

# **CARNet E-learning Academy: Establishment and first experiences**

The purpose of this presentation is to describe how the E-learning Academy was established through one of CARNet projects and to inform the participants of the CUC and the public about the preliminary results of the first generation of E-learning academy. More detailed results and some observations will be available at the time of the conference.

## **Project of the establishment of E-learning Academy**

The main goal of the project was establishing systematic education for e-learning through 3 educational programs founded on the first-rate world achievements in e-learning, with application in Croatian academic and broader environment, and with possibility of regional dissemination.

Project phases:

1. Establishment of the project team
2. Establishment of the Program Committee
3. Curriculum definition done by Program Committee
4. Market analysis, communication with potential partners and selection of the international partner – according to recommendations of the Program Committee, project team has contacted seven universities in Australia, Canada, USA and UK. Correspondence has been continued with three universities which were interested in cooperation: University of British Columbia in Canada, Virginia Tech University in USA and University of Hull in UK. University of British Columbia has been chosen based on their previous experience and achievements.
5. International program review, completed by the members of the Program Committee, and three international experts.

## **E-learning Academy**

E-learning Academy gives opportunity to gain knowledge about E-learning through online programs and face-to-face lectures. E-learning Academy includes three programs:

- E-learning Management,
- E-learning Tutoring,
- E-learning Course Design.

### **Program E-learning Management**

The purpose of this certificate is to provide managers and administrators with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively implement e-learning in higher education institutions in Croatia.

This certificate is aimed at mid-level and senior managers and administrators (department heads, deans, directors, vice-presidents and presidents) of higher education institutions that are either in the early stages of e-learning implementation or contemplating it. Ideally, participants should be in positions with decision-making authority of influence with respect to the implementation of e-learning in their institutions.

### **Program E-learning Tutoring**

Teaching in e-learning environments requires new skills and strategies. The purpose of this program is to explore these new skills and strategies and expose participants to teaching in diverse e-learning contexts. In the process, participants will examine different teaching methodologies, the changing roles of learners and teachers in e-learning environments, and will learn the basic elements of effective course design.

This certificate is aimed at teaching staff: university professors and school teachers, corporate trainers and educators involved in the commercial or non-government organization sectors. Anyone who is interested in incorporating e-learning into their teaching will benefit from this certificate.

### **Program E-learning Course Design**

E-learning Course Design provides an overview of instructional design and project management processes in relation to the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of e-learning projects. The course also provides participants with an opportunity to become familiar with a range of e-learning technologies and, after a process of evaluation and selection, requires that participants apply selected tools in the production of an e-learning project.

E-Learning Course Design is aimed at a broad range of people, from heads of human resources and technical people who are going to assist trainers, professors and teachers in the creation of multimedia and e-learning materials, to corporate trainers, professors and teachers who are, themselves interested in e-learning technologies. Participants in this Certificate will have technical or academic backgrounds, or both. Some experience in using technology in support of teaching and learning is to be expected amongst the target group of participants.

### **Delivery**

Each program is delivered over 2 semesters (9 months). The cohort model is used, which means that the whole group of participants starts at the same time and is expected to follow the planned timeline of the program. The student workload is 8 hours per week. Delivery is mostly online (WebCT CE4) including 3 face-to face and the occasional videoconference lectures. Tutors on the programs are the experts from University of British Columbia.

Methods of teaching and learning have strong emphasis on tutoring, which means that the tutors moderate the online group discussions and also supervise the individual and group work.

CARNet is providing other types of support services such as technical support, library resources, etc.

### **Requirements**

Technical requirements for attending one of the programs is the possibility of using the computer with Internet connection (minimum 33.6 kbps) and a new version of web browser (IE, Mozilla, Netscape, Opera), new version of multimedia browser (RealOne Player, Windows Media Player, QuickTime Player) and Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Admission requirements for attending the programs are a university degree earned in Croatia or abroad, good spoken and written English, basic Internet skills (communicating by e-mail and forums, web browsing and Internet searching).

### **Participants**

The 1st generation of participants in the E-learning Management program started in October 2004.

Program enrolled 27 participants.

In March 2005 the 2nd generation of participants started, 14 in the program E-learning Tutoring and 15 in the program E-learning Course Design.

Participants are mostly professors on the universities (22 participants or 38% of the total number so far).

14 participants (24%) are from other academic institutions, 9 participants (15%) are from non-government organizations, 6 participants (10%) are from commercial sector, 5 participants (9%) are from elementary and secondary schools and there is 1 participant (2%) who is freelance translator and 1 (2%) who is absolvent.

### **1<sup>st</sup> generation results**

Out of 27 participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> generation, 22 have completed the program with excellence in July 2005. They received the Certificate in E-learning Management. Two more participants have asked for the extended deadline to complete their final assignment. If all 24 participants eventually complete the program, this would mean the drop-out rate 11 % (3 participants stopped attending for personal reasons).

CARNet considers this to be a very good result, taking into account the current status of e-learning in Croatia.

**Tutor participants**

It is very important to point out that in all three programs there are 15 participants who are preparing to become future tutors in the same programs, when delivery in Croatian language begins (autumn 2005). In this way CARNet supports the development of expertise in e-learning at a national level.