics for Teachers 3. Learning Difficulties 4. New Technologies in Positive Sciences Education 5. Modern Physics for Teachers 6. Internet as an Educational Tool for teachers in primary and secondary education

Institution
<u>University of Macedonia</u>
School/division/faculty
Computer Networks and Telematics Applications Lab (CONTA)
Current VLE
WebCT
Any other VLEs in use
TopClass, HOW-R-U, OCR, CU-SeeMe 3.0
Selection and Implementation history
Funding arrangements
"Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training" (EPEAEK)
Hardware
CONTA is situated in three well-equipped labs at the University of Macedonia with a total number of 31 workstations of which 10 are Pentium II and 21 Pentium III. All labs have the appropriate peripheral equipment: scanners, HP LaserJet(s), HP DeskJet(s), Speakers, Headphones, Video Conferencing Kits, Video-Cassette Recorders, Digital Cameras, Digital Video Cameras, Digital AV Mixers, CD Recorders, and projectors. There is also access to all facilities and resources of the University of Macedonia
Technical Support
Technical Hardware support is provided by the University's Computing Services Department. Software support and applications development is carried out by the Lab's scientific personnel.
Extent of Usage
<p>Courses offered</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undergraduate Courses <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduction to Computers b. Application Software for Business c. Internet Economics & Internet for Business d. Design & Development of Computer Networks 2. Graduate Courses <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Networking Technologies b. E-Marketing & E-Commerce c. Networking Strategies 3. Seminars

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Telematic Applications & Computer Networks (in Greek) b. Information Systems in Education (in Greek) c. Web-based Tele-Education (in Greek) d. Post Graduate Students' Theses (in Greek)
Integration with student records
User authentication
All users have unique usernames and passwords. This allows the system to identify each individual using the system and tailor the workspace to their personal configuration. Once logged on, users are given a list of all courses they are enrolled on, and they can enter each course space with a single click. Users can move from one course to another without having to undergo a reauthentication process.
Hardware and software requirements for users
Users do not need to download or install additional software to use the system. The synchronous chat facility requires the download of a JAVA based applet, but all other functions are realised through HTML and can be supported in most common browsers.
Uploading of content
In HTML form and most common image and sound formats (gif, jpeg, wav), Microsoft Office Applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint) and media assets (Flash, Shockwave, Authorware)
Pedagogical Support
Pedagogical support is carried out by the Lab's scientific personnel
Usage within the faculty / school / department
Computer Science
Staff Development
Student induction
The induction of students and training in using the system is devolved to each individual course using the system.
Quality control
Quality control of material on the system and the regulation of content is decided at lab level. No university wide recommendations on quality are currently in place and each course sets its own criteria for quality and can carry out inspections and audits as necessary.

Policy
Support for assessment (formative and summative)
Summary of usage within Vocational Initial Teacher Training
<p>Courses offered within Vocational Teachers Training:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information Systems in Education (in Greek)2. Web-based Tele-Education (in Greek)

Institution
<u>National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)</u>
School/division/faculty
Electronic Learning Rooms in all faculties
Current VLE
Any other VLEs in use
Selection and Implementation history
Funding arrangements
"Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training" (EPEAEK)
Hardware
Technical Support
Technical support is provided by the University's network center
Extent of Usage
In research and development stage
Integration with student records
User authentication
Hardware and software requirements for users
Uploading of content

Pedagogical Support
Pedagogical support is provided by the instructive personnel of each course
Usage within the faculty / school / department
In all faculties
Staff Development
Student induction
The induction of students and training in using the system is devolved to each individual course using the system.
Quality control
Quality control of material on the system and the regulation of content are decided at school level. No university wide recommendations on quality are currently in place and each course sets it own criteria for quality and can carry out inspections and audits as necessary.
Policy
The University's policy is to extend the use of the system offering courses in collaboration with the University of Athens, the Economic the University of Athens and universities abroad mainly in the USA.
Support for assessment (formative and summative)
Summary of usage within Vocational Initial Teacher Training

Institution
<u>Athens Economic University</u>
School/division/faculty
Centre of Electronic Learning
Current VLE
WEB CT
Any other VLEs in use
Selection and Implementation history
Funding arrangements
"Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training" (EPEAEK)
Hardware
Technical Support
Technical support is provided by the University's Network center
Extent of Usage
<p>Courses offered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internet & Electronic Commerce 2. Business Applications using Data bases 3. Principles of designing and developing BIS for managers 4. Fundamentals of BIS for managers
Integration with student records
User authentication
<p>All users have unique usernames and passwords. This allows the system to identify each individual using the system and tailor the workspace to their personal configuration. Once logged on, users are given a list of all courses they are enrolled on, and they can enter each course space with a single click. Users can move from one course to another without having to undergo a reauthentication process.</p>

Hardware and software requirements for users
Users do not need to download or install additional software to use the system. The synchronous chat facility requires the download of a JAVA based applet, but all other functions are realised through HTML and can be supported in most common browsers.
Uploading of content
Pedagogical Support
Pedagogical support is provided by the instructive personnel of each course
Usage within the faculty / school / department
Staff Development
Not available information
Student induction
The induction of students and training in using the system is devolved to each individual course using the system.
Quality control
Quality control of material on the system and the regulation of content are decided at school level. No university wide recommendations on quality are currently in place and each course sets its own criteria for quality and can carry out inspections and audits as necessary.
Policy
The continuous education and further training of executives of Greek, private or public, enterprises and organizations as well as of self-employed or unemployed graduates. The education will concern thematic units of practical importance and will be adapted to the conditions of the participants.
Support for assessment (formative and summative)
Summary of usage within Vocational Initial Teacher Training

Institution
<u>Aritotelion University of Thessalonica</u>
School/division/faculty
Current VLE
In House made platform
Any other VLEs in use
Selection and Implementation history
Not available
Funding arrangements
"Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training" (EPEAEK)
Hardware
Technical Support
Technical support is provided by the University's Network Center
Extent of Usage
<p>Courses offered</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital treatment of picture and sound 2. New educational approaches and applications in classroom 3. Greek as a foreign language 4. Teaching Physics and Astronomy 5. Inductive course for the program's instructors 6. Digital treatment of picture (only for Computer Science students)
Integration with student records

User authentication
All users have unique usernames and passwords. This allows the system to identify each individual using the system and tailor the workspace to their personal configuration. Once logged on, users are given a list of all courses they are enrolled on, and they can enter each course space with a single click. Users can move from one course to another without having to undergo a reauthentication process.
Hardware and software requirements for users
The data bank has a client - server architecture. The user must have the client program. Each user's identity is determined by electronic certificates published by the university.
Uploading of content
Pedagogical Support
Pedagogical support is provided by the instructive personnel of each course
Usage within the faculty / school / department
Staff Development
An Inductive course for the program's instructors is offered
Student induction
The induction of students and training in using the system is devolved to each individual course using the system.
Quality control
Quality control of material on the system and the regulation of content are decided at school level. No university wide recommendations on quality are currently in place and each course sets its own criteria for quality and can carry out inspections and audits as necessary.
Policy
The transformation of the institution into a hybrid university using both electronic learning techniques conventional methods.
Support for assessment (formative and summative)

Summary of usage within Vocational Initial Teacher Training
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Courses offered within Vocational Teachers Training

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New educational approaches and applications in classroom2. Greek as a foreign language3. Teaching Physics and Astronomy |
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Institution
<u>Kapodistriako University of Athens</u>
School/division/faculty
Centre of Vocational Training
Current VLE
No particular VLE is used.
Any other VLEs in use
Selection and Implementation history
Funding arrangements
"Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training" (EPEAEK)
Hardware
Technical Support
Technical support is provided by the University's Network Centre
Extent of Usage
<p>Course offered</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial Management 2. Bank Management 3. Marketing of Financial Products 4. Effective Financial and Risk Management 5. Entrepreneurship.
Integration with student records
User authentication

Hardware and software requirements for users
Uploading of content
Pedagogical Support
Pedagogical support is provided by the instructive personnel of each course
Usage within the faculty / school / department
Staff Development
Student induction
The induction of students and training in using the system is devolved to each individual course using the system.
Quality control
Quality control of material on the system and the regulation of content are decided at school level. No university wide recommendations on quality are currently in place and each course sets it own criteria for quality and can carry out inspections and audits as necessary.
Policy
Support for assessment (formative and summative)
Summary of usage within Vocational Initial Teacher Training

Institution
<u>TEI of Crete</u>
School/division/faculty
Distance Learning Postgraduate Program “Renewable Energy Sources and Environmental Management”
Current VLE
Video conferences, INTERNET, Television Broadcasts, Video, Multimedia
Any other VLEs in use
Selection and Implementation history
Funding arrangements
"Operational Program of Education and Initial Professional Training" (EPEAEK)
Hardware
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A PC suitably equipped to become ISDN terminal station in order to join the ISDN network of GREEK TELECOM. 2. Video camera 3. Video Imager (camera) 4. Video Projector 5. Audio System
Technical Support
TEI's technical personnel as well as students of the department of Electronics were trained to technically support and maintain the system.
Extent of Usage
The whole Postgraduate Program “Renewable Energy Sources and Environmental Management”
Integration with student records
User authentication
Hardware and software requirements for users

Uploading of content
Pedagogical Support
Usage within the faculty / school / department
Two courses of the department of Electronics will be offered using the system. Teaching will delivered simultaneously in Chania and Heraklion
Staff Development
Teachers training seminars on the use of new technologies in education are offered so they can include the system in the educational process.
Student induction
Quality control
Quality control of material on the system and the regulation of content are decided at school level. No institution wide recommendations on quality are currently in place and each course sets it own criteria for quality and can carry out inspections and audits as necessary.
Policy
TEI of Crete has decided to create two distance teaching rooms in Heraklion and Chania, equipped with the necessary infrastructure for video - conferencing, with suitable arrangement, lighting, and electronic equipment. The use of the system in the frames of other curricula will be examined.
Support for assessment (formative and summative)
Summary of usage within Vocational Initial Teacher Training