

BIOMEDEA III

Stuttgart, Sept. 23 – 25, 2005

E-Learning – another approach for harmonization and continuing education?

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E-Learning – another approach for harmonization and continuing education?

Harmonization

- no standardization or unification
- equivalence of local educational programmes with regard to content and output level
- based on independent quality assurance with regard to content, knowledge presentation, and output feedback assessment and utilization

Continuing education- Problems

- knowledge lifetime only about 5 years
- high dynamics of the labour market
- personal career interests

Continuing education – Objectives

- deepening of available knowledge
- extension of available knowledge
- supplement to available knowledge

E-Learning – another approach for harmonization and continuing education?

Continuing education – Prerequisites for access

- qualifying entrance level, e.g. bachelor or master with solid fundamental knowledge in the field
- without access limitation in place and time
- portal with password-controlled access

E-Learning – another approach for harmonization and continuing education?

Continuing education – Desirable features

- individual road map (content, progress) and self-control
- evaluation of individual performance with recognition by an individual certificate
- open for appropriate consideration and integration of vocational expertise
- operability on low-cost equipment

E-Learning – another approach for harmonization and continuing education?

E-learning (remote learning, distant learning)

Pros

- compensation of local deficits in knowledge and presentation mode
- reduction of costs and other drawbacks related with mobility, “virtual university”
- simplified and comparable evaluation of program quality and output

Cons

- high potential for misuse, e.g. covered insertion of commercial interests
- danger of knowledge monopolisation, i.e. no competition of different “schools of thoughts”
- no direct personal or “face-to-face” contact with the “teacher”, i.e. the editor of the program

Open

- language, domestic or international programs

E-Learning – another approach for harmonization and continuing education?

Technology

	data carrier	Internet
technical equipment	medium priced (special)	low priced (usual PCs)
updating of educational programs	difficult	simple
central service and support, (e.g. administration, access control, performance evaluation)	difficult	simple
interactive operability	(possible)	no problem

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Strategies for knowledge presentation and learning

		linear, sequential (straightforward)	conceptual networks
structure of knowledge presentation		didactic structure	presented by interrelations
depth and extent of knowledge		provided	free
pathway through knowledge		provided	free
individual performance evaluation		simple	difficult
suitability for	bachelor programs	+	-
	master programs	(+)	(+)
	PhD programs	-	+
	free programs (e.g. support for vocational activities	(+)	++

E-Learning – another approach for harmonization and continuing education?

Shall EAMBES and/or IFMBE get involved in e-learning?

YES!

Why shall EAMBES and/or IFMBE get involved in e-learning?

- Because these organizations claim to represent both the field with all its branches and the total community, i.e. students, teachers, national and transnational organizations, companies, institutions etc.
- In order to avoid that other organizations will develop e-learning courses with less authorization and competence (and might have no competition)

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How shall EAMBES and/or IFMBE get involved in e-learning?

- Development of educational curricula (BIOMEDEA ?)
- Encouraging and coordinating the development of courses
- Responsibility (alone or in collaboration with agencies) for accreditation, certification and evaluation of curricula and courses

E-Learning – another approach for harmonization and continuing education?

What might be the profits for EAMBES and /or IFMBE for getting involved in e-learning?

- Increased visibility in the community
- Augmented acceptance as representative of the field
- Active participation in the educational definition, development and integration MBE of sub-disciplines
- Licensing dues?

E-Learning – another approach for harmonization and continuing education?

Which first initiatives shall be taken by EAMBES and /or IFMBE for getting involved in e-learning?

Either establish a committee or ask the Division of Fellows with special regard to:

- guidelines for proper consideration of quality assurance requirements
- topics and the extent of modules in order to achieve harmonized homogeneity both in the bachelor (labor market qualification) and the master programs
- contacts with other involved bodies and organizations, e.g. the accreditation agencies, ENQA