

Topical News
30 October 2006

Proliferating lifelong open and flexible learning

Towards Collaborative Action
Baltic States
Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
&
EADTU
European Association of
Distance Teaching Universities

Partnership Conference, Riga (LV):

-  European Association of Distance Teaching Universities, EADTU (Netherlands)
-  Riga Technical University (Latvia)
-  EITF Estonian e-University (Estonia)
-  University of Latvia (Latvia)
-  Kaunas Technological University (Lithuania)
-  National Distance Education Association (Lithuania)



Learning for All

EADTU propagates learning for all. Fortunately, the European Learning Space (ELS) has extended from the EU15 countries to the EU25 countries. The expansion of ELS is progressing to reach EU28 countries and neighbouring "Bologna" countries, including the Euro Mediterranean area. Ever since universities of the whole Union are co-operating more closely, the **European Learning Space** has been able to effectively serve a community of approximately 450 million people.

The European Community however is also characterised by a **linguistic and cultural diversity** which makes collaboration more challenging than in other large continents. EADTU will contribute though to the realisation of the community by reaching out its membership benefits to accession states and the non-EU signatories of Bologna. It will adjust its practices and culture in order to provide a home for established and emerging institutions from every part of Europe.

Established EADTU members learn from the activities and ambitions of new and incoming members and in turn will deploy their experience to assist in the task of **capacity building** across Europe. A priority task is to compare national and institutional educational models of lifelong open and flexible learning in European countries and to develop business models for this mode of operation.

About EADTU

EADTU is pan-European **non-profit** association of organisations active in the field of distance education and e-learning. It is the main voice of Europe for open and distance Higher Education (HE).

Members are dedicated to **off-campus target groups** but also include universities with mainstream on-campus students giving priority to off-campus education. The membership comprises of European open & distance learning universities, and national organisations, including consortia of higher education institutions.

EADTU embraces 23 members in 20 European countries (2006). Its configuration spans over millions of students and over hundreds of conventional universities, as part of the consortia.

EADTU consists of a professional **pan-European network** and is excellent for dissemination activities, covering the European Union and most of the CEEC countries on HE. Originally intended for those who signed the Bologna declaration, global demand pushed EADTU membership to be opened up more broadly so as to (now) include the possibility of associate members from different continents.