

Embedding Networked Learning in Greek Higher Education Institutions: Policy and Practice

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Operational Programme for Education, Networked Learning, study programmes (curricula)

Overview of Symposium

The Operational Programme for Education and Initial Vocational Training (O.P. "Education") is a framework programme designed to aid Greece in meeting the challenges arising internationally due to the development of innovative technologies (<http://www.epeaek.gr>). It is co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Ministry of National Education. Having as a target to enhance the quality of education provided at all levels, the O.P. "Education" has funded a number of actions with the aim of raising the effectiveness and competitiveness of the existing system of Higher Education in Greece. Crucial among them was the action supporting the introduction and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the graduate and postgraduate study programmes (curricula) of Higher Education Institutions. This action is underway and is planned to finish by the end of 2008.

In this context most of the Greek Institutions are incorporating Networked Learning techniques (both synchronous and asynchronous) in their study programmes. The symposium has the goal of acting as a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, gained in this process of introducing Networked Learning in Greek Higher Education Institutions, and to discuss policy and practice issues. The papers of the symposium focus on a number of such issues regarding organizational, pedagogical, and technological aspects of Networked Learning:

- Sgouropoulou C., et. al. present a framework that has been established to support the combinatory use of distance learning techniques and multimedia-enhanced instructional content for the support of IT Curricula in Greek Technological Educational Institutes. They also present their evaluation results.
- Triantis D., Stergiopoulos Ch, et al., report on their evaluation results of using two Web-based systems in the Technological Educational Institution of Athens for teaching and assessing students. The first one being a web platform named "e- education" which is an integrated system for storing, managing and presenting digital support material and the second one a tool for the electronic evaluation of students.
- Kalogiannakis M. and Vassilakis K. analyze the use of an asynchronous education platform at Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Crete, focusing on aspects regarding teacher-student relations.
- Kabouridis G. presents an assessment of the influences and the consequences that networked learning techniques brought in the learning and working environment of the department Mechanical engineering, TEI of Patras and discusses the mutual impact of educational and technological issues.
- Triantis D., Stavrakas I., et al., present a virtual laboratory environment which was developed in order to teach physics of semiconductors, in a blended learning approach.

Symposium Papers

Sgouropoulou C., Sfikas C., Alevizos T., Belsis P., Pantziou G., and Skourlas C., "Exploiting Distance Learning Methods and Multimedia-enhanced instructional content to support IT Curricula in Greek Technological Educational Institutes", TEI of Athens

Triantis D., Stergiopoulos Ch, Tsiakas P., Kaitsa M. and Orfanakos K., "Using Web Technologies in the Technological Educational Institution of Athens for Teaching, Examining and Assessing Students", TEI of Athens

Vassilakis K., Prasoudakis N., and Kalogiannakis M. "Asynchronous learning service evaluation: a case study at TEI of Crete", TEI of Crete.

Kabouridis G., "An Assessment of ICT-based Education for Mechanical Engineering in TEI of Patras"

Triantis D., Stavrakas I., Anastasiadis C. and Marinos I., Networked Learning Physics of Semiconductors through a Virtual Laboratory Environment", TEI of Athens, (**Poster presentation**)

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